

Romans 10:14-15

Sunday 9/6/2009

We have already studied how that in the Old Testament, God's primary focus of reaching the world was through the nation of Israel. Then we looked at how that kind of transitioned once Israel rejected the Messiah. We saw how it moved into the New Testament church as we know it today. Last week, we hopefully learned a great truth. We examined what I call the heart of salvation in the Bible, and that is Romans 10:9-13.

We learned a great lesson last week, or hopefully we learned it, and that is the fact that the proof of your salvation, the fact that you are saved or you are not saved, is not really based on what you say or what you claim. It is not based on what your mom and dad do with the Lord in their life, or what you do or don't do, but rather based on the aspect of repentance. It is based on how you live your life after you are saved, and understanding that the moment you got saved, you were going to be transformed from what you were to what God wants you to be.

One of the key verses, and we use this verse a lot around here, is 2 Corinthians 5:17, which simply says:

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We talked about the deception of the devil and how he is out to deceive us into a false security. We looked at the three aspects of salvation that you really need to know. Remember, we are doing this for a couple of reasons. Obviously, I am teaching the passage in Romans, so we want to understand it correctly, historically, how it applies to what Paul is doing. But also, in our own ministry, we have seen the hand of God in this ministry ever since we started. God has given us just about everything we have ever needed. There has never been something that we had to have or we needed that God didn't come through for us.

God has built a contingency of men and women in His church who understand the message of God and understand the mission of God. As you have grown spiritually through all the different things that we have done, many of you now are right at that point in your life, and many of you are right behind those people who are ready to get yourself ready to be used of God in this mission that God has given us here in this church.

We have talked about how you need to understand when you are dealing with somebody about their soul. You need to understand that they need to understand about repentance. Repentance isn't the fact that you are sorry for what you did, though you need to be sorry for what you did. But more important than that, repentance has to do with the fact that you are willing, because you are sorry, to change your direction of life and go another direction.

I talked about last week how that when I got saved, the lines were very clear. You didn't claim to be a Christian and still do the things of the world. You understood that there was a new lifestyle, that if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, and yes, all things are passed away and all

things have become new. We talked about what it means to believe in your heart unto God's righteousness. We talked about how Christ was that righteousness and what that means as far as believing what He did for you on the cross. We talked about what it means to confess with your mouth, how it is a picture of opening up your very soul to the Lord Jesus Christ as you understand in your heart and you understand that you are making a life commitment now from where you once were going to where God wants you to go.

I. The Importance of Biblical Questions

I hear people all the time, and it is a great thing today, and I am sure you are all familiar with it. When you start witnessing to people or start talking to people, one of the things that people come back at you with is the fact that, you know, a famous verse in Matthew 7, I believe it is, where it says, "You are not the judge. Judge not, lest you should be judged." Of course, that is found in the book of Matthew chapter 7, and it does say there, "Judge not, lest ye be judged." My answer to that when somebody gives me that is 1 Corinthians 2:15, where it says that he that is spiritual judges all things.

I am not the judge, people, and I never do. I am just basically preaching to you what the Bible says. The greatest judge in your life will be the Holy Spirit of God. I can preach a message, but by the time I am done with that message, by the time I am halfway through that message, you know already if you are saved or not, or if you are saved, you know already if you are doing what is right or not. I don't have to say a thing. The Holy Spirit of God does that. That is why the Bible says that men don't like to read the Bible in the book of James chapter 1, because the Bible says it is like looking into a looking glass. We all like to think we look one way, but when you look in the mirror, it may not be that little mirror on the wall, "Who's the fairest of them all?" type deal. You get yourself all ready and get yourself what you have appeared in your own mind is exactly the way you want it, and then you look in the mirror and you see that it is not exactly the way you want it, and you wouldn't dare go out looking like that.

Most women, and it is not a bad thing, but most women, when you first get up in the morning, what you look like when you got up and what you look like when you show up to work are two different worlds. Most guys are too, I mean, let's be honest. The bottom line is this: there is nothing wrong with that, but it makes my point. When you look into the mirror, it really shows you who you really are, and the mirror of the Word of God, that is what it does. The Bible says, "He that is spiritual judges all things." I don't judge people, and you don't have a right to judge people either, but you do as a Christian have a right to judge the things that they do as they line up to your life, either you accept them or you don't accept them.

Now, let me tell you why you don't have to judge people, especially in the New Testament, because the Bible, a person claims to be saved, and we all know what the Bible says in an environment where the Bible is preached and the Bible is taught, nobody has to point a finger at anybody and say, "Well, you are not doing this, you are not doing that." It is obvious to everybody around simply because once we know the biblical principles, the things that you do that don't line up to the things the Bible says, you judge yourself.

