

# Romans 10

Sunday 9/13/2009

Bibles, let's turn back to Romans chapter 10. That is where we have been now for quite a few weeks, probably one of the greatest chapters in the Bible that talks about how you and I get saved, how we come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I witness to people, I do not ask them if they are saved. Everybody has their own definition of "saved." I really do not ask them about where they go to church because church is irrelevant to your salvation. I have come over the years to learn that the question I ask people is simply this, and this is a question that may be throughout this message today you will want to ponder in your own heart. I simply ask them this: "If you were to die today, do you know for sure that you would go to heaven to spend eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ?"

If you do not have that question settled in your heart, it does not matter what church you go to, it does not matter if you have the right Bible, nothing really matters if you do not have that question settled in your heart. Romans chapter 10 is the great chapter that helps us focus on that and shows us quite a few things that we have learned. It shows us the transition of God taking the Gospel to the Gentiles.

We got down to around verse 13, and it says:

*Romans 10:13*

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

How many times we have used that along with Romans chapter 10, verses 9 and 10.

*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.*

But last week, we looked at, once he says that, he asks four questions, does he not? We pondered those four questions last week as we met together in the Bible.

## I. The Four Questions of Romans 10:14-15

The first question he asked after verse 13, when he says, "Whosoever shall call shall be saved," then he asked this:

*Romans 10:14*

*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?*

The second question was:

*Romans 10:14*

*And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?*

Their third question was:

*Romans 10:14*

*And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

And the fourth question was:

*Romans 10:15*

*And how shall they preach, except they be sent?*

Well, after last week, you now know the answer to those four questions, do you not? The answer to those four questions of how will they hear, how will they believe, and all of that, is simply you and me. That is how. God's plan, we talked about last week, was giving us a perfect example in the Lord Jesus Christ, and then replacing himself with you and me on planet Earth as sons of God, filled with the Spirit of God, having the power of God through the Word of God, and basically taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth. That is the job that you and I are to do.

I think last night, if you were here in our new members type of dinner we had, it was an incredible time. I purposely had each one stand up and talk about how they got to this church. Everyone said the same thing, and all through that conversation, I told you that there was something I wanted you to see that I think is the greatest aspect of our church. Every one of those people that got up came to this church because somebody in this church witnessed to them, told them about this church, told them about the Bible, and then brought them here.

We have been talking a lot out of Acts chapter 8, Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, and this great study here of how God has prepared sinners and God has prepared servants. God right now, in many people's lives—maybe you are in this room this morning and you cannot answer that question I asked at the beginning, you do not know for sure if you died right now you would go to heaven—you know what God is doing in your heart? He is preparing you for the message. He is preparing your heart to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

You know how you maybe got here today, or maybe you were saved in this church last month or so? You know how you got saved? You got saved because you were a prepared sinner and God sent you a prepared servant, and the two met together just like that story in Acts chapter 8 of the Ethiopian eunuch and Philip. You brought them to a point where they could understand and hear the Gospel, and that is the greatest single aspect of our church.

I believe with all of my heart that we have so many of you who are working diligently to be that prepared servant. Because of your intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ, and your attitude toward the Bible, and your attitude toward this ministry, and your attitude toward this church, God is using you and will use many of you. Do not be discouraged if you say, "Well, I did not bring anybody in the last six months." Not everybody does. Maybe you will in the next six months, but

someplace along the line, if you do what the Word of God says, you are going to bear that fruit, and the Bible says, "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Now today, we are going to look at another great concept of our study in Romans chapter 10, and I think it is one of the most incredible studies in all the Bible. I want to read Romans chapter 10, verses 14 and 15 again, and we are going to focus on the last part of verse 15 today. We talked about this; these were the four questions. But look at verse 14:

*Romans 10:14-15*

*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

*And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

Now Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank You, Father, for the time that we have set aside today to come to Your Word. I appreciate the singing this morning. I appreciate Roy and his song this morning, Father, and all those things were there to prepare our hearts for this very moment as we open up these sacred scriptures and let the Holy Spirit of God lead us and give us what He has for us.

I thank You for last night. I thank You for what a joyous time it was of some 30 or 40 people, and all of them were not even here, Lord, but the ones that were here, what a great time it was and a real time of rejoicing of what God has done in our ministry. Lord, truly Your hand is upon this work, and Lord, we just want it to stay that way. We do not want to do anything humanly that would ever hurt and take the hand of God off what we are doing. Lord, we do not know what we are doing. We cannot even give an explanation for the success other than God's promises in the Word of God are faithful and true.

We come to You today, Father, to ask You to open up our hearts. There might be someone here, Lord, who cannot answer that question this morning about where they spend eternity, and I pray that by the time we are finished with this today, Lord, that You will speak in their heart, that Holy Spirit of God, You do the work that only You can do in their heart, and we will be careful to give You the honor and the glory and the praise in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, Amen.

## II. The Importance of "Feet" in Ministry and Prophecy

Now I want to talk today out of verse 15. There are all kinds of studies in the Bible, and I think many of the greatest studies in the Bible, you know, you talk about, "We are going to study the Tribulation," that is exciting. Somebody said, "Well, I want to study the Rapture of the Church," that is exciting. Somebody said, "Well, I want to study the Millennium," that is exciting. Somebody said, "Well, I want to study the Second Coming," that is exciting. But I have learned over the years that some of the most exciting things to study in the Bible are not the most glamorous things.

One of the greatest studies in the Bible that I am going to talk to you about this morning is a study of your feet. Nobody has beautiful feet that I have ever seen in my life. I do not wear sandals. I do not wear sandals because I have the ugliest feet in the world. I am kidding, I do not. I would not show them to anybody. Freddy Krueger has better-looking feet than I have. You never see me. But in the Bible, if you want a tremendous study, study feet. It says down there in the last part of that verse, "as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things." I want to talk to you about that.

Fulfilling God's plan in your life is understanding the aspect of being sent by this church to your mission field. I said last week that most people think that the preachers are behind the pulpit and the missionaries are on the foreign field. That is true in a sense because pastors preach and missionaries are on the foreign field, but we get the idea that because there is a guy behind the pulpit that preaches and we have missionaries out there in a foreign land that are missionaries, that somehow you are distracted from that.

Let me tell you something, we already understand this, so I am not going to belabor the point. If you are saved here this morning and you are in this church and you are saved, you are a missionary and you are a preacher. If you do not understand that by now, by the time we have been in Romans chapter 10, you are probably never going to get it. We get the idea that the missionaries are on the foreign field and preachers are behind the pulpit. Every man and every woman under the sound of my voice this morning that is in this room that is saved, you are a missionary to wherever you work, to your neighborhood, to your family, to your friends, and you are a preacher bringing them the Gospel.

When you talk about feet, the Bible is filled with incredible studies. There are certain words or phrases that will always be key to those studies. When you study feet in the Bible, first of all, when you find feet in the Bible, and I will give you this for you Bible students, doctrinally, wherever you find feet in the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, doctrinally, it will always be a picture of the Second Coming of Christ and the Millennial Reign of Christ.

