

# Romans 11

Sunday 8/30/2009

Romans 11 shows how the Gospel is in these chapters, transitioning from the nation of Israel and God dealing with the Jew, into the Gentile church, and then transitions back. In chapter 9, we find out what happened to the Jew that got him in the mess that he lost all that God had for him. Then in chapter 10, we see it coming to the Gentiles. And then in chapter 11, it goes back to the Jew after God deals with the church and how it all puts together. It is a great defining chapter on defining what God is doing. I think Romans 10 is probably the key part in the chapter for you and for me as far as dealing with the aspect of understanding salvation.

I told you last week we looked at a great story about the Ethiopian eunuch and Philip, and how that story is connected with a prepared sinner. The Ethiopian eunuch, God had given him everything that he needed to hear the Gospel, but he needed one thing left: he needed some man to help him open the scriptures and understand them. Then we looked at Philip. I talked about the two aspects that God has, and God started to begin to give you a perspective of God in the church age, and that is a prepared servant and a prepared sinner. Remember, I told you last week that God has more prepared sinners than He has prepared servants, and that is what Romans 10 is really about.

When you lead someone to Christ in time, and that should be the goal of everybody in here, and we talked about all of that last week, your goal ought to be to come to the point where God uses you to open up the scriptures and lead someone to Christ. Whenever that happens in your life, you are going to find that Romans 10 is your base key chapter, and that is what we are going to talk about today. Last week, you remember we read Romans 10:4-8, and I showed you in preparation for this week how the Bible says that Christ is the end of the law for everyone that believes. We talked about again Thursday night in Bible study how Christ fulfilled the law, and He did with the law what you and I could not do, and that is to keep the law. Therefore, by His righteousness, that is how we get saved. We compared then the righteousness of the law, which could not save anybody, and we looked at the righteousness which is in Christ is how you and I got saved.

Then we looked at the last part of verse 8, and we talked about how the Word of God was nigh, even in our mouth, and how we talked about the availability of the Word of God, how God brought the Bible to us, that there is no excuse anywhere on this planet for a man or a woman anywhere not to be saved, other than the fact that "I do not want to." We talked about the aspect in defining the word "preaching" and it simply means telling the story of Christ. Then we talked about how soul winning comes about in your life through the intimacy of your own personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, that you bear fruit. We talked about your ordination as a saved man or woman, how the Bible says in John 15:16 that God has ordained you, not to be a pastor, but to be a soul winner. He says, "I have ordained you that you go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain." We talked about how important that is in our life.

Now today, we are going to move on in the next little section here, and we are going to begin reading in Romans 10:9-13. Here is what it says, and this is where the real message comes in today for you and for me, in learning and understanding about winning people to Christ.

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

*For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

*For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*

*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Now Father, we come to You today, and Lord, I ask You to take over this service and to take the words that I have to say. Holy Spirit of God, I pray that You will use it today to touch the hearts and the lives of Your people. Lord, these people have grown. They have come to the point where they have, Lord, literally transformed their lives, many of them, and are learning more every day about You and the Bible, and Lord, winning people to Christ, and more importantly, understanding what is behind leading someone to Christ is so very important. When I look at today, Lord, as probably one of the greatest things we have ever done in the aspect of helping people get ready for that point and understanding it themselves. So Lord, lead us today. We thank You for this great passage. We ask You that Your grace would be on us today. Lord, I do not know anybody's heart today, but Lord, I would ask You if there would be a man or a woman here today that does not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior, that today would be the day, Father, that they would trust Him and ask Him. Lord, we just trust You for all of that. Bless us now, give us insight, Holy Spirit of God, forgive us where we have failed You and hide us under Your blood and give us all that we need today to be everything that God wants us to be, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

## I. The Hallmark of the Laodicean Church: Confusion

I think the hallmark today, we know because of all of our other studies, we know where we are at in church history. We have talked about it; hardly a Bible study or a Sunday does not go by that we do not make some kind of reference to it. We know that we are in the Laodicean church period. We know from our studies that there are seven periods of church history, starting in the book of Acts and running right up to the rapture of the church. We know that we are in the last one, which is called Laodicea, which means "rights of the people" or "justice of the people." Yet, I think probably the hallmark of the Laodicean church period is really one word, and it is the word "confusion."

I want today for you here, this is more of a message to show you who are at that point in your life that you are going to obviously be used of God greatly in this ministry. It does not take anybody with an IQ above sub-plant life to see God's hand on what we are doing here. People are being saved through the athletic ministry and the couples' ministry connected with that, and everything that we do, and the older folks that are involved in people's lives. I do not know what to tell you. It is coming almost faster than we can deal with it. That is why I teach all the time. I

was telling Brian when he was here, your church cannot go any higher than it spreads out in the base. When you get something that is really high but has no base that mathematically equates to the height, it becomes top-heavy, and sooner or later it is going to topple over. I believe that true biblical spiritual growth, whether it is in your life or any church, bases on you cannot go any higher than your base goes out; it forms the foundation.

So this today in Romans 10 is going to be dealing with the aspect of winning people to Christ. When you understand, when you sit down with somebody, what you have got to know, there are basically three things you better have in your mind firmly ingrained when you open up those scriptures to show somebody how to be saved. But I also want you to see why there are so many problems with that today. So before I can get to that point, I have got to kind of lay a little foundation for us here that we can better grasp about what is taking place.

I told you that the mark of the Laodicean church today is confusion. Why is that? Anybody knows that if you know anything about life at all on planet Earth, we are heading into the time of the Antichrist. We may not see it; we probably will be raptured out before it all unfolds, but we are heading into that period of time. What you are seeing around us is the formulation for all of that. The Bible says that when the Antichrist comes, his kingdom that he establishes is Babylon Mystery Religion, the mother of harlots. Do you know what the word "Babylon" means? It means confusion. In other words, that Antichrist is going to completely confuse this world, and once he confuses the world, then it is easy to deceive the world. That is why you are starting to see it around you right now. If Babylon means confusion, and it does, it only stands to reason as we approach that time and that day that the church will lose its purpose and lose its perspective and lose its passion, and when it loses all of that, it loses its power and it becomes confused.

I think one of the greatest verses in the Bible for me, and everybody has verses that mean something to them because of past relationship, but I think the greatest verse in the Bible for me as a pastor or as a Christian to keep my perspective is found in Haggai 2:3, one of those little obscure minor prophets back there in the Bible. Haggai says in Haggai 2:3, he talks about the fact that the problem with Israel. Now Haggai writes this when Israel is in deep apostasy, and they are trying to get back to God, but it is almost impossible now because of all the things that have happened. Haggai says there, he says, "The problem you have," and I am kind of paraphrasing now, he says, "The problem that you have is you have nothing to compare it to." He says, "You are sitting here in the middle of this captivity and all of the mess that we are in, trying to build something for God, and yet you do not remember what it was like when Israel was at its glory, when God's hand was everywhere in Israel to be seen around the world." He says, "The problem with Israel in this time in Haggai is the fact they have no reference point. They do not know what is really real because they have lost the point of reference in their own history of something that God was doing with their nation that was really real."

I want to tell you something, and I am really not going to preach to you today, I am going to try not to anyhow, because I want you to see these things, because what I am trying to do is give you a mindset. If you kind of notice, we kind of cut the service a little short this morning because I wanted plenty of time to be developed. I do not want to have to break this down into two sermons and come back next week, and I have got a lot of things here that I want to talk about

because you need to learn not only how to lead someone to Christ, but you need to understand the world that you live in today and a little bit understand why it is that way.

I look at my life and I am so thankful that one of the things that Haggai 2 does for me is the fact that I was born in a period of time, and God orchestrated the events in my life where I saw the comparison. I saw the churches that really understood the mission of God compared to the churches that do not understand it today. I came up in a time where men still believed the Bible was the Word of God and preached it like they believed it. I told you a couple of weeks ago how fortunate I felt I was because of the men of the Word of God who really understood the Bible and could communicate the Bible and preach the Bible. We do not have that today. I am sorry. I am sorry, we do not. I am not saying that you will not find some people out there, but you are going to have to look a long time.

## II. The Devil's Plan: Turning God's Institutions to Ruin

The devil's plan has always been very simple. Down through history, he adds, he counterfeits, he misuses misinformation, and he sows confusion, and thereby deceiving people. The devil has learned, and you see this with Israel, the devil has learned to take the very things that God has given man to help man fulfill the plan of God and then turn them around that they become great tools in the devil's hand. Where do you see that better than the nation of Israel? The nation of Israel was God's nation. We studied in basic Bible class. We talked about how God brought them out and developed them for one purpose: to reach the world. Then the very institution that God ordained and called out to reach the world at the end of the time when they go into captivity has now become the number one tool in the devil's tool belt to destroy the world. The very institution that God called and put into play to do what God wanted to do gets turned around and used for the purpose of the devil, and we find the church is the same way.