One of the great ways that I have always looked at is a great principle in the Bible found in Matthew 7, which simply says, “By their fruits you shall know them.” We know that with a Christian life, there should be some things that are different. It just goes without saying. Now, the fact that we live in a Christian world today where everybody wants to have one foot in the world and one foot in with God, I am sorry, that may be the way the Christian world looks at it, and that may be the way that many churches look at it, but if you are honest with the Bible, what is the point, really, what is the point of becoming a Christian if it isn’t going to change you? I mean, it is just that simple. What is the point of getting saved in the first place if you didn’t have to get saved from something that was bad? That is the whole aspect of salvation.

It is a thing where a dead apple tree in your backyard in February, or if it is dead in the summertime, you can want it to bear apples. Every morning you can say, “Tomorrow it is going to have apples on it. Next week it is going to have apples.” You can wish all you want that it is going to bear fruit, but you know what? It is never going to bear fruit simply because it is a dead apple tree. Salvation is something that when you and I get it, it changes us. It changes us. You may not know everything about it at the time that you need to be and understand, but immediately, the Holy Spirit of God living inside you, there is going to be an adverseness to things that before there was no adverseness to. It is just part of that transforming process because simply put, a transformed life is hard to deny.

II. The Four Questions of Romans 10

Today we are going to move on to the next section of Romans chapter 10, and notice we are breaking this down into sections so you can get it into your Bible and it makes it easier for you. We are going to look at verses 14 and 15 today, and this is a great passage here.

Romans 10:14-15

14 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?

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!

Father, we thank You for today. We ask You, Lord, to give us what we need today. These are good people, Lord, and we love them very much. Lord, I am thankful for the ones that have committed themselves to the work of this ministry. Lord, we just thank You, Father, that in Christ Jesus, Lord, that we are all one. There is no black, there is no white, there is no red, there is no yellow. We are all God’s children, and because of that, we are all in His family. We just need to, as the Bible says in 1 Corinthians chapter 3, we need to be laborers together. Lord, this church is built on that concept of the oneness of God’s people. That within this body, we are all equal, we are all the same. It doesn’t matter how much money we make or how much money we don’t make. It doesn’t matter where we were born. It doesn’t matter what color our skin or whatever about us, Lord. When we got saved, we all became part of God’s family, and from that point, we are laborers together in this work.

Lord, You have called the New Testament local church into existence. You gave it the greatest Christian that probably ever lived, the Apostle Paul, to define it and lay it out. Help us as Your people today learn these great truths because, Lord, I know I speak for myself this morning, and I know I speak for the majority of this church, if not all of the church, that we want to be found faithful in these last days. We want to do it right. We want to do it by the book. We want to do it the way God intended for it to be done. Lord, to whom much is given, much is required. So, Lord, help us today. Help us to understand these great truths, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

So far in chapter 10, if you have been taking your notes, Paul has systematically laid out the aspects of the New Testament gospel going to the Gentiles. We taught in our first lesson. We talked about the book of Acts, and I told you how God had prepared servants and prepared sinners. We looked at that and saw how that really was the key to this whole thing. Then we saw in verse 4 how that Christ was the end of the law. We talked about how the law was done away with when Christ came and kept the law for you and for me. Then we talked about and defined Old Testament salvation under the law versus New Testament salvation under gracious truth in verses 5 and 6, and we looked at that. Then we moved into verse 8, and we talked about how God made the Word of God available for salvation, that He actually gave us the Bible, how He brought it to us. Then in 9 through 12, we talked about the basic fundamental heart of it all, the process by which a man and a woman get saved.

We did this from a couple of angles. We did it because of the fact that I want you to understand as a person sitting in this room under the preaching of the Word of God what Romans chapter 10 really deals with in perspective of your whole Bible. But at the same time, I want you to understand that someplace along the line, if God does in your life what He wants to do, I guess I should say if you allow God to do, He will do it. It doesn't matter what you will let Him do. God wants to take you and use you, and you need to know these things because the purpose for you and for me, well, we are going to see that today, is to be able to bear fruit for the Lord Jesus Christ. We talked about how important it is to understand repentance, man's heart, and the confession of his mouth.

Now we have come to verses 14 and 15, and we see now how God planned to get the gospel to the people that needed it. In these verses, we see the process that God has for us. These two verses, and maybe you have picked this up already, and we have talked about this before, but I am going to say it again because there are a lot of new people here. These two verses are built around four questions, if you haven't seen that already. These four questions asked in these two verses, and these four questions are what our message is really going to be built around today, and really what the book of Romans in chapter 10 is built around when we get to this point. Now remember, we have seen every aspect of salvation. Now today we are going to see the vehicle. We are going to see the vehicle by which God wants to get the gospel out to the world.