If you go back in these verses, like you are going to find in Isaiah chapter 52 and Nahum chapter 1, it is all built around Zechariah chapter 14. In Zechariah chapter 14, it says this, it talks about the fact that when Jesus comes back, and in Zechariah chapter 14, it is almost a detailed account of the Second Coming of Christ. When Jesus comes back, and this is the key point on the feet, when Jesus comes back, He comes back from the east. He comes into the Mount of Olives, and on the Mount of Olives, He is sitting on this white horse, and at the Mount of Olives, He steps off that white horse, and the Bible says when His feet, when His feet touch the Mount of Olives, it splits asunder.

When you are going to find feet in the Bible, doctrinally, it means prophetically, it is always going to be a picture of Christ's Second Coming and then on into the Millennium. Because with those same feet, when you read Revelation chapter 19, verse 11, it talks about, "And I saw a sharp two-edged sword comes out of His mouth in which He smite the nations and He sets up a kingdom that is after righteousness and goodness and truth." Everything about it is the fact that God is now going to do everything in His governmental system that is right. The feet picture the

fact that He is carrying that into Jerusalem. He walks through the Eastern Gate, He walks into Jerusalem, and He sits down on the throne of God in Jerusalem, and He is crowned the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

All the references to feet in the Bible, and your definitive passage on it, will be Isaiah chapter 52, verse 7, where it says:

*Isaiah 52:7*

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!*

Now that passage shows you doctrinally that the feet of Christ and all those passages will always be a reference to His Second Coming and Him going into Jerusalem. Isaiah chapter 66, verse 1, says:

*Isaiah 66:1*

*Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?*

That will be the Millennial Temple, and where is the place of My rest? That will be Jerusalem in the Millennium. The picture is that heaven is His throne and the earth is His footstool. It is a picture of His feet being on planet Earth and being under His foot, under His feet, under His reign, under His rule. All the time you are going to find those things where you are going to find feet, it is a tremendous study. From a doctrinal perspective, you will find some of the greatest material on the Second Coming of Christ and insight into the Millennial Reign of Christ when you just study feet. Again, it talks about how beautiful they are. You will always find the good tidings and publishing peace and bringing forth the tidings and salvation always connected.

Now, in an inspirational application, it is always a picture of you and me, just as Jesus Christ when He comes back and He comes into Jerusalem and He sets the world at peace. He brings salvation to the nation of Israel. He brings good tidings and good news that finally we have a governmental system that is going to be run righteously with no corruption in it, and if that is not good news, I do not know what is. He comes down and He sets that whole thing up in Jerusalem.

Now, inspirationally, it is a picture of me and you, you and me taking the great news of the Gospel, taking the great news that from the Bible you have an absolute standard. Would you not be thrilled today if you came to me with issues in your life, or maybe you are facing down through life, if there is a young person, all kinds of bad choices, good choices, and issues you are going to have to deal with? Would it not be a great thing if you could go to one source, one book, one place, and find every answer that you need about every decision you have to make, and you never have to worry about making the wrong choice or having bad things in your life because of bad choices? If there was one source, would you not grab that? Well, I have news for you, there is a source, and it is the Word of God.

You and I, walking on our feet, carrying this book, telling others about God's salvation, telling others about all of the things that the Word of God does to every corner of this planet. I have told you this before, the main difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament is simply this: In the Old Testament, God had a fixed temple. That is what He is talking about there when He says, "Where is My house that you built unto Me?" There was a fixed temple, it was in Jerusalem, and all the world came into that temple. They traveled from Africa, they traveled from Asia, they traveled from everywhere, and they came into that temple in Jerusalem, a fixed building, and it is a marvelous building laid out in Chronicles for you. They came into that building and they saw the glory of God, and they were overwhelmed by that glory. In the Old Testament, the whole world went to that temple, a literal fixed building.

Now in the New Testament, it is different, is it not? The Bible says now that your body is the temple, and the glory of God is not in the walls or the texture or the holy things that they kept in that house. The glory of God now is what lives inside you through the Holy Spirit of God. Where in the Old Testament the whole world came to the temple, in the New Testament, we take our temple to the world. Tomorrow morning when you go to work, you are presenting the Lord Jesus Christ to your people you work with, to your boss, in your neighborhood, to your friends. When they see you, it is just like going into Jerusalem in the Old Testament and seeing the glory of God. They knew there was something different about the building that housed the holy things of God than all the other established places in the Old Testament. By the same token, inspirationally, your friends, your family, your enemies, everybody in your life ought to see the difference between your temple and everything else in this life. It is an incredible study.

It talks about your walk with God. Feet in the Bible are a great study. Proverbs chapter 1, verse 16, talks about feet that run to do evil. Proverbs chapter 6, verse 18, talks about feet running too swiftly to mischief. The Bible talks about in Jeremiah how there is a snare for your feet, how your feet can stumble, how your feet get stuck in mire. We even, when the Antichrist finally gets defeated in the book of Daniel, you know how it represents his death and his destruction? His feet. The smiting stone of Daniel 2 crushes his feet. You know why feet mean something in the Bible? Feet in the Bible, from a doctrinal standpoint and Christ's side, will represent His authority of taking the Gospel. Inspirationally, it is your feet that get you there. It is your feet that carry the Gospel, and the Bible says that they are beautiful.

Now that is why Romans chapter 10, verse 15, says:

*Romans 10:15*

*And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

This is a quotation from Isaiah chapter 52, verse 7.

*Isaiah 52:7*

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!*

I told you last week, if you want the definitive passage on the Bible on the Gospel, it is 1 Corinthians chapter 15. It talks about:

*1 Corinthians 15:1-4*

*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;*

*By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*

*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

*And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

In other words, see the importance of the Bible. Without the Bible, it means nothing. The Gospel, the good news, what I am telling you today is this: You and I were once guilty sinners. Maybe some of you are still a sinner, and the good news is you do not have to stay a sinner. The good news is that Jesus Christ, the Gospel, is He came down according to the Bible, He died according to the Bible, and then He rose again according to the scriptures. Now, because He died and was buried and rose again, He will give you and me the newness of life that you will never have to die, and you will have an eternity with Him. That is the good news of the Gospel. You see, that is the message that we preach. That is the message that we preach.

Within your Bible, there are two great pictures of you and me and an inspirational application that is a Bible reference to our feet talked about in Romans chapter 10, verses 14 and 15, of carrying the Gospel to the world. Two perspectives I want to talk to you about. One of them this week, and I want to talk to you about the other one next week. The first one is at the day of salvation. The second one is after salvation, as you prepare yourself for the spiritual warfare.

Remember I told you a couple of weeks ago that in the book of Galatians that Paul had true travails. He was talking about the Galatian church, the church at Galatia, and he had two travails. Travail is a turmoil. Travail is something that you worry about. He says, "I have two travails over you." He said, "I have travailed a second time," is what he said. His first travail was he worried about the fact that they would not get saved, and we all can identify with that.

I probably, in most cases, most cases in this church, and maybe I am wrong, but I do not think so, I would say in most cases that there is probably most of you have somebody on your heart this morning that you know is lost, that you would like to see saved, and you have a burden for them. That burden is a travail. That burden is a travail. As a pastor, many times I know people when I talk to them, and they come in, and I have talked to people that came over to my home and shut down, and they were as lost as they could be. I worried about them, and I prayed for them, and I travailed for their salvation because I do not want to see anybody go to hell and spend an eternity. My whole life has been spreading the Gospel of the good news. So there is a travail of lost people that Paul felt about.