The parallels between the nation of Israel and the body of Christ, the church today, are quite incredible, and the devil has learned to take the very things that God has set up for man's salvation and then turned him into ruin. You probably are not aware of this. Maybe you are. With all of the drugs, with all of the godliness that the unsaved world is into today, with all the filthiness and all of the vileness of the world from the deepest, dredgest darkness of this world and any place in it you want to go, cannot compare with the souls that are dumped into hell compared to the churches today who have hundreds of thousands of people under their preaching today who preach a message that will send you straight to the bottomless pit. The devil has done it in the church. He has taken the very institution that God has established for the souls of man and used it for the ruin and the damnation of men.

There are many warnings about this in the Bible, are there not? I think the greatest warning is found in 2 Corinthians 11:1-3, where Paul basically talks about the fact that he is worried about the church, that they will be beguiled, that the devil will take from them the simplicity that is in Christ Jesus, and that is exactly what the devil has done. There are many examples throughout the whole Bible. But we are in the book of Romans, and I want to stay within that book and keep talking about the two main areas that we have been following through because that is all we really need to do today to understand this.

We have been talking about and studying God dealing with the nation of Israel. We saw it all through the early book of Romans when we were, those that are coming through Bible Institute. We saw it in Institute when we come through the book of Acts and Bible Basics. I really laid it out in the Old Testament for you. I have showed you that God's institution in the Old Testament was the nation of Israel. God had a mission for them. God had something that He wanted to accomplish, and to simplify it, basically He wanted the nation of Israel in the Old Testament to be the salvation of the world. God was going to work through that nation to bring salvation to the whole world.

In the New Testament, we are studying it right now, going from Romans 9, 10 to 11. It is the church. God's plan for you and for me is to be the body of Christ, to be the embodiment of the Holy Spirit of God, the power of God, that just like in the Old Testament scenario, God worked through the nation of Israel. In the New Testament scenario, He works through the body of Christ to reach the world for the Lord Jesus Christ. That is His plan. That was His plan. What we have here in Romans 10, it shows us the element that it takes for the church that they have to understand to be able to win someone to Christ in the church age. If you are ever faced with a scenario where God puts you into a situation where you are facing a lost person who wants to be saved, they will not get saved by any other reason or any other way than you opening up your Bible, taking the clear, simple salvation message of Romans 10, and then leading them to the Christ, much like Philip did with the Ethiopian eunuch. But given the day and age that we live in today, there are three things in Romans that you need to understand, and we are going to get there in just a moment.

You know, the history of the New Testament church is a very in-depth and complicated subject to study. It really is. But in time, it is an absolute necessity for any true child of God. If you are ever going to fully understand everything that God has for you, you are going to have to be able to put yourself in a context. I am not just talking about a context of life. You are going to have to be able to put yourself in a context of history. You cannot, and I know right now we are still relatively a young church, and I understand that. But in time, in time, in time, the leadership of this church will come to the forefront of not those who just understand a lot of things about the Bible, but it will come to the forefront of men who understand no longer the Bible, but the history that goes along with the Bible.

Hey, the Bible is God's infallible Word. There is no question about that. But what makes that Bible even more infallible is the history that goes along with it because you cannot separate God and history from the Bible. I know most Christians think they can. Maybe not today because, like I said, we are still a young church, but certainly in the future, the leadership of this church will be based on the history that you know and the Bible that goes along with it because you cannot separate the two together. Understanding that correlation, we have got a few guys who can do it. John Busquette is great at church history. Bob is good at church history. I know John and the pastors are taking people that wanted to come up and study church history. There are certain guys that have been around long enough. I know Bob has not been here, but Bob has been listening. Bob has been brainwashed with my taste for how many years, Bob? Fifteen years. That is a curse of God on your soul, I do believe.

Well, I cannot really—you want to hear one worse than that. Terence told me this morning, he said, "Good to see you." I said, "I have been with you all day, all week," because I guess on the Ford line up there, you just listen to me all day long, huh? No one of them Fords are coming off with the bumpers on the front, should be on the back, the radio is upside down. Blame it on me, I get blamed for everything anyhow. At some point in our lives, the leadership of this church—and I already see it because many of you have caught the vision. I could have a class in church history, and I probably will at some point. There is only so much a class can do. Sooner or later, the real men who understand it have to get the books and the material and dig down and get it. I mean, it is just like the gold rush in the 1800s. There was a rush out there because of the fact they found gold, and they were taking their claims on puddles and ponds and streams, and everybody flew from the East Coast to the West Coast in California because there is gold in them there hills. There is gold in this book in history. You have got to do the same thing they did. You have got to go find yourself where the water is running, where to God, get you a shovel, put in the dirt, picture the world, and then you shake it under the water, do you not? And what do you have left when you are done? Do not write that down, I just thought of that, that is a really good thing, I am going to use that later sometimes.

Everything in the history of this world is shaped by either in the Old Testament, God and the history of Israel, or the New Testament, the Word of God and the history of the church. The history of Europe is a very complicated thing. I mean, you get into the kings of England, the kings of France, and oh boy, it can, when I tell people in that church to teach church history, which I do it pretty in-depth, I will say, "I will try not to be as boring as the guys that taught me," because boy, I will tell you what, there is some stuff you have got to wade through. But the bottom line, the history of Europe is nothing more than a study of the Holy Spirit of God moving through the nations that God accomplishes in His purpose.

I talked about how the devil takes the plan of God in the Old Testament, turns it around, and he uses it. The devil takes the plan of God in the New Testament and turns it around and uses it. If you look at that, you think, "Well, God just kind of got shut out, did He not? Boy, the devil got one up on God." It never works that way. God's plan is always moving, I will show you here in a moment. But the history of Europe is a study of the history of the Holy Spirit of God moving down through the nations to accomplish His purpose. The Word of God coming into being, the Word of God rising to its prominence, and the Word of God fading off the scene. But if you looked at a history of Europe, you would find that all music, all aquaculture, I told you this Thursday night, all inventions, all science, all discoveries, all literature, it all rises and falls on what that nation believed about the Bible.

For you, America is no different. I told you Thursday night, our Pilgrim fathers coming up on Thanksgiving here in November in 1620, they landed at Plymouth. We know we talk about the little pilgrims and get the little funny hats on, and we all eat turkey because we think that is what they had for the first dinner, which they did not. In fact, they almost started at the first Thanksgiving, but we missed the point of Thanksgiving like everything else. Their Thanksgiving was, do you know what their Thanksgiving was about? The Pilgrim fathers came here from Europe, they came from Holland. They were Holland, Dutch, Baptist, and Puritans. Do you

know why they came to this America? Because they had been persecuted, and not a one of them. Every one of them had lost some relative or some family member to the Inquisition somewhere in Europe of a religious state that wanted to kill them because they believed the Bible. When they came to America, they were not coming to build skyscrapers and open up Old Navy stores and open up ice cream places, though I am glad they did. They did not come to open up Walmarts and Kresge's and Pennies. They came searching religious freedom where they could teach the Bible to their families without somebody locking them up and killing them. That is what they were thankful for.

Well, we turn that around, do we not? I always enjoy when you go to somebody's Thanksgiving, and they sit around the room. I remember one time my brother-in-law took me to a, he was not saved, and he was a Lutheran at that point, and I was working for him. This is when I lived in Ohio. I was not even in ministry yet, and he took me to a, and I was working for him in his grocery store. I was a produce manager every Monday morning. Boy, I would get the fruits and vegetables up and get them going. I figured I could do anything with a Bible. I would get that old dead lettuce back there, and you take old dead lettuce, it is brown, and put it under cold water, it comes back, and I would sing spiritual songs to him. I would get that old dead lettuce under the water and I would sing "Revive Us Again." Let us pray. Let us pray, make a good salad.

He took me to this, he took me to this thing that they had, and on a plate they have on dinner, and all they had was three little pieces of corn, not ears of corn, three little kernels of corn. And the guy told us, he says, "This is what the pilgrims really ate the first time." Well, I do not know if they did or not. But I have used it in our Thanksgiving many, many times, and I always get "buh-hahs" from the, in the laugh at me. But and the pastor said, he says, "Let us go around the room." So I will bow our heads, and I love these sessions. All that was missing was holding hands and "Kumbaya." He says, "Let us go around the room and let everybody tell what we are thankful for today." I was sitting next to my brother-in-law, and I felt him tense just a little bit. So they started around there, this guy was thankful for his family, that is good. This guy was thankful for something else, that is good. Somebody was thankful that we lived in the abundance of America, and we have this, and we do not have to eat this corn that they had to eat. That is good. I am with you all the way.

I am sitting there, and I did not have a lot of grace back then. I probably do not have a lot of grace now. But I am sitting back there, and I was a lot like some of you. I was looking for any shot to get my way in. So he came around to me, and it was my turn, and I just said, "Lord, I am just thankful for the blood of Jesus Christ, God, Son of God, is us revolves in." I mean, you talk about quiet as a turkey farm day after Thanksgiving. I really felt my brother-in-law go off into Bolivia. But they came looking for religious freedom.