I have said this before many, many times. There are some things about the Bible that bother me, and I will just be honest with you, and when I say they bother me, it doesn't bother me because I am worried about them not being true. They bother me from the aspect that I think many times there is more to the Bible in our accountability than we think. The thing that bothers me about

questions, and I have looked at this for a number of years, the thing that bothers me about questions in the Bible is simply this: if that book is the book that God claims it to be, and that book is the absolute infallible Word of God in every way, shape, and form, and if the hand of God was in that book by design, and everything, even the punctuation and even the way the thing is set up, then that means that the questions are in there and are just as important as the statements in the Bible.

Now, the problem that bothers me with questions is this: if that book is what God says it is, and He asks some questions, somebody is going to have to answer those questions. Over my lifetime, once I saw that, this has been a number of years ago, once I came to full understanding how the Bible was truly God's Word, and I began to look at every jot and tittle in it as from God, then I began to go down through it and I began to look at it. Many of you know this because we have talked about it before. You realize the first thing I did was go back and find the first question in the Bible. I figured that if questions were important, that the first question would probably work something, and boy, my IQ went up about 10 points.

You know, the first question in the Bible wasn't asked by God. The first question in the Bible was asked by the devil in Genesis chapter 3. The first question in your Bible was asked by the devil. The second question asked in the Bible was found in Genesis 3:9, and that was asked by God. You see, when you come to the point where you see these questions, the first question asked in the Bible was asked by the devil, and the first question the devil asked was simply this: "Did God mean what He said when He said it?"

You know that first question sets the theme for the whole Bible. You know, that is really the whole reason we are here today. Either He meant what He said or He didn't. Now with me, I am kind of a black and white guy. I don't have much middle ground on things. Sometimes I do, but the bottom line is not when it comes to the Bible. In my personal humble opinion, either the Bible is the book that God claimed it to be: infallible, perfect, written by the hand of God, inspired by the breath of God, containing every thought and every intent of God's heart laid out in a book that I can read, or it is the biggest forgery that has come down the line in the last 7,000 years. To me, it is one or the other.

A lot of preachers and a lot of scholars will get up and say, "Well, the Bible is kind of the Word of God," or "The Bible contains the Word of God." I think that is middle ground stuff. I don't believe the Bible contains the Word of God. I believe the Bible is the Word of God. I don't believe it contains the Word of God at all. I believe it is the Word of God. I believe it is unlike any other book the world has ever seen. Because of that, questions are important. The first question asked in the Bible was asked by the devil, who was going to be asking you that question all down through the history of the Bible, and that is simply today the same question exists: "Did God know what He meant? Did God know what He was doing? Did God mean what He said when He said it?" And I believe that He did.

You know the second question in the Bible? God asked that question. That question was asked by God. You know what He asked? He asked Adam. Now Adam was in a fallen state. Adam and Eve had sinned, and they had fallen from God's grace. Now they are about to be expelled from

the garden. When they used to have fellowship with God every day, now they are hiding from God. God comes down and asks Adam the greatest question. The first question God asked in the Bible sets the precedent for what God does all the way down through the Bible. He is saying to Adam, "Adam, where art thou?" You know what God wanted Adam to say? He wanted Adam to say, "Where am I? I am fallen now. I disobeyed You. I went against You. Where am I? I am dead in trespasses and sins. That is where I am." Those first two questions form the whole concept of the Bible. One, the devil comes in and messes up God's plan. God always comes in and fixes the plan that he messed.

You know what the first question in the New Testament is? It is in Matthew. The first question found in Matthew 2:2 is asked by the wise men. It sets the theme of the whole New Testament. You know what they ask? "Where is he that is called King of the Jews?" Now those three questions show you how the Bible is built around the first time you find it, the second time you find it. Questions are important in the Bible.

Over the years, I have found a set of questions that every unsaved man and every unsaved woman are going to have to ask. You know what I believe the Great White Throne Judgment is going to be? I believe it is you and me standing there with Christ judging the unsaved world. You know what an unsaved man and woman does? I don't know if we have any unsaved people here this morning or not, but I know if you are unsaved and you are not saved, and you know you are not saved, I guarantee you your whole life is built around getting around the question that God asked Adam. Sometimes it is a smart, elegant answer. God will say to you, "Where are you?" And you will say, "Oh, I am around." You always can tell where a person is with God by the answers they give. You don't see somebody at church for four or five weeks, and you call them on the phone or you finally see them someplace and say, "Where have you been?" "Oh, I have been around." I tell you right now on the spot, let me translate that for you: "I am not where I need to be with God, and don't ask me anymore." They say, "I don't want to talk about it." That is the way we are.