But then he says, "I travail over you a second time." That second travail is after you get saved, fretting over people growing spiritually. Because I know as well as I am standing here that the devil's plan is real simple in your life and my life. It is so basic and so simple. It may be masked with a lot of shiny bright things, but it is so simple.

*Plan Number One: The devil wants to get your soul in hell.*

I do not know how else to say it. In all the new churches today and all the modern theology that goes on, they like to dress that up. Very frankly, I do not know how to dress that up. The devil wants to get your soul in hell. Yes, there is a hell, a burning hell, a terrible place. Luke chapter 16. Jesus spoke on it 20 sometimes in Matthew. There is a real burning hell, and plan number one is the devil to get you to go there. How many, do not raise your hand, but how many are saved this morning? Well, if you are saved this morning, you beat the devil on that one. You did, and he is not happy about it. Not happy about it.

*Plan Number Two: The devil's second plan is this: "Well, if I cannot get you in hell, and you get saved, then I will just keep you from ever growing spiritually. Maybe I will lose you from hell, but I will gain your mother, your father, your brother, your sister, your kids, and everybody else in life that if I keep you off task and off focus and keep you in the world, even though you are going to heaven, and you but you never grow, I will get all those other ones."*

He plays the odds. He plays the odds. I travail as a pastor in both those areas. I travail for people who are lost, and I also travail for young Christians because I see how subtle it is. I see the destruction, how that God could take, you know, you get a young couple come in or a young single or somebody that comes in, and it only takes some outward influence. I have seen people in churches that were saved people get hooked up with young Christians, and I say to myself, "What are you going to do? Go up and say, 'Do not hang out with this person because they are going to...'" You cannot do that. But in my heart, I travail because I know what is going to happen. That person is going to say that their own example, they are going to draw that person away, and what would happen in a spiritual growth is going to be shut down because of God's people, and it is a terrible thing, and it is a travail.

I want you to be saved, but then I want you to grow because God has a plan. He has something that He wants you to do. The first thing we are going to look at is your shoes, your feet, at the day of salvation, and then next week we will look at after salvation as you get into this fight and you take this thing on.

### III. Exodus 12: The Gospel According to Exodus

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want you to turn to Exodus chapter 12. I think Exodus chapter 12 is my favorite passage in the Bible. I call Exodus chapter 12 "The Gospel According to Exodus." Most people only think there are four Gospels in your Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But once we define the Gospel from 1 Corinthians chapter 15, and we know that it is the picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ according to the scriptures, you are going to find that there are all kinds of pictures of the Gospel. I know that there is a Gospel of 1 Kings, there is a Gospel of Genesis, there is a Gospel in Joshua. In other words, there are stories

in the Bible that when you read those stories, by the events, the things that take place, and the people in those stories, they picture the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, the good news, the Gospel. Boy, Exodus chapter 12 is one of those places.

Now let me talk to you about Exodus. I think Exodus is one of the greatest books in the Bible. I wish that I had some people that were up to this speed because we do not have a new members class, and I do not know that we would ever have one, but if you want one book of the Bible that would be an incredible book for all you new people or all you people who just get saved, if you would want one book, and I know you would not think of that when you look at it because Exodus just goes on. It looks boring in some places, I mean, to tell you the truth, if you do not see it in the right light. But I do not know of a better book in the Bible that breaks down every aspect of what happened to you and to me before we were saved, when we got saved, and all the events that should be in your life after you get saved right up to getting into the ministry and being a missionary and being a preacher of the Gospel.

You know how Exodus starts out? Sure you do. We have all seen \*The Ten Commandments\* with Charlton Heston. You know how it works, they are down there in Egypt. They have been in Egypt for 430 years. For 430 years, the nation of Israel has been under the bondage of Egypt. If you know anything about the Bible, Egypt is a picture of the world. Pharaoh is a type of the devil, and it is a picture of God's people, you, a picture of God's people being put on the nation of Israel, being put under the bondage of a literal nation that wanted to wipe them out and destroy them.

When you read that incredible heartache, they have to make bricks every day. Bricks in the Bible are a picture of man-made concepts. You will never find any altar or anything that God ever made that was ever made with bricks. He makes it with stone. You know why? Stone is God-made. Bricks are man-made. What are the nation of Israel down in Egypt doing? They are making bricks. They are making bricks to build the world system, and they are under tremendous bondage. They are slaves. Many of them, how many hundreds of thousands over those 430 years, died as slaves, malnutrition, crushed in those big blocks that they were doing and moving and all of the things, and literally worked to death.

Yet you are going to find that that is a great picture of where you and I were before we got saved. You know what? Pharaoh made it as hard as he could on them, even though they were working for Pharaoh, they were doing him the favor of slave labor. When they did not do it fast enough, when they did not jump high enough, when they did not do all the things they were doing, he took away the straw that they had to have to make bricks, and then he required them to make the same amount of bricks with less material.

You know, that is a picture of you and me before we got saved. That is what the Pharaoh of this world, Egypt, the type of the world, did before you were saved. It puts you under tremendous bondage. It puts you under tremendous stress. You were going to live all your life, do all your stuff, your whole job to build what you thought was what was going to make you happy, buying a big house, getting this, getting that, building those bricks, making it bigger. What did the devil do? The devil just spit in your face. The devil gave you every raw deal you could get. The devil

made everything, and at the end of it, when you labor and you struggle, at the end of it all, when you have everything you think you have, what do you get? You are dying, you are burning in hell for all of eternity. That is a great deal. That is a great package. That is what Exodus chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 picture.

You can go through it. What happens? They cry out. The bondage got so great in their hearts, they cried out to God, and God heard them. Now you know what God did? God sent them a deliverer, did He not? God sent them a deliverer, Moses. Remember the time when you just could not take it anymore? Remember the time when life got so overwhelming and so burdened, such a heavy thing on your heart and your mind? I do not know what it was, it does not matter what it was, but you actually came to, I believe that many people take a gun or take poison or take this or that and kill themselves and end their life simply because they cannot go on with one more day of making bricks in Pharaoh's brickyard.

Remember how it was? Remember when you first thought, "Oh, there is got to be a way. Where is the light at the end of the tunnel?" Somebody says, "Here it is," and you ran down that tunnel only to meet a freight train coming your way. There was no light in Pharaoh's tunnel. The only light there will be will be that clock of light from heaven when the Bible says He was the true light, the light of every man that coming into the world. At some point in your life, if you are saved this morning, God sent you a deliverer. He sent you a prepared servant that told you the glorious news that you could get out of Egypt.

I remember preaching one time, it has been years ago, people are weird, you know that? They really are. I remember preaching one time, and I was preaching on John chapter 8, verse 44. It says:

*John 8:44*

*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

I was preaching on, if you are lost here this morning and you are saved, your spiritual father and family is the devil. If you are saved here this morning, your spiritual father and family is God. After I preached, a lady came up, and she was hot. Not that kind of hot, she was mad. You have to be careful what you say today. She came up and she put her finger in my face and she said, "You know what?" She says, "I am offended." I said, "Well, I am sorry, what did I do to offend you?" She said, "Well, you said that I was in the devil's family." I said, "Ma'am, are you saved?" She says, "No, I am not, but," she says, "I resent being told I am in the devil's family." She says, "I want an apology." I said, "Well, I do not want to make you madder, but I am not going to apologize to you because of what I told you, the truth. But can I give you a little advice? I too one day was in the devil's family, and somebody pointed it out to me, and what I did was I got offended too, and I got so offended, you know what I did, ma'am? I changed families. Amen. I will offer you the same deal." She did not take it, but what can I tell you? But I am telling you, people are weird, they are nuts.