Now, when you look at this country and America as a nation, one of the most amazing studies that I have ever took in my life, and I spent 10 years of my life investigating history, church history, and all aspects of history. I say that, but really my quest of history has been a 35, almost 40-year endeavor. I intensely sat down for 10 years and broke it down, but it is like anything else, you never stop learning and you are always studying. I have learned that every day in life I

want to learn something and multiple things if I can, but I am not the kind of guy that can chew gum and walk, so I have got to take things slow. But I want to keep learning.

I will tell you about eight or nine, well, about maybe 12, 15 years ago, I began to look at this thing, and out of my studies of history, an amazing study, probably one of the most amazing studies that I ever took, came to light. You remember I showed you Thursday night how Daniel 2 lays out the Gentile nations, and in Daniel 7 brings in the nations in the New Testament by which the Antichrist is going, or the Gentiles are going to run the world. I showed you from Babylon, and I showed you Persia, then I showed you the Greeks, then I showed you the Roman Empire, and then I showed you from that comes England, then I showed you from that comes Russia, and then I showed you from that come the United States. God had planned for the United States. God had planned for Israel, did He not?

One of the greatest parallels I have ever found that opened up the door of understanding winning people to Christ was understanding the parallels between those two great nations. You realize that those two nations, and let me tell you what I believe: I believe that the nation of Israel was God's nation by which He was going to run the world. I believe when they rejected God and they went into the times of the Gentiles, and the church age came in, I believe God looked way down the future, and I believe God saw for the end times, once England, who brought the Word of God around the world, when she ran her course, God needed another nation that was free from the persecution of Europe, that was they could develop itself and build itself and become the greatest single nation on this planet for carrying out the Gospel and the Great Commission right up to the Second Coming of Christ. Personally, I believe that was the United States of America, and I will show you why I believe that. But unfortunately, just like the nation of Israel, the devil got a hold of America, and America, like Israel, failed to fulfill. Watch this, watch this, watch this. Both nations, both the United States and the nation of Israel, were in the plan of God. One of them was at the plan of God right before the first coming of Christ. The other one was key in the plan of God right before the second coming of Christ. It is incredible, absolutely incredible.

Both at their beginning are founded on the Bible and its principles. The nation of Israel was founded basically on the Ten Commandments. When we formed our country in 1776 with the Declaration of Independence, and I alluded to this last Sunday, I do believe, when John Adams, who was entrusted with the job of coming up with a Constitution or a Declaration of Independence, he got a hold of Thomas Jefferson. Now, keep in mind, Thomas Jefferson was an unsaved man, he was not a Christian. Many of our founding fathers were saved people, some of them were not. George Washington, the father of our country, was not a Christian, he was a deist. Thomas Jefferson was not a Christian. So when he put the basic concept of our Declaration of Independence together, he brought it back to John Adams, and John Adams took it to the other guys. They looked at it and they said, "You know what, it is okay, but the bottom line is this, there is only one reference to God in this." And they said, "We as a nation can never forget what God has done for us." So they sent it back to Thomas Jefferson, and Thomas Jefferson put three more references to God in it. In doing that, without anybody ever understanding or seeing it, by doing that, just like they had the Ten Commandments back there at their beginning, those four

references that Thomas Jefferson put into your and my Declaration of Independence formed the foundation for what this country believed.

Do you know what they were? Well, I will tell you what they were.

1. The first reference that he gave to God was God as Lawgiver in this country.
2. The second reference he gave was God as Creator. Now I have got to stop here for just a second, and I do not want to get sidetracked today because I have got a long way to go, but it did not say God as intelligent design, it says God as Creator. They believed evolution had not come on the scene yet. Charles Darwin was still in a tree with his tail tucked in, had not become a, he had not got to the point yet where he was doing his damnable work. They still believed that God was Creator.
3. The third point that was made in our Declaration of Independence was God as Supreme Judge. You know, up to 1844, once we have our in the Declaration of Independence, and when we come up with our Constitution, every state as they came into the Union, they had to form a Constitution, a state constitution. Almost up to the Civil War, a state could not come in if they did not build their state Constitution on these four concepts. It was in the Constitution that you could have no authority as a judge, as a governor, or any elected office if you did not believe that there was an eternal damnation someday that you were going to face, and you were going to be held accountable for God for how you fulfilled your public office. Boy, do we need that today.
4. Do you know what the fourth one was? God as Protector.

When we laid out our Declaration of Independence, it is built around four concepts of God: God as Lawgiver, God as Creator, God as Supreme Judge, and God as our Protector. Both have the ability to take the Word of God to the ends of the Earth. Do you ever notice this? Both experienced a civil war. Jeroboam and Rehoboam split the kingdom north and south, and in 1860 to 1865, we had a civil war that split our country north and south. Both used the Bible to form up their judicial system.

I do not know if you, and again, I am not here to bore you with a lot of history lessons today, but I have got to set the stage before we get to where we have got to get because I want you to understand. Part of dealing with any problem is understanding the problems when you get into it. Our country, and most people do not know this, our country, we talk about the democracy, and our country was not founded as a democracy. Our country was founded as a republic, and a republic is different from a democracy. A republic is simply the rule of a nation by elected officials who follow an unchanging rule of law. In 1776, that unchanging rule of law, hello, was a King James 1611 Authorized Version. You did not have 58,000 versions of the Bible back then. In 1776, you had two Bibles. You heard me tell the story, if you walked into a Christian bookstore back in 1776, walking down the street, and there is a sign, "Ye Olde Christian Bookstore," you walk in there and you say to the guy, "I want to buy a Bible." The guy said, "Well, we got two, which one do you want?" He said, "I do not know what two do you got?" He said, "Well, we got the Roman Catholic Douay-Rheims or we have the King James 1611 Authorized Version." That is all you had. You see, back then it was not confusing, was it? But the devil made sure it got confusing, did he not? You bet he did. He always does.

A democracy is a majority rule, 51 percent, no absolute law, no Bible, popular vote. You can have split down the line and be terribly wrong, and 51 percent say it goes, it goes. I think it is interesting, and I do not know if you can even find a copy of this, I had one years ago, but it is called Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England, and it was the standard law book on constitutional law from 1776 up into the 1930s. It said in that Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England that a republic, the republic runs by, it is a system that the things that God has set down as law cannot be changed in a republic. You go by, and when the Bible is the form, which it was for your republic, then you look at the Bible and you see the things that God lays down as law: homosexuality, same-sex marriages. See how it works? And those things are fixed in the Bible, and there is no argument about those. Now you say, "Well, they sure argue about it today." That is because everybody is confused. What happens is, back then it was not confusing. They only had one Bible to deal with, and in that Bible, it simply said when God lays down a law, a republic cannot change that. A republic can change the price of gas, export tariffs, things that are not covered in the Bible. But if the Bible says, "by man's blood, if man has shed, shall his blood," capital punishment, you cannot change that. You will be, you kill somebody, premeditated murder, you get it too. Those are things laid down in the Bible in a much more simplistic time. But oh, the devil made sure we did not stay simplistic. He made sure we went ballistic.

Noah Webster, some of you buy that. We are out of them back there, I do not see it now, but we sell that 1828 edition of Noah Webster, and I know a lot of you buy it for the right reason, what you look up words because it gives you the biblical definitions. Did you ever look at the front of your Webster's 1828? Noah Webster was one of our founding fathers. You just did not get a dictionary, you got a great church history lesson because in the front of that 1828 edition, he goes through and tells you about the founding fathers and what they believed and what they wrote down and how that this republic was based on the Word of God. It is one of the greatest things you will ever find. But how many of you have ever read that part? I cannot yell at you, I had mine 10 years before you even saw it was in there. Do you know what he says on page 12? He says, "The Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which children under a free government ought to be instructed in." There was not any confusion back there, was there?

He goes on to say on page 12, "When I speak of the Christian faith as the base of our government, I do not mean an ecclesiastical establishment, a creed, a rites, a forms of worship or ceremonies. I mean primitive Bible Christianity and its simplicity, as taught by Christ and the apostles." He made it clear that we are not talking about some great formalism in religion, but the clear, basic, simple teaching of the Bible, like found in Romans 9 and Romans 10. You see, it was simple back then. You walk down the street now, boy, Jehovah's Witnesses hit you on this side, Mormons hit you on this side, Seventh-Day Adventists hit you on this side, you go to the airport, the hairy Christian guys get you on that side, and it is confusing. They were not around back then. Jehovah's Witnesses started about 1830, the Seventh-Day Adventists about 1840, the Mormons about 1835, and none of them were back there. Do you know why? Those are things that the devil brought in later to confuse and deceive. They did not have that problem back then. The churches that they did have, they knew what they were. They would be the ecclesiastical

establishments, the ones with creeds, the ones with rites, the ones with forms of worship, the ones with ceremonies. No, no, he said to the simplistic thing like this. How much simpler does it get?

The basis of government, he says on page 12, continuing, "The relationship of American government to Bible Christianity is evident in the writings of the founding fathers of our republic and in the sermons preached by the American clergy." He is referencing there George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards, who by their preaching formed the idea. Hey, these guys were unsaved. Noah Webster was not, Thomas Jefferson was, Adams was. Why unsaved men had more reverence for God and more understanding of God than 99 percent of saved people today? Do you know why? It is confusing today. Oh, I grant you, it is confusing. I do, I do.