Many times God's Holy Spirit will say to you, "Bob, where are you? Tom, where are you? Larry, where are you? Mary, where are you? Jane, where are you? Where are you at today?" And our answer as an unsaved person will be, "What business is it of yours? Where am I? I am having a good time. What do you want?" But God always keeps asking that question. You know why? Because at the Great White Throne Judgment, every unsaved man and unsaved woman is going to stand before God, and in that day, God is going to ask them questions, and you know what? There will be no blowing Him off then. You blow Him off now. Unsaved people blow Him off all the time. God's people blow Him off all the time. But in that day, when an unsaved man or woman stands at the Great White Throne Judgment, there will be no blowing Him off.

You know what Job said? Job said, "Who can contend with God?" That is a question. Who can contend with God? Really? Nobody can contend with God. Job said in Job 9:3 that you couldn't answer God one question out of a thousand. You know what Job 38:2 says? It says God speaking to Job, He says:

Job 38:2

Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

You know what the Great White Judgment is going to be? God is going to demand of you an answer. You know what answer He wants to hear? He wants you to show Him now how your righteousness and your good works and all the good things you thought you could do that you didn't have to put upside the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants you to explain to Him why you should get into heaven when He has got a perfect Son over here who died for you, and He wants you to explain your perfection. It is going to be a rough day. There are going to be some questions asked. There are going to be some questions asked. He asks, there will be people looking for answers. I guarantee you. I told you before over there in Job chapter 26, I have laid it out. In fact, I have got a whole message on it: the six questions God is going to ask at the Judgment Seat of Christ. You see, unsaved people have their questions. You and I have our questions. In Job chapter 26, you find six questions. Those six questions, as far as I am concerned, the only one that can answer them are a Christian in the New Testament church. Personally, I believe that those are the questions that you and I are going to be asked that we are going to have to give answers to at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Two judgments in the Bible. We studied on our chart. You and I, if we are saved, we get judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ right there while the tribulation is going on. Unsaved people get judged at the Great White Throne Judgment right before the whole thing is cast into the lake of fire. Questions are important. Questions bother me because I have learned this over the years. If I have learned anything about the Bible, what I believe about the Bible is this: if that is God's book, if God has asked the questions, somebody is going to have to answer them. You are just better off to answer them today. Get them out of your way.

Here are the four questions that Paul asked about the Gospel. This is called the Gospel of Peace in Romans 10:15. The word Gospel, I don't know if you know this or not, but you need to have this little piece of the pie here. The word Gospel means good news. In 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, there you have the definitive passage on the good news. Everything that the Gospel is is defined. He defined the Gospel as Christ dying and being buried and rising again according to the Scriptures. That is the Gospel. The good news is the fact that Jesus came down and died for you and for me. He was buried. He rose again the third day. Now you can have a new life in Christ Jesus. He has talked about all the aspects of salvation now. Then finally coming down in verse 13, he says, "Now whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Then in verse 14, here come our four questions.

Here is the first question he asks, connected with salvation, connected with you and me, connected with the Gentile church. I will tell you right now, the only ones that can answer these four questions is a New Testament Christian, you and me. Here is the first question: "How are they going to call?" He just said, he just laid out this great thing about salvation, and then he says, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Oh, that is great. Praise the Lord. Amen. Then the question:

1. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?
2. How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?

3. How shall they hear without a preacher?
4. How shall they preach, except they be sent?

This is why when I started our study, this is why when I began to lay out the book of Acts, when we went through the book of Acts and then when we started the book of Romans, this is why I started with Acts chapter 8. When we got to Romans chapter 10, the first message I preached, I took you back to the book of Acts and I showed you the model for New Testament soul winning in Philip in the beginning of the day, the opening unit. I began to show you the process all through these last couple of weeks that God has used and chosen to deal, give His plan to mankind. God could have the greatest plan of salvation ever, and of course He does, but if He has no vehicle to get it to man, then it is worthless.