You go through all of these things in life, and then somebody told you there was a deliverer, and on that day in your life, you know what God did? Typically, God brought you out of Egypt. Now I want to show you the Gospel according to Exodus, and I am going to go through this whole thing, but I am going to focus on your feet, what you have to do with your feet the day you get saved. We are going to talk about a number of things here, four things in fact, but we have to go through this to get to them.

All right, let's look at Exodus chapter 12. You all should have it now. If you do not have a Bible, look on with the person next to you. If they have a nicer Bible than you have, and you are bigger than they are, just take it and say, "I am keeping it."

*Exodus 12:1-13*

*Now the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,*

*This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.*

*Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:*

*And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.*

*Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:*

*And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.*

*And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.*

*And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.*

*Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.*

*And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.*

*And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover.*

*For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.*

*And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.*

Now that is a great passage. This is probably my favorite story in the Bible because I relate to it so well. Some of you have been around for a while, I am sure you are already picking it up. Some of you heard me lay some of this out before, maybe not quite the way I am going to do it today, but we have been there before and we talked about it, and most of you are familiar with Exodus chapter 12. What a great chapter.

Now keep in mind, this is Israel's salvation chapter. This is where God sends them to deliver. The deliverer goes before Pharaoh, works it out, goes through it, brings the plagues down, and in Exodus chapter 12, He brings them out. The first thing that I want you to see, and we are going to come back to this today, is that He brings them out of Egypt, a type of the world, by the blood of a lamb, by the blood of a lamb.

Now I want to walk you down through this, and I want to show you the parallels. If there is one book in your Bible, and now if you get access to the website, it is on the website when I did all the books in the Bible, get to Exodus, man, go back there and get that book, Exodus. It will change your perspective of where you are at if you are a young Christian or an older Christian.

All right, now the first thing I want to bring to your attention here is found in verses 1 and 2.

*Exodus 12:1-2*

*Now the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,*

*This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.*

You know what He is doing here? He is changing the beginning of their year. Up to Exodus chapter 12, the Jewish year started in September with the Feast of Tabernacles. That was the beginning of their year. Now He is changing it, and He is saying, "Okay, basically," He is saying, "Okay, up to this point, your beginning of your year was in September at the Feast of Tabernacles. Now we are going to change it. Now it is going to be at the Passover in April." He is telling them that, "We are going to change from the way it was to the way it is now." In other words, you know what He is doing? Israel is getting a new beginning. He is putting away the old year, and He is starting a new year.

You know what happened the day you got saved? You got a new beginning. Old things are passed away, all things become new. What a mind behind that Bible that wrote a story that took place 3,600 years ago, and in that story, you will find every aspect. He said to them, "You know what I am going to do? But I deliver you and bring you out of Egypt, a type of the world, I am going to make you something new. You are going to have a new beginning." When you got saved, God gave you a new beginning. You are not the old person you used to be. Then why do you act like it? Why do you live like it? Why do you not see down inside you what changed about you?

All right, next thing I want you to see is this, and oh, I love this. Look at verse 3, 4, and 5.

*Exodus 12:3-5*

*Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:*

*And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.*

*Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:*

My, my, my. When I start reading that thing and I come down there, the first thing I see down there in verse 3, when you come down through there, it says, "You need a lamb." You need a lamb. You know what? If you are here this morning and you are lost and you cannot answer that question, I can tell you in one word what you need: You need a Lamb. That is what you need. You need a Lamb. That is what I needed. That is what everybody in this room needed. Verse 3 says, "a lamb."

Look at verse 4. But not just any lamb will do. You need *\*the\** Lamb. You do not need Buddha, you do not need Confucius, you do not need Joe Schmo, you do not need the Mormons, you do not need this, you do not need that. You need *\*the\** Lamb, the Lamb of God that He is talking about here. What kind of mind behind that Bible says the first thing you need is a lamb, but you need *\*the\** Lamb?

Look at the next verse. Oh, let me tell you something, my friend, look at verse 5. You can need it. No, you need a lamb, and you can even find the right Lamb, but until you take a Lamb and get the Lamb, you are no good till you make it *\*your\** Lamb. See that progression? A lamb because that is what you need, but you need *\*the\** Lamb, but you need to make that Lamb *\*your\** Lamb. Wow, what a passage. What a passage. That is not all. That is not all.

Look at verse 5. Verse 5 says that if you do not, if the next house does not have enough, that you are to share the Lamb with your neighbor. Have you done that? Do you share the Lamb with your neighbor? When you see somebody out there that you know is your neighbor, do you share the Lamb with them? You work at work, do you share the Lamb with the people around you?

You notice that Lamb, it is tossed down through there, it had to be a male lamb. You see that thing? It had to be a male lamb, a male. They kept it to the 14th day of the month. That is the day Jesus Christ was crucified. He was crucified on the 14th day of the month. What you have here is the Gospel according to Exodus, that Israel coming out of Egypt in Exodus chapter 12 is a picture of Christ's death delivering you and me out of Egypt, the world system. They got out by a Lamb, you and I get out by a Lamb.

Look at verse 6:

*Exodus 12:6*

*And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.*

That is six o'clock. That is when He died on the cross. When He said, "Into My Father's hands I commend My spirit," and He died and He gave up the ghost, it was six o'clock on the 14th day. Whoever wrote that saw something coming that was going to be the salvation of the world. It says without spot, it has to be a male lamb without spot, without blemish. The Bible says in 1 Peter chapter 1, verses 18 and 19, that we are not redeemed with corruptible things as silver or gold or the vain tradition from your father, but with the precious blood of Christ, without blemish and without spot.

*1 Peter 1:18-19*

*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as of silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*

*But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

Look at verse 7 and 8:

*Exodus 12:7-8*

*And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.*

*And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.*

Now here is what they did. They killed the Lamb, a male Lamb without blemish, on the 14th day of the month. They could not kill it on the 13th and keep it over. They had to kill it on the 14th. Why? Because that is the day your Lamb died. It had to be a male without spot, without blemish. Then they took that blood, and on the door, they took that blood and they put blood over here, blood over there, and blood over there.

Now what in the world is significant to that? Why did they put blood on this side post, on this side post, and the top of it? I will tell you why. Because down the line 3,600 years, on Calvary's mountain, on Calvary's cross, there were two thieves, and then there was the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, you know why? You have got one over here, one thief, one over here, second thief, and you have got one on top, that is the Lord Jesus Christ. He was numbered with the transgressors, was He not? But He is higher than they are. He is deity. Oh, the Gospel according to Exodus.

Look at verse 8. "Roast with fire, no water on it, bitter herbs." Picture the bitterness of Christ's death. Christ cries out on the cross in verse 9, "I thirst." So He says, "No water on that sacrifice." Notice they have to eat it with unleavened bread. You know why? Because leaven is a picture of false doctrine, bad teaching. When they do this, this Passover Lamb with all the things that go with it, everything in this story means something. So they cannot have any leaven, no false doctrine. It has got to be pure.