Looking back to our parallels, both nations failed to carry out their mission as a nation, and then in both cases, it gets carried on by a remnant. When Israel goes into captivity, 30 million Jews go into apostasy. God brings back a remnant, and it is that remnant that was in place looking for the first coming of Christ. In the church age, God started a church, brought it about, the devil reversed the process, the church goes into apostasy, and yet, just like the parallels in the nation of Israel, there is a remnant in the church age that is in power looking for Christ at the second coming of Christ. Good afternoon, Mr. Remnant. Good afternoon, Mr. Remnant. Good afternoon, Mrs. Remnant. Mrs. Remnant, good to have you here today. Mr. Remnant, good to see you. Mr. Remnant, Mrs. Remnant, good all to see you. You are a remnant. Good to have you here today. Good remnant. Nice remnant sweater. That is a remnant sweater. Now I am going to get a cap too, on the back of my neck. Everybody has got them, mine is going to say "Remnant." You say, "Is that a social thing?" No, if the Lord does not come back and we get a little persecution, when they put my head down there to cut it off, the last thing I want him to see before he swacked me is, "I am a remnant."

Confusing, is it not? Do you ever notice how both nations reject Christ in much the same way? There was a remnant in Israel who knew who He was, but the body of Israel, what did they do? They took my Savior. They mutilated His body. They tortured Him. They left marks on Him. There are five marks on the Lord Jesus Christ that are clearly lined in the Bible, other than all the other stuff they did to Him. Then they killed Him and hung Him on a tree, crucified Him, and got rid of Him. That was His own people. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But in the midst of that great nation that was killing and getting rid of the One that God sent them, there was a remnant.

Church age comes in, same thing. Do not miss the parallels of history. Where the nation of Israel got rid of His body, when Jesus Christ revealed Himself in the New Testament, He did it in the volume of a book. He gave us His mind in a book. The Bible says in John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh." The Bible today is just as relevant as when His body was here at the first coming of Christ when He came to Israel. Just as Israel mutilated His body and got rid of Him, the body of Christ today, not the world, the body of Christ today, have mutilated His body and gotten rid of it. Oh man, Israel was used of the devil to try to stop Christ at the first coming of Christ, and America will be used of the devil to try to stop Christ coming at the second coming of Christ. It is just right there.

### III. The Church's Failure: Not Knowing God or His Word

Now the problem today with all this confusion, and it is because we as God's people fail in two areas.

5. We do not know who God is. We really do not. I mean, you know who He is intellectually, but if I gave you a piece of paper and told you to write down our 21 names of God found in the Old Testament, and I would not give it to all you young Christians, but if you have been around 10, 15, 20 years, and you are Mr. Spirituality and you are Mr. Spiritual Guy, and I would lay down and give you a piece of paper and tell you to write down the 21 names of God in the Old Testament for me, could you do it? And yet you are going to tell me you know Him? Why, every one of those is an in-depth study in itself of a nature and a character of God. Incredible. We do not know God.
6. The second problem we have is we do not know what God said and when, and we do not know what He meant when He said it.

My greatest fear, I have studied Paul's life. To me, Paul is the model of what I need to try to be, and I have studied his life intently and for many, many years in my life. I see Paul's greatest burden was, it is hard to decide if he was more burdened for the nation of Israel, his own flesh and blood people, and all that they missed and now what they are missing, or if he is more burdened for the churches that he is establishing because he knows that they are going to be deceived. He is over there in Galatians 4:19, he talks about travailing for them again. Somebody reads that and he says, "Well, what do you mean? How do you travail again?" He is saying this, he says, "I worried about you to be saved, and when you got through that process, I travailed for you. I worried that you would not get saved, and you got saved. Now that you are saved, I travail a second time. I travail and worry that you will not be everything God wants you to be." What an incredible mind he had. I will tell you what, you want to be a pastor someday and you want to be effective with people, study his life, study his life, study his life. Incredible, incredible.

Yet my greatest fear of the day in which we live is just like Paul's. I feel that many of God's people today have deceived themselves. This is why I want to talk to you this in relationship to salvation. If you have been around here any length of time, you pretty much know my stand on it. I have been asked many, many times in private one-on-one Bible studies when people come over or even on Thursday night, how the devil is going to cover up about 800 million people that suddenly disappear in the rapture. Well, I have got to tell you something, I may give you my standard Thursday night answer just to get by it because I do not want to have too many cardiac arrests in my Bible study because we do not have that many paramedics here. But the truth of the matter is this, ladies and gentlemen, I do not think there is a whole lot of people saved today that say they are saved. That is my own personal opinion based on 35 years of the scriptures. That is my own personal opinion based on seeing the parallels between the nation of Israel, a nation who at its end and its demise had a form of godliness that if you would have walked down there, you would have thought God was the number one thing in their world, and He was the farthest thing from them. I see the parallels between where I am at today and the Laodicean church and the confusion that you do not know God, not you guys, but you got past people do not know who God is. I do not know what He said. It bothers me, and I am not preaching this this morning as

much as I am trying to lay out my heart to you who are at some point in time are going to be dealing with men and women in this church, and you are going to come to a point at some time that you are going to have to win them to Christ. You are going to have to open up the scriptures, and there are four or five things you better understand before you try to do that.

I saw a poll a couple of years ago that said that 80 percent of the Americans polled claimed they were Christians. Well, if that is true, there is really something wrong here. When I grew up in Bible Christianity, I do not know how to tell you this, this is my point of reference. I got saved right at the end of the 1960s, in the beginning of the 1970s, and that is not a long time, that is not ancient history. But even in that short space, the lines were very clear back then. When you got saved back then, you did not keep on drinking and pretend you were saved. I do not know what to tell you. When you got saved back then, you did not continue to do drugs and pretend that it was okay. When you got saved back then, you did not go commit fornication or adultery and just think that that is just part of life's deal. There was some clear line. I am not saying people did not continue to do those things, but it was never mixed in with Christianity. The lines are all blurred today, Bob, they are gone. It is hard to find the line. In fact, I will tell you what, I deal with people, many of you deal with people, I am not sure what is even sin anymore. There are days that I just agonize all week long on what I am going to preach because it does not seem like those things are sin anymore. Confusing times we are living in.

My Bible says in Hebrews 12:5, and I am just preaching the Bible this morning, I am laying out my heart about what my worst fear is because I understand maybe better than you do what this world and where it is going and the deception it is around here. I realize that probably 99.999 percent of God's people are just like the nation of Israel. They have some kind of form of godliness, but there is nothing really real on the inside. It is because they do not understand, they do not understand, they do not understand the basic concepts of salvation, and you need to understand them so that when you work with somebody, you do not get caught up in the same mess, and you just keep the confusion going.

My Bible says in Hebrews 12:5 that if you are a child of God, male or female, and you live in sin continually and you keep doing things that are wrong, that there is going to be some chastisement in your life. Do you know what it also says? It says if you continue on, then he says, "All children of God are partakers of chastisement, but he says if you live your life and there is no chastisement, then he says you are a bastard and you are not a son." I love cussing when it is in the Bible. Do you know what a bastard is? It is an illegitimate child. It means you have never really been saved.

I want to tell you this story. I know I have good time here, and this is, I hate saying these things, I do not want you guys doing them, but years ago, when I was full of zeal with no knowledge, they came out with a Living Bible, and the Living Bible was a monstrosity. Back in my Bible, there were Davids dealing with, I forget who he is dealing with, but it says in the King James Bible, it says, "Thou were," oh, Saul says, "Thou were the son of a rebellious woman." That is what the King James Bible says. The Living Bible says, "You are a son of a bitch." But do not get mad at me, I am just quoting the Bible. Now back then, I had no brains and a lot of zeal, and I had this Christian bookstore that hated the King James Bible and sold all these other translations. So I

would look for opportunities. So one time at Christmas, we were standing in line, and I would do this, it cost me about \$200, but it was, I hope, but I stand there, and you know what they do, all the new Bibles, they put them right by the checkout. So I picked one up, and the manager was running the cash register. He did not like me, I did not like him because he knew I was King James, and I knew he was not, and I called him a Christian junk store. They sold everything for everybody. One time I asked him, I said, "Do you have, do you sell Chick magazines?" You know Chick magazines, or you want a, you want a juggler being cut, they will cut you and lead you to believe. He says, "Oh, we have them, we just keep them in the back." I said, "Oh, like those dirty movies they sell down here at the place." Oh, you do not have money to think. So I am standing in line, so I turn over there to 1 Samuel, where it was, and I am standing there, and there are all these prim and proper ladies buying all this nice Christian junk, and I am standing there in line, and it is a long line, and I am standing there, and I am looking, I open it up, I am saying, "Son of a bitch." The lady next to me, she is, "Son of a bitch." Moving on down the line. Now this time I said really loud, I said, "Son of a bitch!" The guy said, "Sir, you cannot talk that way in this Christian establishment." I said, "Oh, I am sorry, I am just reading your Bible you are selling. What does it say right there? Let me, huh? Come on, tell my man." I said, "Are you a harelip? What does it say?" She said, "See, back then I was a junkyard dog with a big chain. Now I am just a poodle, a little tail right there. I am a poodle."