III. The Purpose of Our Salvation

Realizing the reality of the New Testament church and Bible Christianity is why God has really saved you and why God left you in this mess after He saved you. I mean, let's face it, God could do whatever He wanted. God could have got us as soon as we got saved, God could have took us right to heaven. God is out of this mess. I would think personally that that would be a great motivator for a lot of people. I mean, if you know you saw Charlie and you know Charlie was an unsaved person and Charlie got saved over the weekend and then you go to work on Monday morning and somebody said, "Where's Charlie?" He said, "Oh, he's gone. God saved him. God took him out of this mess." Well, that would be, to me, in my human way of thinking, that would be a great motivator to get saved. I mean, wouldn't you like to go to a better place where you don't have to pay any taxes, don't have all the mess you are in, and just live blessed with God? I mean, who wouldn't want that? Why did He do it that way? God did it the way that He wanted to do it.

A couple of weeks ago on Thursday night, Todd asked a really great question at Bible study. He talked about, asked the question, in essence, he asked about the purpose of our salvation, why God saved us, other than the fact of just going to heaven. I thought that was a great, great question. I think that that is really the question that he is talking about here in Romans this morning.

You know, the Bible is a book of models. The Bible is a book of samples and examples. Obviously, there are all kinds of people in the Bible, all kinds of people in the Bible. You have got David, you have got Moses, you have got Elijah, you have got Paul, you have got Timothy, you have got Titus, you have got everybody in the Bible who is a great model. But the problem with them is this: they may be great models and they may be great examples, but they are still all sinners. For the Bible to be a perfect book, God uses men and women for our models, but He also has to give us, if it is a perfect book with a perfect God, then He also has to give us a perfect model.

You see, if the only models we ever had of Christianity and living for God were unsaved people, or who got saved and then turned their life around but were still imperfect, we would always find an angle somewhere when God asked these questions. But when God gave us a perfect model,

and God gave us a perfect example of what your life and my life should be, He canceled out of ever wiggling out of these four questions. Because the perfect model that He gave us, the perfect model that He gave you and me, was the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the perfect model that God gave to you and to me. Christ, the ultimate picture of our relationship.

If you ever deal with Jehovah's Witnesses, here is what they will tell you. Here is one of their big kicks. To me, I think it is ridiculous, but this is where they are at. Their big kick is simply this: "How in the world, why would God separate?" You know, they don't believe in the Trinity. They believe that, we believe that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all one. They don't believe that. They believe that God was God, and someplace down the line, He created a lesser God, Jesus Christ. They don't believe in the deity of Christ. They don't believe that Jesus Christ is God. They believe He is a lesser God.

If you would sit down with a Jehovah's Witness and you would say, "Why don't you believe in a Trinity? Why don't you believe in the aspect of how this thing really lays itself out as far as the reality of what is going on?" Here is what he would tell you: "Does it make any sense to you that God would make another Himself, another person, and then be subservient back to Himself?" He would say, "That doesn't make any sense. That would be like your Father stepping out and becoming His own Son, and then looking back at His own Father, which is Him, and then acting like a son giving reverence to a Father." He says, "It doesn't make any sense." Well, obviously it doesn't make any sense from a human standpoint, but when are you ever supposed to look at the Bible or God from a human standpoint?

You know why God did that the way He did it? First of all, because that is what He wanted to do. But second of all, the reason why He did what He did, because He wanted to give you and I a perfect model of our relationship that we should have with the Father. So you know what He did? He did it Himself. God separated Himself out of the Godhead and became a Son to Himself. Then He looked at the Father in a Son relationship, and in that act, He gave us the complete total understanding and a perfect sense of what our relationship should be. You know what the number one thing that He gave us was? Obedience to the Father. How many times did He give Himself over back to the Father and talk about, "I have come to do my Father's will. I have come to do the work of my Father"? What God did was separate Himself out, even though He was very God. He had the ability to separate Himself out. This is called the mystery of godliness in the Bible.

Of course, it is one of the seven mysteries in the Bible, and no Jehovah's Witness on the planet could ever figure those out. The mystery of godliness is one of the seven mysteries given to the Church. That mystery contains the concept of how and why God the Father stepped out of Himself, took on the form of a Son, and then turned His obedience back to the Father in a Father-Son relationship, even though He was God the whole time. You know why He did that? For you and for me to have a perfect understanding of a relationship.

Paul Harvey, I think he is dead now, but I always liked to listen to Paul Harvey. I remember about 20 years ago, I was listening to Paul Harvey on the radio, and it was around Christmas time. He always had some really good biblical thoughts, concepts, and I really enjoyed listening to him. He told the story at Christmas time how that in this home there was a mom and a dad and

two kids, and the dad was an atheist. Mom was a Christian, and the kids were Christians, and they went to church, and dad would never go to church. Here it was Christmas time, and mom tried to get the dad to go to church for Christmas service, and the dad wouldn't go and had nothing to do with it. So they went off to church that morning, and dad got his coffee, and he is sitting out there looking out the window, very cold, very blustery winter day. He catches an eye of a little bird out there. This little bird has got a broken wing. This guy is watching this little bird, and obviously he knows that this bird is going to get eaten by a cat, or it is going to freeze to death, or whatever. The guy becomes transfixed on that little bird and its problem.