Look at verse 10:

*Exodus 12:10*

*And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.*

Nothing remains. A complete, total, complete sacrifice like Hebrews chapter 9 and Hebrews chapter 10 lays out. Now what you have here is a picture of how you and I got saved in every aspect.

Look down there at verse 13. I love it. We have a song in our hymnals we sing, "When I See the Blood."

*Exodus 12:13*

*And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.*

You know what the word "Passover" means? It means that when God came down to execute judgment on Egypt, when He came down to destroy them and to kill them, they did not have the blood on the door. When He saw the blood on the house, when He saw the blood on the door, the Bible says He passed over them. The judgment did not fall. He passed over them. So it is called the Passover.

Let me tell you something again, God's judgment is going to come. This nation is not going to escape the judgment of God. The judgment of God is going to fall on this nation, and it is going to fall on this world. I will tell you something, if you cannot answer that question that I asked at the beginning, let me give you some good advice: You better get the blood on the door, that when He comes, He passes over you.

I love the fact that it says, "upon their house." How about it, moms and dads, are your kids saved? Are they living for God the way they should? Are you living that systematic dream world that you carry around all your life, and they are going to die and split hell wide open because you do not have the blood on the house? I am telling you, this thing in every aspect of it, He says, "When I see the blood."

You know, I have people, you are going to talk to people all the time, and they are going to say, "Well, I think you have got to be baptized to go to heaven. I think you have got to join a church. I think you have got to get a good life." I guess they must have read that wrong. I guess it says there, "When I see your baptism," is that what it said? Or I guess maybe it said, "When I see your church membership certificate," or I guess maybe it really said, "When I see your good works." No, it said, "When I see the blood." The blood, the blood, the blood.

Now if I would go out here this afternoon at KCI International Airport and I would walk up there and I would go up with a woman and I would say, "Uh, I would like to get on this plane." She said, "Well, the plane is sold out." I said, "Well, I may be, but I need to get on this plane." She says, "I am sorry, Mr. Alexander, we do not have any tickets, we are overbooked." I said, "Well, I just watched you put five people on that plane." She says, "Yeah, but they have tickets, they have

reservations. You do not have a ticket." I said, "Well, what is that got to do with it? You let that place is filled up with here." "Well, let me tell you, I know that one guy, if you knew what I knew about that guy right there, you would not let him on that plane." She says, "I do not care anything about him, he had a ticket." "Yeah, but he does this, he is a liar and he cheats in business and he does that." She says, "I do not care, Mr. Alexander, he had a ticket. Do you have a ticket?" "No." "Then you do not get on the plane."

Now is there anybody here that does not understand that basic simple illustration? When you get to heaven, when you try to go to heaven, it is going to be about the blood. If it is on the door, you go in. If it is not on the door, you do not go in. No ticket, no airplane ride. No blood, no heaven. What is so complicated about that? "When I see the blood," not the baptism, not your church membership, "when I see the blood."

You know, I have people, you are going to talk to people all the time, and they are going to say, "Well, I think you have got to be baptized to go to heaven. I think you have got to join a church. I think you have got to get a good life." I guess they must have read that wrong. I guess it says there, "When I see your baptism," is that what it said? Or I guess maybe it said, "When I see your church membership certificate," or I guess maybe it really said, "When I see your good works." No, it said, "When I see the blood." The blood, the blood, the blood.

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Then I have got to get this before we move on here. Look at verse 3, "lamb." Verse 4, "lamb." Verse 5, "lamb." Lamb, lamb, lamb, lamb, lamb, lamb, lamb, lamb. There must have been 600,000 lambs killed that night, at least. Why does it never say "lambs"? Why in this whole story, as He breaks this thing down talking about probably 600,000, 800,000 male lambs who were killed that night, why does He never use the plural and He always uses a single, and He keeps talking about "a lamb" singular? I will tell you why. I will tell you why. Because it signifies to me and should to you that there is one Lamb. There is one Lamb. There is one Lamb

that has enough atonement in His blood for a hundred million people. So it is "lamb," but do not just get "a lamb," get "the Lamb," and do not just look at "the Lamb," make it "your Lamb."

## IV. The Four Elements of Salvation (Exodus 12:11)

Now watch here it comes. Four things, four things about our salvation pictured in Exodus chapter 12, and the one we want to focus on is your feet. But we are going to have to look at all four of them. The Gospel of Exodus, this is at the day of salvation. Now next week we are going to look at beyond salvation, at the second great aspect. But right now we are talking about the day you got saved, that aspect of your feet.

Now He comes down through there when He says this in verse 11:

*Exodus 12:11*

*And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover.*

Now the first thing He says there, and you want to note these down:

1. Loins girded
2. Shoes on your feet
3. Staff in your hand
4. You shall eat it in haste

Now let's put these four concepts into perspective for us. We already know, now have laid a good foundation of Exodus chapter 12, we know the typology, the pictures, and what it represents. Now let's take these four things, and this is where we are going to focus for the rest of our morning. Let's focus on these. I have six hours left, so we have plenty of time. Let's focus on where we are at.

The first, and I am not going to put them in the order that they are, I am going to bring them in the order that I want to preach them to you and that I can build this thing. So the first one we talk about here is He says this: "You have to eat it in haste." You know what He is saying? You know what He is talking about? This sacrifice, this Passover Lamb that is bringing them out of Egypt, and He is telling them that, He is telling them that, "Eat it in haste." You know what that tells me? That tells me you cannot get saved too quickly.

*1.) Eat it in haste.*

Behold, today is the day of salvation. Proverbs chapter 27, verse 1, says:

*Proverbs 27:1*

*Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*

You know, people are wild, man. I will tell you what, I have dealt with people for the last 35, 36 years of my life in every scenario. I have witnessed to people, I have talked to lost people, and people, I just, it never ceases to amaze me how people will put off the Lord Jesus Christ. You

know, I do not think after 36 years in the ministry and working with people, I do not think it is the things that you do that sends you to hell. I think it is the one thing you do not do, the sin of omission. You know what the sin of omission is? It will send you. It is not all the things that you do that sends you to hell, it is the one thing that you do not do: You do not trust Christ as your own personal Savior. It is incredible, absolutely incredible.

You know, there are four great men in the Bible that lost men to die and go to hell as far as we know, and I think personally, when you look at these four guys, they show you exactly where you are at in dealing with people today. But the Bible says in James chapter 4, verse 14:

*James 4:14*

*For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

You know, over there in the passage we are in in Exodus, in the early part, Moses goes in before Pharaoh, and Moses, when he goes in, he has done all these plagues. Pharaoh has seen some unbelievable things that he could not explain, and they are things that only can be done supernaturally by the God Moses is talking about. He has suffered incredible agony. They have had boils, they have had their homes burned up, they have had thousands and millions of frogs in their world, they have had all kinds of things. Everything has died, the water has turned to blood, fire has fallen from heaven, and he stands there and Moses says, "Are you going to let the people of God go?" Now that is the equivalent of you witnessing to somebody who is lost, whose life is a disaster, and instead of saying, "Yes, I will," you know what Pharaoh says? "Tomorrow I will let him go." Tomorrow. You know what happens with an unsaved man? Tomorrow is when he rejects the salvation of today. His tomorrows become yesterdays, and he never gets saved. Incredible.