When I grew up, the lines were clear, folks, and I am confused as much as anybody else because I do not know what sin is anymore. Now, that is why basically, you might as well know this, some of you visitors coming in here, checking out our church, you might as well know this, why this church will never hit four, five hundred. I had a thousand in my notes, but I figured that was a worthless stab. It will never hit four, five hundred, never. Dale, you are not leaving because you are mad, are you? Okay, I will walk around. I can preach while I walk. Come on, we will walk, we will walk this on, marching desire on, beautiful, beautiful. I love you, buddy. You are on board, are you not? I said, "You are on board." We are on board. Yeah, yeah. Can you hit me here? Okay, okay, okay. You say, "Boy, he is funny." Yeah, I have got to set you up with something because I am going to drop the bomb here in just a minute. I am about 13 minutes out of hitting a Nagasaki and Hiroshima all at the same time.

My job is clear and simple to me. My job is to hold the line in a Christian world that does not want the line held. I am going to tell you right now, you are going to make people mad when you do that. People are going to get mad when they do that, and I do not know what to tell you. I do not know what to tell you. Find someplace else to go, I guess. But the bottom line is this, that is the job. I have had people get mad and leave the church because the lady one time, she said, "Well, I want to disciple somebody." I said, "Well, you have got some things in your life you need to get taken care of." She said, "Well, I do not, I do not know why I cannot disciple." I said, "Because I am not going to put somebody in your world who has problems with maybe the same issues you have, and instead of you trying to help her, you just go out and have a nice time on Friday night." They got mad and left the church. You want to say that? I love the fact that we got two exits now, Steve. In fact, Greg McClintock brought up that point just the other day. He said, "Oh, I thought you put another exit in so they would have two ways to get out. They did not like what you preached." I said, "That is a good point." I do not know what to tell you.

I have had young men that when we put our deacons in, who, and you know, if you that are deacons in here, everybody knows not only did I have a meeting with you and tell you what was expected of you, I put it on a CD, did I not? And then about a year later, I gave you another CD back, and my question to you was simply this, "Hey, I want to do this, I am documenting this, and I am giving you a CD of what I expect of you, and I am giving you a week. It is not like I have got you in a double hammerlock on you, you have got to be a deacon. You take a week, two weeks, and decide if you want to do it. But the bottom line is, understand to whom much is given, as much is required, and if you do not hold the line, I am going to come to you and deal with you and talk to you, and the only question I am going to ask you, I am not going to get on you for what you are doing or what you are not doing, the only question I am going to ask you is this: I am going to bring a copy of the CD and I am going to put it right in your face, I am going to say, "What part of this did you not understand?" I will tell you, so when it happens, they leave and get mad at me. You know what, it is a nasty job, but somebody has got to do it. I do not care, I do not care.

There is a world that has crept into Christianity, contemporary. For those of you that do not like hard preaching, we have a contemporary service now. You come there, it is toned down a bit. We want to reach everybody. Well, I want to reach everybody too, but I am not under the illusion that shortcutting the message or changing the style of preaching is going to. When did Jesus ever shortcut His message so He could reach somebody to Christ? I do not understand it. But contemporary, and now we have contemporary service, and with that we have contemporary music. What you are saying is you have got a worldly service, and you have brought in worldly music. You get, we have a praise band. What in the world? I must have missed that in the book of Acts. Do you know what most praise groups are? You sit down there, they stand up here, they hold a mic, and they sway back and forth and raise their hands, and they say instead of saying, "Look at God," they are saying, "Look at me." I just like old Shabbatah, he used to get on that, he used to be death on that. He used to get up there and he said, "Yeah, you like to take that, you take that microphone and sway back and forth, do you not?" He said, "You ever see that mic looks like a big old serpent?" I never have the guts to say that, so I just tell you he said it. You still get the message.

Nothing contemporary here. Our music, we sing the old songs out of the old hymn book. Do you know why? There is a policy involved here. Number one, would you like it if I came up and I just gave you some flimsy, noodly, little mushy message on Sunday morning? Would you be happy with a message with no doctrine in it? Would you please say something because I am sweating now? Well, my rule of thumb is this: never have less doctrine in your music than you have when you are preaching. You say, "Yeah, you are old-fashioned." Yeah, and I am staying that way. You say, "Well, you are stuck in the mud." Up to my elbows.

We have churches now that they have Saturday night church services. Do you know why they do that? For lazy people who do not want to get up on Sunday morning and go to church, so we will accommodate you. Now, I am not against having a Saturday night Bible study or having a Saturday night whatever, but if you give the idea that you do not want to come on Sunday morning, that is okay, you can come Saturday night and we will still get it done. Do you know

what, I know it is just me, the Bible says on the first day of the week, not Saturday night. The first day of the week. You start giving human nature that, like, you know what else we will not have? We will not have a big screen up here that has the Bible verses on it. Do you know what you do when you give human nature that option? You will quit bringing your Bible. I am not going to make it easy for you. This church is now, when they take up the offering, they do direct deposit. You do not even have to worry about it. It comes out. You are laughing, I am telling you the truth, Bob, you have been around that, true direct deposit, and you do not even have to worry about your offering anymore. When you get deposited, your check goes right to the church. Now that is a good thing for churches, but to me, it is not about money. There is something special. I would hope that you pray over what you give. I would hope that your offering to God is not like your gas bill. I like the aspect that you sit there every Sunday morning and you put an envelope or whatever you do, and consciously when that plate comes by, I hope you are saying, "God, I love You, thank You for taking care of me, and I want You to use this for the honor and glory of God," and you drop it in. I think it is good for all those ones you sit next to that do not ever put an envelope in, kind of go like this.

Next time, a guy said to me one time, he says, "Can I take one of these white margin Bibles?" And I said, "Sure." He says, "Can I pay you for it when I get the money?" And I said, "Yeah, sure, no problem." He says, "Well, boy," he said, "that was easy." He says, "I could steal it." I said, "Yeah, I know you could. I do not care. If it is in your heart to steal it, steal it. I do not care. You want to come in here, you have got a key to this place. You want to read the bookstore, read the refrigerator, or do whatever you want to do, help yourself. I do not care. Hey, my stuff you are stealing, and when we get to heaven, I will be the one over there looking at you real funny like, 'Oh, you got your key.'" I am going to tell you something, it is confusing today. It is confusing today, and I made up my mind that the job of the church today is to hold the line, and it is not a popular position to take. It is the position the remnant has always took.

#### IV. The Deception of Self and the Need for True Salvation

With all of that, ladies and gentlemen, here is my fear, and this is just my heart today. My fear is, and I know God's people have been deceived, and they deceive themselves. Here is my thing, listen to me, this is where I am coming from. God's people deceive themselves with drugs. They think they can do that, and it is okay. They deceive themselves with booze. They can do that, and they can still be a Christian. They deceive themselves with cigarettes and worldly living and all the things that go along with it, fornication and all the stuff that goes with that. They deceive themselves into thinking, "I can do that, and I can still be a Christian, and I can still get along and have a relationship with God." I mean, come on, let me ask you a question: if you have deceived yourself in all this, what makes you think you did not carry that deception right into your salvation? Where does the reality start and the deception stops? Can you even tell anymore? It is like a person who lies so much, they do not know when they are telling the truth. Well, a person who deceives themselves totally does not know any reality anymore. That is my fear.

That is my fear. I think the greatest example that is the book of 1 John. Every preacher, every commentator that I ever heard teach 1 John says that the theme of this book is love. I mean, you

go by so-and-so's commentary, and the theme of 1 John is love, not the Gospel. The epistle of 1 John is love. You hear so-and-so get up on the radio, and we are going to study the epistle of 1 John. Oh, what a great book it is. It is the book that it really is a book about love. I read the book one time, 27 times in five chapters, I found the word "knowing." You think if you read that book and you saw the one word or the root of that word 27 times in five little chapters, you might think that the key and the theme is not love, but the theme is knowing.

That is exactly what is wrong with God's people today. You try to love God before you got to know God. That answers so many questions. It answers why somebody shows up on a Sunday night, comes down and sells crocodile tears, gets saved, and then three weeks later, a month later, six months later, a year later, they are right back out in the world. If somebody says, "Well, I wonder what happened," I will tell you what happened: they used God. They used God. They were in a jam. They were feeling bad. Something catastrophe unfolded in their life. Their wife left them, good for her. I mean, and the wife left them. They are going through some ecstatic, terrible time in their life, and they are reaching out, and they are reaching out, and they want something to make them feel better. You come to church and you show them the Bible, and they feel how bubbly everybody is. They leave with a good feeling, and then suddenly, once they get past the crisis, once they get feeling better, they do not need God anymore. That is how it works. It is exactly how it works.