The guy thinks, "You know what? I will tell you what I will do. I will open the window and let that, get that bird, and at least maybe I can put him in a little cage and heal him, and get him back where he can fly." So he tried everything that he knew. He even tried throwing bread out to the little bird, and the bird wouldn't move. The bird wouldn't do anything. The guy got so frustrated, and it was kind of like he was so captivated by this little situation. He is sitting there, and he is saying, "Man, you know, that bird is going to die. That bird is going to get eaten. That bird doesn't understand that I don't want to hurt it. I want to help it. That bird is going to need, how in the world can I get through to that bird? I mean, I have done everything. They like bread. I threw breadcrumbs. I opened up the window so he would fly in. What can I do? How in the world can I tell that bird, or get across to that bird, that it is dangerous out there. It is okay in here, and for that little bird to come in?"

Suddenly, the Holy Spirit of God said, "You know what, the only way you could do it, the only way you could communicate to that bird that everything out there is dangerous and everything in here is safe, is to become that little bird yourself." Just about the time he thought that, he heard the church bells ring. The Holy Spirit of God took that little story. The Holy Spirit of God said, "You know what, that is exactly what I did for you. You would have never understood. God could have never got us to understand anything about salvation. He could have never gotten His message to us. God is some blind, blinding light that would have scared the fire out of everybody, and we would have run for cover. This great rolling thunder of a voice, the Bible says, like many waters thundering, and we would run. We would panic. We would be everything away from God." And God says, "I can't do it that way. So if I want to get My message to mankind, I have to become one of them." Just like the man couldn't reach that bird without becoming a bird, God could never reach us without becoming man. In that story, the man fell on his knees, accepted Christ as his own personal Savior. It is a true story.

In your life and my life, that is how we can be saved. We understand and we know that God transformed Himself into the Son of God. He took on the form of a servant. The Bible says the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Great is the mystery of godliness, that God was manifested in the flesh, the Bible says. That is what He did for you and for me. That is the concept. That is the model for us in our sonship: the obedience to the work of the Father.

IV. Christ's Example and Our Commission

Ever wonder why the first coming of Christ really went the way it did? Jesus called His twelve apostles. You know the word apostle means "one sent." The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:20 and

Ephesians 4:11 that the apostles were the foundation of the church. Nobody knew it at the time, but looking back in retrospect and understanding once he wrote the book of Ephesians after Israel's rejection, they were the foundation of the church in God's mind. God gave them the gospel of the kingdom, and then He said unto them, "Go to all the world," and He told them, "Go to the lost sheep of Israel. Wherever you go," He says, "you use the signs that I have given you and you give them the gospel," and that gospel was the gospel of the kingdom to Israel.

But He said this in John 14:12, and I have never forgot it, and it bothered me for many, many years until I figured it out. He said this to them:

John 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

I remember as a young Christian coming across that verse, scratching my head and saying, "Now what does He mean by that? How in the world am I going to do greater things than Jesus Christ did?" It almost sounds blasphemous. It almost sounds sinful to think or sinful to say. But I didn't say it. Jesus said it. He said to His twelve apostles, He says, "Greater things will ye do than I do." Then I began to understand as I put the Bible together. God called His twelve apostles. He gave them the gospel of the kingdom, and they took it to Israel. But once Israel began to reject and reject John the Baptist, and they crucified Jesus Christ, and then you that know your Bible, they rejected the final time in Acts chapter 7. Then we go from the book of Acts into the book of Romans as God moves from the nation of Israel into the Gentile church.

Christ goes back to heaven in Acts chapter 2. I have often looked at that and I thought to myself, "What is the deal?" I mean, I read in the Bible where the Bible says that once He died and came from the dead, that He led captivity captive. That meant get everybody out of the Old Testament, Abraham's bosom, take them to heaven. I read over there where the Bible says that once He died and He rose again, He had the keys of death and hell. He had the victory because He died, was buried, and rose again. You and I never have to worry about death again once you become a child of God. The victory is ours.