I think over there in the book of Acts with old Paul in Acts chapter 26, he is up against King Agrippa, and he is laying it out and talking to him, and he is trying, and one of the greatest witnessing scenarios you are ever going to find anywhere in the Bible, and he is laying it out to an unsaved, even Roman King Agrippa, who is just as far away, and Paul had made such a dent in him. He had seen the difference. He knew there was nothing wrong with Paul. He knew he should have been there, and Paul's defense is a brilliant defense, and King Agrippa comes down to that, and he says to Paul:

*Acts 26:28*

*Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.*

We have one of those songs in our hymnals, "Almost Persuaded, Almost Persuaded, But Lost." I think Pontius Pilate over there in John chapter 18, I think, here is a guy that was an absolute coward, and he is faced that thing. He said about Jesus Christ when he was having, "I find no fault in this man," but he could not have the courage because he was afraid. You know, fear is a big deal.

I remember preaching one time down in Bridgeport, Ohio. This has been, Lord knows, this has been years ago, and I was just a young kid back then, and I did not have a lot of finesse, and I did not, I just, I had one speed, that was get up, open up, and do not shut up, and I just let them have it, you know. I have learned to keep my cool a little bit better, but I just, I preached a revival for five nights, and down in the front row every night was an Army First Sergeant. I have always been drawn to military men, and I kind of took a shine to this guy and talked to him afterward, never got personal with him, but he came every night. Every night, every night when I gave the invitation, he came to the place where he just, he just shook. He sweated like he was in the Sahara Desert, and he just literally shook with his head down, and I knew he was lost, he knew he was lost. I am looking at this guy, and I mean he has got a CIB, he has got a parachute jump. I mean his chest looked like an Army Navy store. He had everything on it. He had been in Vietnam, he had been in Korea, he had been everywhere. About the fourth, fifth, and the last night of revival, I gave the invitation, and I mean he was sweating bullets, and he finally broke, got up, came down, and got saved.

I went over to him afterwards, and I said, "Sarge," I said, "I have got to ask you a question." I said, "I am glad you are saved, praise the Lord." He is blubbering all over the place, you know. Then he said, he said, "I said, 'Well, I have got to ask you, what took you so long?'" And he said, "Well, Brother Bob," he said, "I will tell you." He said, "I charged machine gun nests, and I took out sniper nests, and," he said, "I walked point in patrol, and," he said, "I did all those things. I have been in three wars, but I have got to tell you the truth," he said, "getting up and walking down that aisle in front of all those kids and all those women and children just scared me to death." They were, you know, like that fear. I am thinking to myself, this guy has been in three wars, ten wars, five wars, fought everybody, he has probably killed 100 people, and he is afraid to get up and come down and take a stand for God. Fear. That is what old Pilate had. He says, "I find no fault in him," but he could not let him go. Could not let him go.

You know, the other, the fourth man, the sergeant, one of the fourth, the fourth man in the Bible is Felix over there in Acts chapter 24. Paul puts it to him, and boy, when Paul puts it to him, and he finally is faced with a decision that many people have to be faced with, you know what he says? He tries the other avenue. He says, "Well, it is not convenient for me right now." Not convenient.

*Proverbs 27:1*

*Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*

Psalm 90 says:

*Psalm 90:10*

*The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

Verse 12 says:

*Psalm 90:12*

*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

Because Psalm 102, verse 11, says:

*Psalm 102:11*

*My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass.*

My friend, there are two urgencies when it comes to salvation. If you are here this morning and you cannot answer that question, then the urgency is for you to be saved. If you are saved here this morning and you can answer that question in a firm enough, then the urgency for you is the salvation of others that God puts in your life. Remember Philip, a little guy, Acts chapter 8, when God said, "Go join the man of this chariot," what did he do? He ran. He made haste. There is an urgency of our hour.

I heard an old preacher one time, this has been 30 years ago, preaching a great message, and he was talking about the devil's plan, and he said this. He said, "Someplace long before we ever find ourselves in the situation we were in, when the devil was trying to put a plan together to destroy the world and mankind, he got all of his demonic hordes together, and they had a great conference, and the devil laid out to his henchmen that he was looking for a plan, and they needed to help him to develop a plan that would be a surefire plan to ensure the damnation and the ruination of planet Earth."

The place got quiet as all the demonic hordes thought one moment. One of them raised his hand and he says, "I have got a great idea, Master." He says, "Let's propagate the idea that there is no God." Everybody broke out into applause and screaming and yelling and thought that was a great idea. The old devil fought for a minute and he said, "No, that will never work. God's hand is in everything that He created. You cannot look at the stars, you cannot look at this, you cannot look at the moon, you cannot look at the sun, you cannot look at the creation and not see God. That will not work."

So they thought for a moment more. Another one raised his hand and said, "I have got the answer. Let's propagate the idea that there is no heaven." The devil thought about that for a moment as they all went crazy thinking that was a great idea, and he said, "No, that will never work." He said, "There are too many passages in the Bible that talk about heaven, and when people have a loved one that they lose, they want this idea that there is some place that they could go and meet again. No, that will never work."

Well, they went back and they thought some more. Somebody came up and said, "I have got the grand idea. Let's propagate the idea that there is no place called hell." Everyone went crazy. The devil smiled in a minute, thought for a minute because he is thinking of his Jehovah's Witnesses buddies now, you know, you are going to get him to help him out. He thought, and he says, "You know, that will not work either. The problem with that is 18 times in the New Testament Jesus spoke on hell, and then you have got Luke chapter 16, what are you going to do with that? No, that will not work."

And the place fell quiet. The devil thought, all the hordes of hell thought. Suddenly the devil looked up with his crowd and he snapped his finger and he said, "I have got it! I have got it! We cannot tell them there is no God. We cannot propagate the idea there is no heaven. We will never convince them that there is not a hell. But we can convince them there is no hurry." There is no hurry. You have got all the time in your life. I talk with young people, young people, they feel like they are invincible, do they not? They feel like they can live their life forever, and they miss the fact that the first person dead died in the Bible was a young man, Genesis 5:5. I am telling you, boast not thyself of tomorrow. The Bible says, "Eat it in haste." It is the Lord's Passover. Get it inside you, get it on you, get the blood on the door before God's judgment comes to you.

Then he says in verse 11:

*Exodus 12:11*

*And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded...*

*2.) Loins girded.*

What a great concept because that represents your walk, and you walk on your feet, but you and I walk on our feet by the strength in our loins. You know, the day you were born physically, you began to grow slowly, but every day you probably could not measure it, you obviously could not see it. You know, it is like I see people I have not seen for 15 years, and I remember in my mind the last time I saw them they were five years old. Now 15 years later they are 20 years old, and in my mind they are still little kids because I was absent for that long, and they grew up. You know, when we are together all the time, you know, we do not look different, but if we were absent for two or three years and come back, we would look different. Things change, we grow. Your kids grow. There is not a day that your kid is not growing. There is not a day. Now I know you come to a point after a while where you stop growing up, we start growing out, you know, that goes. I am not going to talk about that. We all stop growing up outwardly, but when you stop growing up outwardly, you should not stop growing inwardly. There should be a never day in your life that you do not grow inwardly. In your physical life, you grow up to a point that you do not grow anymore, but you never should stop growing inwardly.