Why marriages fail? People getting married today, they do not know the person they are marrying. They fall in love, and when you fall in love, you fall out of love. I will tell you, my friend, it sums up the sorry condition of 20th and 21st century Christianity. We talk about loving God, but we never get to know God. If somebody once said, "To know Him is to love Him." We have forsaken God and His words, and just like Israel, now only a remnant remains to hold the line.

Do you know what bothers me? I spend too much time in the Bible. I know for the world that I live in, I spend way too much time in the Bible. I have got to read back there in 1 Kings 19:18, and I look at Israel at the very worst, right before it all comes down, just like where we are at today. In this time, there must be what, 20 million people in Israel, maybe, maybe 30, at least 20 million people are making up the nation of Israel by the time First Kings comes rolling around, and everybody, everybody is just in apostasy. Elijah is so despairing because he is God's man. He is standing up and taking God's side and trying to tell people to do what is right, and they hate him for it. He is trying to hold the line in the Old Testament like we hold the line in the New Testament, and they hate him. He goes to God whining and crying, "God," he says, "Oh, boo-hoo-hoo, everybody is against me, and this whole nation is a mess. Oh, they talk about loving You, and they just do all kinds of things against You, and although it is so terrible." And God said, "You know what, Elijah, I still have seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal and will not serve him." That sounds good to preach, does it not? But do you know what scares me? Out of 20 million people, only seven thousand were saved. You better mark that down.

The great anti-parallel to the United States of America or New Testament Christianity, looking at the Old Testament nation of Israel: 20, 30 million people, and out of 20, 30 million people, only

seven thousand. The rest had been deceived, and I guarantee you, they are at the temple every Saturday. They are doing everything they are supposed to do. They are just living their life in the world and their life from the Old Testament law as they see fit, and they have deceived themselves just like God's people have today. This is what you deal with when you win people to Christ. You need to know this. If any of you young men ever become a pastor, I feel sorry for you if you do, but good for you if you can stand it. But I am going to tell you something, you better start studying the Old Testament prophets because the Old Testament prophets, once you understand the parallels between the nation of Israel and the church, you are going to find that the Old Testament prophets did the exact same thing that you are going to have to do, and that is take God's side against the whole nation of people that claim to love God, that claim to be God's people, but deep down inside hate everything that God stands for, and you will pay the tab for it.

Hey, have you ever been in a situation where somebody has, or you found out about it later, that somebody has really behind your back assassinated your character, lied about you? Ever been in a situation where you found out later that somebody just really maligned you and just really, really just did a job on you? Then you come to the point where you find out that some of your friends were there, and you say to yourself, "You know what, I wished one of my friends would have stood up for me. I wish one of my friends would have stood up and said, 'You know what, that is not true,' and, 'If you have got a problem with so-and-so, what are you telling us about it? We cannot fix it. Come on, I will take you, we will go to him right now, go to her right now, and we will fix the problem.'" But that never happened, does it? Well, if you feel that way, and I feel that way, how must God feel?

Do you know what His people say about Him today who claim to be His people? They say He had an affair with Mary Magdalene the prostitute, and you just let it slide, do you not? They say that He was an illegitimate bastard son of a German soldier or a Roman centurion. They say that He was a devil. They say that He does not mean what He said or even knew what He said. All the things they criticize Him for. I may not ever do everything right in my life, and I have got a lot of issues just like you do, and I struggle every day to love God and to do what I am supposed to do, what is right, and I struggle with it every day. But I want to tell you something, there is never a night that I have went to bed in the last 35 years of my life that I could not honestly look at God and say to God, "God, I may not have done everything right today. I may have blew it big time today, but I want to tell you one thing: never, never, never will I be in the presence of somebody who says something that is a lie about You and not take Your part and stand up for You." That is what the ministry is today. It is taking God's part. It is saying to a world, "That is not true." It is saying to the world, "Really, show me that in the Bible." It is saying to the world, "Really, well, you want to sit down and talk one-on-one and want to find out really what is wrong? You say this is wrong teaching? Really, come on, pull out your six-shooter, let us find out if it is or it is not." Christianity, every child of God in here, if you are truly saved, maybe you cannot get there at this point in your life, but you need to get to the point where you take that stand for Him when you know they are lying against Him.

Here lies the problem with understanding God's salvation. The deception is so great, the confusion is so great that we know that the Bible is the Word of God, we just do not know

anything in it. We know God, but we do not know Him. We know God, but we do not know Him in a way that we need to know Him, in that intimate way. My job as pastor and your job as Christian, as you work in the ministry of this church, is to make sure every person who comes to a point in their life where they are not sure they are saved, that we make it clear and we understand what we are to do and understand how to do it.

## V. Three Elements of Gentile Salvation

Now there are three things about Gentile salvation you need to know, and these are vital in you leading someone to Christ. If you are ever going to be that prepared servant, then here it is, you have to get these three things down and learn how to use them. If you do not, do not ever try to work with somebody. The failure of Bible Christianity today and the source of our confusion and the reason why so many people who think that they are saved probably are really not, it is because nobody ever took the time either from the pulpit or one-on-one to deal with them and to show them and have them understand these three things. When I win somebody to Christ, I walk through these three things. If they are not willing to do the first thing, I do not bother going to the second and the third one. But you see, we want to win people to Christ so desperately, do we not? We are willing to shortcut the principles because we think that God overlooks them. He does not. He does not. There is a way to get saved, ladies and gentlemen, and there are a couple of ways not to get saved. I am going to show you both of them here in the minutes remaining.

Now the three things that you need to look at and understand:

7. The first one is simply the word repentance.
8. The second one is understanding what the Bible means when it talks about a heart knowledge.
9. The third one is understanding what it means when the Bible talks about head knowledge.

## VI. Repentance Explained

Let us talk about repentance. 2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." I think repentance is probably one of the most misunderstood words in all of the Bible. I never hear it preached anymore. I never hear it in connection with salvation anymore. I really do not. The standard idea is that repentance means you are sorry. So when you feel sorry, then you repent. You see, you can be sorry without repenting, and the truth of the matter is, repentance in the Bible is never connected with being sorry, never is. You get that because men do not believe the Bible, do not teach the Bible, and do not know the Bible.

Genesis 6:5-6 is the first time repentance shows up in your Bible, and it is talking about God and Noah. It says, "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." See that thing in verse 6, "And it repented the LORD that he had made man." Somebody reads that and says, "Well, that is God

was sorry." A holy God who is perfect can never be sorry. Sorry is the equivalent of "oops." God never goes "oops," and God never goes, "I am sorry." But when you get the idea that repentance is being sorry, then you read this passage and you think, "Oh, God was sorry." No, repentance never means sorry. It means you turn from one direction you are going, and then you now go in another direction. God had created man in Genesis 6. Man had gotten evil. God says, "It repents Me that I made them." It was not that "I am sorry that I made them." It is now that "I am going to change the direction that I am going because I am not pumped up with it anymore."

You need to understand, ladies and gentlemen, this is the missing element of the word. Repent never means sorry. It means a change of direction. It means that you are not going to go on with your lifestyle anymore, that whatever you are doing that you now know is wrong in the Bible, you are going to stop doing it. You see the problem that brings into the 20th and 21st century Christianity? That one word there answers a million questions of why that is. When you see somebody out there, that person, they get saved and then they do not stay with it, or they get saved for a while and then they fall away, and you say, "Why is that?" The reason is almost in every case, they were not willing to get rid of the things in their life that they have to get rid of, and sooner or later it is going to get you back.

It is like swimming the English Channel. Some of you are great swimmers, and you can swim a mile back and forth faster than a speeding bullet. You know what, I could put 20 pounds on your back or a weight belt on, 20 pounds, and you can still swim because you are strong and you have powerful arms and powerful legs. You come back, I drop another 10 pounds on you, you swim, you struggle, but you swim it, and you get back. When you get back, I put 75 pounds on you, and you know what, you drown in three feet of water. The more weight you try to carry, the longer you try to carry it, i.e., the weight being the things in your life you need to get rid of, will come back and get you. Trust and obey, for there is no other way. A great lesson Israel did not learn in the book of Joshua.