I would think to myself, "Man, right then the devil has been defeated, God has got the keys of death and hell, Christ is now ready to take over. Man, He is going to lead the way, 'Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war.' We are going to follow Jesus all down through history." And once He got the whole thing set to get the world, He went back to heaven and left me here. That doesn't sound like a good plan to me. I mean, I would have much thought it would have been better if He had stayed here and said, "Okay, guys, let's go kick this fire out of him." He didn't. Why did He go back to heaven just when everything was ready to go? The devil had been defeated, He has got the keys of death and hell, the Old Testament saints are out of Abraham's bosom. I mean, it is a clear field of fire to go and do the work of God and get this thing going. In my mind, I would have thought it would have just been better for Him to stay down here and lead us and let's just move on. That was not His plan. That was not His plan.

You ever notice, and I talked about this the other Thursday night, you ever notice this that in three and a half years of His public ministry, He travels no more than probably 60 or 80 miles in all of those three and a half years? Yet He tells us to go to the world. You know that Jesus in those three and a half years, you ever stop thinking about this? He is in the Middle East. He is not 60 or 80 miles out of any one point where He was born. In those three and a half years, He is talking about winning the world to Christ, but He never went to South Africa, He never went to Europe, He never reached North America, He never went to England, He never went to Iceland or Greenland, He never went to Australia, He never went to the Solomon Islands, He never went anywhere other than that little 60, 80 miles. He never did. He never did.

When you realize, now I am going to talk to you in a couple of weeks. As we move on down through here, I am going to talk to you in a couple of weeks why He didn't go there at the time, better yet, why He didn't need to go there then as things are progressing through the Bible. I am going to show you something that is quite incredible, and I am going to use it to set up to kick off our concept of the gospel and the stars, but I am going to do it on a Saturday, Sunday morning right in here when I am going to show you why He didn't do that. It is an incredible concept. Do you understand what I am ready to say? When you understand this incredible concept of what I am leading up to, it will change your whole outlook and it will change your perspective of everything about you.

Romans 10:14-15 shows us that God saved you and me to do for Him what He would have done if He had stayed on earth. But He chose to go back after being here for 40 days after He, in Acts chapter 1, after He had been here and resurrected, He chose to go back, and He chose to give me His Spirit. He chose to give me and you the Word of God, and then He tells us to take His place as the Son of God. That is why the Bible says that every day right now you need to be more like Him. When you got saved, the purpose of God saving you wasn't just so He could take you to heaven. That is the better part of the deal, but the bottom line is He wants you and I to recognize why He did what He did the way He did it. He wants you and I to recognize that now He gave you His Spirit and made you a son of God. He gave you His mind, the Word of God. He gives you the power through the Holy Spirit of God to do the work, and that is when He said to the apostles, "Greater things will you do." He is talking in a sense because He is going back to heaven, and He expected you and me once we got saved, not just to stand on the promises, not sitting on the premises. You are going to take the Word of God and go do something with it because we as a son of God are the very replacement for the Lord Jesus Christ when He went back to heaven.

How does He want man to hear? How does He want man to hear to get the gospel? He wants it through you and me as His replacement. That is why the Bible says that you and I are to grow up into a perfect man. That is why the Bible says that every day we have to be more like Christ. Every day of your life you have to work and have a protracted schedule that every day you are a little bit more like Him. Every year you are a little bit more like Him. Every day you start looking at things more like Him, less like the world. God wants to form you up.

Let me ask you a question. Within 33 AD, God manifesting Himself as the Son of God could change the world in just three and a half years. And He did. The world has never been the same

since Jesus showed up at the first coming of Christ. Now I am one of these guys that I don't have a lot of tolerance for these skeptics about God and the Bible. I am a skeptic too. I am just not a skeptic about God and the Bible. I am a skeptic about everything else in life. But I don't have a lot of time and a lot of place about these guys. They are always questioning things of God. Let me say something to you, and I am not going to get into it today, but by the time we get through our thing, I will have it proven to you. I don't believe the Bible by faith. This guy said one time, "You just believe the Bible by faith. You are an idiot." I don't believe the Bible by faith. Maybe some of you do. If you do, I feel sorry for you. I don't take the Bible by faith. I believe the Bible because the Bible can be proven as the absolute perfect Word of God scientifically beyond any shadow of any doubt. I don't take it as some blind fool out there, this father and Jesus. I take it as an intelligent, kind of intelligent, 20th, 21st century man who has viewed the facts, understands what the Bible says, realizes the science that is involved, realizes the mathematics that is involved, realizes the trigonometry that is involved, the geometry involved, and understands that that Bible is the Word of God, not because somebody gets up there and says, "Oh, it is. Just believe it. Just believe it." I can prove it to you scientifically without any problem whatsoever.