Of course, that is the whole key to your walk with God. When you get saved, the key to your walk with God is your feet, and the key to your feet is your loins. That is why he says in Ephesians chapter 6, verse 14:

*Ephesians 6:14*

*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

Your spiritual strength, the principles of the Word of God. 1 Peter chapter 1, verse 13, says:

*1 Peter 1:13*

*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

Now that is not the book of Revelation, that simply means the more God reveals Himself to you, the more you grow. You know, I think my favorite character in the Old Testament as far as my model for my Christian life and my walk is Enoch. The Bible says that Enoch walked with God for 300 years. I cannot imagine. Enoch had God's full attention because if you know anything about the Bible, all the world was wicked back then, so God did not have to spend a lot of time with other people. It was Enoch for 300 years. For 300 years, I cannot imagine. I have walked with God since 1970, 72, 71. I cannot imagine a walk of 300 years. I cannot imagine every day being with God, walking with 300 years, though it is just incredible. God and Enoch spent time together every day.

I heard the old story years ago, and I believe it is true. No, it is not in the Bible, but I believe it. I heard old Peter say one time that every day God came down and spent with Enoch. You know, the Bible says Enoch walked with God for 300 years, and Enoch was not, for God took him. God came down and just took Enoch out, took him to heaven with him. I mean, they wanted a day, and he said, "Where is Enoch?" "Oh, he is gone." "Where did he go?" "Well, he was out with the Lord walking back there." "I do not see him." "You do not want him." Never saw him again. You know how it worked? They were out there walking arm in arm, you know, the Lord was spending them all things in the Bible, and He said, "You know, I have got an idea. I have been coming down and spending a day with you for 300 years. Now I have got an idea today, why do not we go spend a day up in heaven together?" Enoch said, "You are kidding me." The Lord said, "No, I have been down here for 300 years. We every day, I said, "Today you come up to heaven with me." Enoch said, "That is a deal." So the Bible says that Enoch was not, God took him. Heaven for a day, got up there for a day and found out there was no night. Been there ever since. I thought it was funny when I heard it.

The more God reveals Himself to you, the more you grow in grace, the more you strengthen your loins. I do not care if it is football, basketball, soccer, whatever it is, your strength is in here, and if strength in here affects your feet, and it is just that simple. It is just that simple.

Now look at the next thing, working our way down to the feet, but you have to see these. Verse 11, "your staff in your hand."

### 3.) *Staff in your hand.*

You ever noticed that Israel was a nation of shepherds? They kept sheep. You are going to come through the early part of Genesis when they are getting ready to go down in Egypt, you are going to find a term called "the abomination of the Egyptians," Genesis chapter 47, verses 33 through 34, and a little bit later on Genesis chapter 43, verse 32. I am going to read you 47, but you need to put them both down. It says this:

*Genesis 47:33-34*

*And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation?*

*That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.*

Now that is a little story in there where they did not quite tell him the truth because the abomination of the Egyptians was the fact that they hated anybody who kept sheep. Now let me tell you historically why that is. Because they were people of cattle, the Egyptians, they raised cattle, cattle farmers, and sheep farmers have never gotten along. The reason is over the grazing ground. You see, a sheep, when he eats the grass, he eats it so far down to the grass, the bare ground, there is nothing left. So when you feed the graze the sheep, there is nothing for the cattle to eat. You know, so they hate them because they ate up all the pasture land. In the West in the 1800s, they killed people, they fought wars over it. But in Egypt, that was a thing. So the Israelites, who were shepherds, they were not allowed to, they said, "When he asks you what your occupation is, tell him you raise cattle because if you tell him with sheep, because raising sheep is an abomination of the Egyptian, they hate us for it, and they will kill us for it."

Now that is the historical reason. Now the doctrinal or the inspirational reason, you have got to figure it out by now. You know what? Egypt is the type of the world. You know why the world is going to hate you? Because we are shepherds and we have sheep. We win people to Christ. We are shepherds. We take care of God's flock, and the world is going to hate us just like they hated them because of the fact that Egyptian hated sheep and shepherds, and Egypt is the type of the world. Boy, Bible Christianity is taking care of the great Shepherd's sheep, and they are going to hate us because of our Shepherd, the Bishop of our soul, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the fact that we are His sheep. It is just that simple.

You know, I do not know about you. He says, "When they ask your occupation," there is a great psychology in there. He says, "When they ask your occupation, do not tell them you are really a shepherd." Now some people say, "Well, why did he tell them to lie?" Well, I do not, he is not really telling them to lie. That is one of those places in there that fits into the verses in the New Testament which says, "Wise as serpents, but harmless as doves." You know, sometimes be serpents, no, one does. You have got to balance it out.

I will tell you this, if I am on an airplane flying someplace, and I do not fly anymore, but when I used to fly, you know how it is, you have got an eight-hour flight or four-hour flight, you are sitting next to me, sooner or later somebody is going to break up a conversation. You know, I have had people look over to me and say, "What is your occupation?" I never tell him I am a pastor. That is not because I am ashamed of being a pastor. I mean, if I had my way, I would just straddle him right on the seat and preached to him the whole time he is down there, it would not bother me, and he would not go to the bathroom, and we got saved. I would fix him, I would get him. I know, I know the ways of persuasion.

I never tell him that. I always say, I always say something else. I, you know, I say, "Well, I am a counselor," you know, or, "I am a historian," or I never say, "I am a pastor." I will tell you why, and you need to listen to this and learn, because I know already, just like the Egyptian did, the world has a mental picture of what a preacher is. They really do. Most pastors are fat. Most pastors are lazy. Most pastors are wimpy. I mean, most churches, you shake the guy's hand like picking up a dead fish. I mean, I am just telling you, I have been around them all my life. I mean, a great joke on pastors is, "We know he is on the level. How do you know? Because he has got the bubble in the middle." I mean, that is the standard joke. I mean, they are effeminate, they are

prissy, they are political, and they are all about money. They are walking around talking about peace, peace, peace with one hand, the other hand they have got in your wallet. I mean, it is, they walk around saying, "It is all get along," and they cannot get along with anybody. The bottom line with this, you know, am I right? From the day I started, I never fit that mold any way, shape or form.

All right, but I told a guy one time, I did tell a guy, he about had a heart attack. "You are a pastor? You are a preacher?" You know, most people would think, "Boy, I do not look the part." I do not want to look the part. I do not want to be. I want to be just a normal guy who got saved by the blood of the Lamb put on my door, and the fact that I am a pastor has nothing to do with the fact. I am just a red-blooded male just like you. I will run as fast as you do, I will play football with you, I will do this, I will do that, I will shoot you, I will eat you, I will drink you, and I will hold nine yards. So there we are. I did not mean to, I will drink your part, I just threw that in there for a little color. I do not fit in any of those molds. I am like that new movie came out when a guy says, "Are you a secret agent?" And he says, "Yeah." He said, "What is your?" He said, "I am double O 14." He said, "Well, why are not you double O seven?" He said, "Because I am twice as good."