Yet I have talked to people, and I have talked to people in the last couple of weeks that claimed to be saved, living like the world, doing everything they want to do, yet giving God the glory for it. I talked to one of them, and I said, "Don't you see?" And their answer to me was, this is the stupidity of where they are at, their answer back to me was, "Well, how can you say that? Look, you say we are not doing what is right. We are saying that this is wrong or that is wrong, but our business is running great. We have got everything we could want. We have got this, we have got that. How in the world can you say that? How can you say God is not in this when we have everything that we want?" And I said, "You know what, your story reminds me of a story I heard a long time ago about an old Midwestern evangelist who was preaching in a Midwestern town, and he was preaching every night. I mean, he preached hell so hot you could feel the heat, and he was just tearing them up and putting it down, and he was just letting them have it." This richest man in town came every night, and the richest man in town sat on the front row with his arms crossed, listened to everything he said, and when people were coming down to get saved, the old boy just stood there with a smile on his face and his arms folded. Everybody in town knew he was lost. He was the most selfish, the richest, the most grafted man in the whole town. He sat there, and after five days of hearing that message, and the preacher preached his last message and

gave the invitation, he sat there like a cigar store Indian. One last sermon. After everybody cleared out, he came up to that preacher and he says, "Preacher, I have got a question for you." And the preacher says, "What is it?" He says, "I heard you preach every night this week. I have heard you preach about the world, about booze, about graft, about all this greed, about covetousness, and all the things you preached, and I came to every service." He said, "I have got one question for you. Here I am, I do not believe anything you have said. I do not even think I need God in my life. I am a self-made man, preacher, and here it is September. My barns are full while others are starving. I have got more money in the bank than anybody in this town. I own half of this town. I have got crops everywhere. Half this town works for me. How do you explain in light of what you said about God is going to bring everything into account and deal with everybody on this planet, in light of here I am not believing what you said, here it is September, my fields are in, my barns are full, how do you explain that?" And the old preacher never missed a slick. He went right back and he said, "It is easy, pal. God does not settle accounts in September."

Do not you think because it is going good in your life that that is God's hand in your life. Some of you go out of here and win the lottery this afternoon, and you say, "Wow, God really blessed me." I watched football players last night make a touchdown, not many, but I watched him at a point like, "Thanks, God." I watched a kicker make a field goal when he goes, and the obvious answer to that is God is up in heaven going, "It is confusing." The reason some of your children and some of God's children, maybe not your children, but the reason why God's people's children, so many of them are going to wind up in the lake of fire, and as desperately as the parents want to pretend in their heart that they are saved, as desperate as they want to tell everybody around them, "Oh, they are saved, they are saved, they are saved," the bottom line is there is absolutely no desire in their life for anything spiritual. We have deceived ourselves, and parents are not willing to do in the day and age that we do. Where do you stand there? Where do you stand there? And that girl or that boy that you alibied and deceived yourself all your life that you said you were saved, and deep down inside they are not saved, and you never one time did what you needed to do to find out if they were. Then in that day, you have to stand there and point the finger in your own child's face, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire and brimstone, prepared for the devil and his angels." What a day that is going to be. But the devil has got it all masked right now, does he not? Every time you feel that twinge deep down inside about a message like this, you will just get some salve and put it over it and feel better about it right up to the Great White Throne Judgment. You will do that.

I tell you something, parents, this is not a message on parents, but I am going to throw this in. If you are a parent here this morning and you have got little children or big children or whatever children you got, you better learn one of them. There are seven laws in your Bible, and those seven laws are absolute laws by which everything in this world runs by. They do not, they are not, they are absolute. God put them in force a long time ago, and they run by the course of God Almighty Himself, and they are unchangeable. One of those we know from the scientific world, and every parent ought to know, the second law of thermodynamics. Do you know what that is called? That is called the law of entropy. Do you know what that means? It means things do not run up, they run down. In the Bible, it is called the law of human collapse. Do you know what it

means to you parents? Now I know parents, you are not perfect. I was far from a perfect parent. There is no perfect parent. We are all going to make mistakes. We are all going to do dumb things. I think the number one problem parents have, they cannot admit when they do a dumb thing, like a lot of pastors I know. You do something dumb with your kid, deal with it. No parent is perfect.

But I want to tell you something, this is why I preach the way I preach, and this is why I put it out to you without a contemporary theme. This is why I lay it out to you, and I used to say for years and years and years, when you kind of know, I sure like a baseball game, and I am the pitcher, and I am going to put it right across the plate, waist high, where you can swing at it. Let me tell you what the parents, what you parents need to know. It is the second law of thermodynamics, that is the law of human collapse. It is simply like this: whatever you have in your life, whatever you have in your life, whatever it may be, that is something that you will not fix in your life. I am not talking about you just general inconsistencies of life, we all have. I am talking about something in your life that you know is wrong, that you are not willing to give up. Whatever that is in your life, it will be magnified 50 times in your child's life. It does not get better, it just does not get worse, it gets 50 times worse. You smoke cigarettes, they will smoke dope. You smoke dope, they will get on heroin. I do not care what it is. You live a lifestyle where you do not think church is good, and they will not go to church at all. Whatever you have in your life that is the damaging thing that you are not willing to fix, the devil will make sure he will not miss that detail, that he will take that and he will magnify it in your child's life 30, 40, 50 percent. That is how parents lose their kids. Parents see their drinking beer, wine, Coors in the refrigerator. I told you before the story of a guy that was the most tremendous alcoholic every man in my life, never did not get over it. Do you know where it started? It started because the dad sat down at night to drink a television, and she just one bottle of beer, just one bottle. What is the big deal? I will have one with you. And when he went to bed, that little four-year-old, three-year-old came down the steps and drained the suds out of that beer bottle because he saw Daddy do it. Daddy was never an alcoholic, the kid was. If you think, if you think the devil will not get in your back door, I know you are not perfect, nobody is, but you better take the things out of your life that you can do before the devil uses them against you. He used Israel, turned it around, made it the devil's tool. God gave us the church, devil took it around, made it the devil's tool. He gave us the Christian family, He gave your children to raise and nurture in the Lord, and what do you do?

You know what you do? Repentance is the key to salvation. You see, you all want to come to church today. I believe that. I cannot even use you as a good example because you are all perfect. But the average Christian today, they want to go to church and hear a message, but they do not want the message to be convicting. They want to belong to a church, but they do not want to be held accountable. We want to get saved, we just do not want to repent. We do not want to turn from where we are. We want the best of both worlds, and in the modern 20th century Laodicean confusion church age, you find a lot of pastors, a lot of churches help you right down the line with that.

## VII. Heart Knowledge Explained

Now let us look at the second aspect, Romans 10:9-10: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Confess with thy mouth, believe in thine heart that God has raised Him from the dead, and thou shalt be saved. Now verse 9 is a statement about how to be saved, but verse 10 is the definitive verse that defines the statement of verse 9. Verse 10 says, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." Okay, what does that mean? Jesus Christ is God's righteousness. We saw Romans last week that Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the law. He fulfilled the law, and by fulfilling the law, He became the righteousness of God. When the Bible says you got saved, what God does is He transfers that righteousness He has, and He gives it to you, and that is what it means when it says down through there, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." It means that you believe that God died for you. It means that you believe that He was the only, that He has God's righteousness, and the only way you are going to get it is through Him, and you have got to do whatever He says to get it.

When you win somebody to Christ, when you lay salvation out to somebody, you better have four or five things firmly in place in your mind, and you better make sure that when you lay it out and you explain it, that you make sure they understand it. Leading somebody to Christ is something that is so precious. It is like if I, if we were somewhere and I had a little bit of medical knowledge, which I do not, and we had a lady with us that was with child, and we are in a situation where she goes into labor, and there is no way to go, and I have got to deliver the baby. Let me tell you something, I am going to be one nervous guy because there is so much I do not know about it. I mean, it looks simple, get a catcher's mitt and stand there and let it come out. It does not work that way. One of the babies turned, one of the cords around his neck, one of a thousand things that could go wrong do go wrong, and here I am with that silly look on my face wondering what I am going to do. Well, let me tell you something, it is just as perilous, and you need to be just as much as a trained physician when you bring a spiritual birth into this world because the complications will always be there.

First thing you need to understand, you need to understand the concept of what we have already talked about, repentance, and that person needs to know, "Hey, if I am winning somebody to Christ," and I talk to them about the fact that, and everybody is different, and when you get to that point and you talk to them about, "Are you going to turn from me and come to church and get involved?" If they tell me no, we are not going any farther. What is the point? I do not want to get you saved so badly that I will just say, "Well, we will just throw that out of, you will grow up and you will get to say, 'Well, we will just throw that out,' and you will agree to the other two." Hello, you are wasting your time. They have to understand the concept of repentance, and that means you have to understand it. They have to believe that Christ's death on the cross is the only hope you have. They have to understand that what they are doing is they are doing the taking the terminology that we all talk about that nobody understands, you are getting Christ as your personal Savior. What does that mean? They have to understand that it is His blood that washes away your sin.

When I work with somebody, I do not care what they are. If I want a Buddhist to Christ, and I had a young man or a young lady that was a Buddhist and worked, I am talking about salvation, and they want to, they send some interest to it. Let me tell you something, before I was done and got to the point down there where I told them about Jesus Christ, when we got to the point on repentance, do you know what I would have them do? I would have them verbally tell me, "I am disavowing and disowning the Buddha faith." No uncertain terms. "I am never going back to the Buddha church. I am dumping every Buddha idea. I am trading in Buddha and his holy socks for a Jesus Christ with a holy nature." If they would not come to that point, you are wasting your time, save your breath. Do you know why? Because that is the only thing that is going to be saved in this deal. You cannot just win people to Christ like you are shooting skeet. You have got to read the person. You have got to know where they are coming from. You have got to understand a person, another culture. They may only understand two or three words out of what you are saying. You throw concepts out and save because you know them, they know them. Unprepared servant in a prepared sinner. What we have got is a lot of unprepared servants trying to be prepared servants.