I am telling you, I am telling you, I am telling you, we have got to take care of the sheep. He is the Shepherd, and the world is going to hate you just like they hated Israel, and you better play the game smarter than they are. The Bible says, "Wiser than your enemies," you know why? Because they are always with you. Psalm 119.

Now the second part of this thing in verse 11, it says this: "and your shoes on your feet."

#### *4.) Shoes on your feet.*

Romans chapter 10, verse 14 and 15, says, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace." Do you ever stop and think at any one time, and I thought about this all week when I put this together, in fact, I had to muster the courage, but went up in my own closet, which is quite an endeavor in itself, wonder how many pairs of shoes you have? I hate to even say this. I used to tell my kids, I said, they, because my kids would have shoes everywhere, you know, and I, they always say, "I would like to get a new pair of shoes." So I would always sit them down telling the story about, you know, "I once cried because I had no shoes, then I saw a man who had no feet." You know, it did not work with them. They said, "Okay, he did not have any feet, but I do, I need a pair of shoes." So I am going to have to run out the window.

But I looked in my big box, I have got a big cardboard box up there, I have got nine pairs of gym shoes. I have got running shoes, I have got dress shoes, I have got six pairs of combat boots just in case. I have casual shoes, I have flip-flops, I have sandals that I never wear. I have work shoes, I have hiking shoes. I have seen people who have dancing shoes. I saw people, women, they have high heels, they have low heels, they have pumps, whatever those are, and they have flat soles. I mean, and then you have got on top of that, it just is not shoes, it is the color coordinator to go with your dress. Somebody, a woman or wife, will say, "Well, I have got a new pair of shoes." "What? You have got 9,000 pairs." "But they do not match my dress." Hello, change the dress, find another color with what you have got. "No, no, we could not do that, we buy more

shoes." There is a woman in our church, and I will not mention her name, but she has 300 pairs of shoes. We kid her about it all the time. 300 pairs of shoes. I would not say her name because I would not want to bear a false report for anything in the world, but she has 300 pairs of shoes. You go to a Zumba class, you get shoes, high impact, low impact, some of them look like they have no impact. You know, I do not know. I mean, even race car drivers, you know, they wear special shoes, do they not? Michael Jordan. Yeah, I bought a pair, I thought it made me run faster. It does not. My feet hurt more now, that is all. But you play sports, you have got baseball, you have got softball, you have got basketball, you have got cowboy boots. I mean, it is a science.

He says, "Shoes on your feet." Every Christian here this morning, and you just got saved, you only need three pairs of shoes. That is all you need. You can go home, throw the rest of them away. Spiritually speaking, when it says "shoes on your feet" here, this is a picture of somebody that just got saved. If you are just saved this morning, I can, I can, I can sum up what you have got to do in your life by three pairs of shoes.

You need to have, you know, the first pair of shoes you need to have, you need to get you a good pair of running shoes. You do. Now, not to run from God, but to run for God, because you need to make haste. So you need a pair of running shoes. So I am telling you, when I take you in Thursday night Bible study or I work with you one-on-one, I am looking at you as somebody who just got saved. I am trying to fit you for these three pairs of shoes. Everything I preach, everything I do, everything I lay out is to get you ready to make haste like Philip ran when God heard him.

*1.) Running shoes (to run for God, to make haste).*

Then I will tell you the next thing you need is you need a pair of combat boots, high top combat boots that support your ankle, because the more weight you put on your loins of strength, the more you are going to have to strengthen your ankle. So you get your pair of 10-inch high tops. Corcorans would be nice. Jump boots look really good when you spit shine them up. But you need a pair of combat boots. You know why? Because you need to get ready to go into warfare. Ephesians chapter 6, you are a soldier for Jesus Christ. He has called you, He is the Captain of your salvation, He has called you to be a soldier. So you need a pair of running shoes, and then you need a pair of combat boots because you are going to be in a warfare.

*2.) Combat boots (for spiritual warfare).*

Then the third pair of boots you need, and that is all you need, you need running shoes, combat boots, then you need a pair of work boots. Now may I suggest that these work boots, because they are for the ministry, see the work of the ministry, Ephesians 4, may I suggest that when you buy your work boots, get them with steel toes in them, because there are going to be people stepping on your toes a lot. People are going to be stepping all over your toes, and that hurts, and do not take it personal. So get you some steel toes in them. That is all you need.

*3.) Work boots (for the ministry, with steel toes).*

If you just got saved, or you do get saved, or whenever you get saved, I suggest that you come over and see me, and I will fit you for them. I will get you a pair of running shoes, I will get you fitted into a pair of combat boots, and I will get you a pair of work shoes, work boots, and we will get you going.

Next week I am going to show you the second aspect of the feet after salvation, where you are preparing yourself in preparation. But listen, I mean, I am telling you, your feet are important. I mean, when somebody boxes, you know, I mean, when somebody boxes, it is not, you do not, you know, it is in his feet. You ever watch a great football player, running back or somebody that catches the ball, it is, he dances in his feet. A basketball player, it is in his feet. A soccer player, it is in his feet. I am telling you right now, for a Christian that you just got saved, the key to your success is obviously to strengthen your loins, but the strength in your loins depends on your feet because it is the feet that takes you where God wants you to go, and you have got to make haste, you have got to be ready to run it, you have got to be able to fight it, and you have got to be able to do the work, and that is just the way it is.

## V. Conclusion: The Journey of the Christian Life

You know, I think about the nation of Israel. I mean, when you stop to think about it, God saved you for a reason, a purpose, has a plan for you, a job for you, something, and He wants you to do, someplace He wants you to go. Oh, that night so many hundreds of years ago when God brought them out of Egypt in Exodus chapter 12, they are getting all ready to go, and they are putting the blood on the door, and they are getting everything ready. But you know what? In God's mind, He had a plan for them. God had a purpose. God had someplace He was going to take them, and that night when they put the blood on the door, they ate it in haste, they got the staff in their hands, and they got their shoes on their feet, God started them on a journey.

The day you got saved, God wants you to get your shoes on your feet. You started the shoes on your feet, you started the journey. You see, repentance, repentance is not a thing where we talked about repentance is where you turn direction, but repentance never means you stop, it just means you go in another direction.

The first reference of the Spirit of God found in Genesis chapter 1, verse 2, and it says:

*Genesis 1:2*

*And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

You realize that the first time you find the Spirit of God in the Bible, and it is moving, and it never stops, and it goes through the whole Bible, it never stops. It goes into motion there, and it never ends out eternity. Yet the Bible gives you the direction it goes. You can actually follow it down through history, east or west, it is where everything goes. This is the Spirit of God, never quits moving. You and I never quit moving. God saved you to go on a journey, something He wants you to do, the place where you can get into your life where you fulfill God's plan.

Oh yes, I understand they had some issues, and so will you. They will struggle through some problems, and so will you. They had some real struggles, so will you and I. They had some really bad times, did they not? Yes, we do. But they got to the Promised Land, and God got them to the greatest point in their life when God was ready to fulfill His plan. You see, but you have to get your shoes on your feet. You have to get your staff in your hand. You have to make haste. You have to understand that it is the Lord's Passover, and get the blood on the door of your house because the Bible says in 2 Corinthians chapter 6, verse 2:

*2 Corinthians 6:2*

*(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*

That means help or delivered. Behold, now is the day of salvation. Every head bowed, every eye closed.