His blood is the only thing that will wash away your sin. The old song used to go, "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling." There is no religion that can get you saved. There is no church that can save you. There is no baptism that can save you. There are no works you can do. There is no good life you can lead. There is no amount of money you can pay. There is nothing you can try to do, and it is just simply based on the fact that you have to believe that when Christ died on the cross, He died there in your place. The concept of a personal Savior is simply that He did not die for anybody. When I look at salvation, my salvation, do you know how I look at it? I look at it, sorry about you guys, I wish He would have died for all of you, but He did not. He died for me. Now you all can sit there and say, "You are out of your mind, He died for me." I am sorry about you, Bob, and you would be right. But I do not make my salvation experience a "Kumbaya" effect. It was between me and Him. When He hung on the cross, I care, I was not there, I cannot prove it, but I know it in my depths of my heart. When He was there, when He said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do," when God was ready to come down and wipe out the whole world, He had Bob Alexander on His mind. He was thinking of me, lost and in hell, without hope, without any way of getting out, and He decided to stop God's hand from coming down and taking Him off that cross and wiping out the world for Bob Alexander. I wish I could put your name in there. You have to put your name in.

Now, do you know why I love this book? Do you know why I study it? Do you know I have invested my life? There is some more bad news for you. When He wrote this book, He wrote it to me. What are you doing in my book? You did not ask my permission if you could read that. That is to me, that is mine. What are you doing? This is my, He gave this to me and gave it to you. See, you can sit right there and say, "Bob, you are nuts." She gave it to me. He did not give it to you. We could argue about that all day long, we would both be right. Personal. Not some generic, general God who just lives in the conception of people's deceived, confused minds. I am talking about when you get a personal God in your life who wrote you a personal book, it will change the very personal things of your life, and if it does not, oh boy, you better pull your dipstick out and take a look to see how low the oil is on it.

Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:10 says, "There is none righteous, no, not one." Isaiah 64:6 says, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." In the sight of God, your coming as a guilty sinner has not a thing you can do about it to save you. All your problems, everything you have, everything you deal with, every issue you have, simply goes back to the fact that you need to be saved.

I have seen little children, Mom and Daddy want little kids to get saved. Do you know what I believe? Why some of the teenagers and the adults that I have met in life are really not saved today? Do you know why? I really believe it, and there have been men and women, men and women in this church, it came through that, that I really believe that I believe that I have got one the Lord later on. Do you know why? Because I believe you wanted your kid to get saved so desperately at the first time that little kid came down and said, "I want to be saved," or maybe the second time or the third time that little boy, that little girl ran down and said, "I want to be saved," or maybe the brothers got saved and the sisters got saved, he said, "Boy, it is a party, I want to go too." And you sat down and won that kid to Christ, and the bottom line is, if you would have sat that kid down with him, "Johnny, Tommy, Mary, Sue, why do you want to get saved?" The answer would be, "Because I want to go to heaven with Mom and Daddy." And you know what, you lead him to Christ on that basis, and they are going to go straight to the lake of fire. A kid does not get saved because they want to go to heaven with Mom and Daddy. Our kids get saved because of the fact he has got a personal sin debt between him and God, an account that only he can pay, an account that has nothing to do with Mom and Dad, and he has to get to the point in his life where he realizes that. Every time you take a little child who does not realize that, push the issue and get in there before he is ready, and do not let sin become exceedingly sinful, as Romans 7 says, when Paul is dealing about his own youthful conversion, you mark that kid, and he goes through his life wondering, "Why do not I have this? Why can't I get this? What are that?" And either he goes back into the world or he lives a lie all of his life and winds up going to the lake of fire. Someday, do you know what the tragedy is? Most of the Mom and Dads who do that are saved. They just do not know anything about salvation.

I had a man one time said, "I need to get saved." And I said, "Yeah, I know you do." I said, "Why do you?" And we got down on our knees, and I said, "I want to win you to Christ." I said, "Why do you want to get saved?" He said, "Because my marriage is a mess, and I want to get my marriage back together." I said, "That is not why you get saved. I said, 'You know what, I am going to tell you right now, you may get saved, and God may not put your marriage back.' You do not get saved because you want your marriage fixed. You get saved because you have got a personal sin debt. Someday you are going to split hell wide open if you do not take care of your personal account of your sin to God. Your marriage has nothing to do with it." Oh, we get confused, do we not? We get confused, we do. "How did I get saved? Why do not you get saved so I can stop drinking?" That is not the reason to get saved. You get saved because you are going to split hell wide open. It says that "thou believest with your heart unto righteousness," willing to repent, and that is the key.

## VIII. Confession with the Mouth Explained

Then the last thing he says here is this: "and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Basically, after you understand the act of repentance and believing on righteousness with your heart, then you act on it. It is a lot like this, and I use this example all the time when I am winning people to Christ. I get him to a point, and I work him very slowly. Everybody works them differently, and I work him very slowly, and I bring him to the point where I get him to hear and I get him to believe with their heart, and I always give him this illustration. I would say, "You know what, now the Bible says that you have to confess with your mouth." I said, "Let me tell you, just look at it like this: if I won the lottery this afternoon, and I won a hundred million dollars, and you came in to me and you told me you had all kinds of problems and all kinds of things, and I thought to myself, 'Well, here is a great guy to help,' so I took my checkbook, and I just won a hundred million dollars, and I wrote you a check for one million dollars, and I put your name on it. I even signed it, and I gave you that check." I said, "You would go out of here, and you would be the happiest guy in the world. You would call your wife, maybe you would not call your wife, I do not know, but you would, you would be so happy and you would be so thrilled because you had a million dollar check from Bob Alexander. But you know the truth of the matter is, until you go to the bank and cash it, you really do not have the money."

I tell people, you can know all about Christ, you can believe with Him in your heart, you can believe that He died for you on the cross, you can believe everything about it you are supposed to believe, but until you open your mouth and cash the check, you really do not have Him. Do you know what confessing with your mouth is? It is just simply acting on what you already believe. I am not such a fool who I think that it is just mouth. We would, we relate to this because we see this flapping all the time, and we hear us talk. But you know, you ever look at Luke 16 where Tabitha took us the other night in Bible study, and you saw that rich man in hell? You ever notice that rich man, he had a mouth, he had a tongue, he had eyes, he had ears, he could remember, he had hands, he even wanted water, he could even talk. It is the mouth of your soul. It is the mouth of your soul. You can be saved if your soul cries out to Jesus Christ, even if your mouth does not. But it is not about, it is not about the physical thing, and we relate to that, so we talk about that and we use that, and you ask you to verbalize the prayer, but that is just for your sake. That is just the opening to get to your soul. It is really the reaching up and crying out of your soul and your mouth of your soul, which is in debt and trespasses or sin, crying out for God, believing in your heart what He did for you, and then God saving you.

You see, we have been deceived, we have been deceived. Romans 10:11-13 says, "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." God will save anybody. God wants to save you, but it takes repentance. It takes you believing in your heart of Him for righteousness and in confession with your mouth.

The greatest thing about salvation, I think most people struggle with, is how easy it is. I win people to Christ, and they have said, "Got all the rest of it." I said, "No, the fireworks are going to start here any minute now, just hang down the angel of light and the fuse." Let me tell you about salvation, and listen to this because you are going to have to use this a lot when you win

people to Christ, and they ask Christ to come into their heart to save them. Sometimes they cry, sometimes they cry a lot, sometimes they just cry a little bit, sometimes they do not cry at all. Sometimes they will go like the weight of the world has been taken off their shoulder. Sometimes they will not have any expression at all. Sometimes they will laugh. Sometimes they will look at you and hug you and grab you and pull you over the table and will break your back. Sometimes they will just look at you and say, "Thank you."

We as human beings always, and this is another part of deception, you are not saved, now listen to me, you are not saved based on how you feel about it. You are not saved based on the experience that you had. "Well, I saw, I went to church one time and saw this person run down the aisle and slipped in the snot, and people were all over the place and wailing and crying. Well, and I did not have that, so I must not be saved." Do not ever judge it on that. Salvation, no matter what your feeling or your emotional is about it, and everybody is different because we are all different people. I watch some of you go to the ball games, at a football game, some of you are fanatics, others just sit there, and me, I am looking for the hot dog guy. Everybody is different, everybody is different. Salvation is never based on how you feel about it. Salvation is clearly based on the promises and the principles and the Word of God that God told you. He told you that if you would repent, He told if you believed in your heart that God died for you, and He did for you what He said He did, and then if you confessed with your mouth based on what you believed, based on your obedience to repent, that God would save you. It does not matter how you feel about it. It is just the truth of the Word of God. We need, and I am not saying feelings are bad, but I am saying do not ever let your feelings override the truth of the Word of God because the Word of God should project your feelings, not the other way around. Every head bowed, every eye closed.