So, I am not big on this, "Well, you just believe all that by faith." No, I believe it because I can go back in history, and the Bible says that when He was here, He changed the world, and there is no man on earth that can satisfactorily explain to me the changes that took place on planet earth when one man showed up. When Buddha showed up, it was like a bug on the windshield. It didn't matter. When Jehovah's Witnesses showed up, it didn't matter. When Confucius and all the rest of them showed up, it didn't matter. When He showed up, it changed the world. Changed it four ways. This is where I hang my hat. I don't know about you. I don't claim to be the smartest man in the world. Never have, but I am the fastest one in the slow class.

You know how the world was changed the first time? I will tell you.

- A day was declared.
- A name was given.
- A book was written.
- A year was given.

Now let me ask you a question. If in 33 AD God manifesting Himself as the Son of God could change the world in just three and a half years, what should a hundred million Christians do to this planet that are alive today? Come on. Come on. You and me, saved, transformed into His image. The Son of Christ made the image of Christ, filled with His Holy Spirit. Complete the process God gave you, His mind. He gave you His power. He gave you His ideas. He gave you His concept. He gave you His thoughts. He gave you His opinions. And then He turned you loose in the world if one man, and hey, He doesn't have any more of the Holy Spirit of God than you and I have. He has no more power than you and I have. He has no more mind than you and I have. We have it right here. There is absolutely no difference between Him and me and you. How come one man can change the world and a hundred million of us today can't do squat? Boy, that is a question that is going to have to be answered.

Remember 1 Corinthians 2:16? A question.

1 Corinthians 2:16

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

That is the question. How do you and I as a child of God know the mind of God that God can instruct us in what He wants us to do? Well, the answer is in the last part of that verse, “but we have the mind of Christ.” You see, God wanted you and me to take His place. God wanted you and me to do what He went back to heaven and never finished. He wanted you and me filled with the same Spirit, filled with the same mind, filled with the same power, filled with the same transforming light that you and I have the ability to live above the circumstances, to do what is right, and to be separated from the world. He fixed everything about us internally and outwardly, that we don’t have to be part of the world unless we just don’t want to do what He wants us to do.

V. The Church as God's Vehicle

How do they hear? How do they get a chance to call upon God? And how do they believe? God sends them a preacher, you and me, a man or a woman who replaces Christ on this earth as a Christian. You know the word Christian, it means “little Christ.” There are two terms that we have in our church here that will never change because they were not given to us in a good connotation. Back in the early days with the Roman Empire, the Roman Empire, they had 6,000 gods. There were 6,000 gods for everything. They looked at Christ when He came and Christ when He died. They looked at all that these Christians running around who were doing all the things that they were doing. They thought because they only had one God, that it was a poor man’s religion. They looked at their own religion with all their 5,000, 6,000 gods, and they looked at what was now new Christianity, and they only served one God. For them, their concept was, “This is ridiculous. Why would 6,000 gods, wouldn’t that be better than just one puny little god?” I mean, that was their reasoning. That was the way they thought.

Of course, once the Christians started telling them, “Well, our God lives inside us,” because theirs were in temples. Theirs were everywhere, beautifully, the Lord’s temple. They would go into the temple and they would say, “Where’s your God?” He said, “Oh, He lives inside me.” “Oh,” he says, “your God is Christ?” “Yes.” “And He lives inside you?” “Yes, that’s correct.” “Oh, then you must think of yourself as just a little Christ.” “Yes, that’s correct.” “Oh, then you’re a Christian.”

The other great term we have is Baptist. I know a lot of guys take Baptist off their church because they are ashamed of Baptists. I am ashamed of most Baptists too, but I will not take Baptist off my name. I think that the word Baptist we got because of our enemies who hated us because of the greatest doctrine we stood on, and that was the doctrine against infant baptism and baptismal regeneration. See, before, around the 12th, 13th century, it was called “Pedobaptist” against children’s baptism. Then later on, it became “Anabaptism” against baptism. Then he dropped the “ana,” and now we were just Baptists. So I will keep it. I will keep it. Yeah, I know

there are a lot of idiots out there. What are you going to do? Where are you going to go? What would you call it that you wouldn't have idiots in time? Idiot-free Baptist church? You would still have idiots in time. So I will just stick with it, and I will just tell people what kind of Baptist I am. Then when you tell them what kind of Baptist you are, they really want nothing to do with you, but that is okay. See, it works out just fine for me. Just fine for me.

A man or woman who replaces Christ on this earth as a Christian, Christ living inside you, God lets you stay here to finish the work that He started, and then He turned it over to the church. Let me ask you a question. You are a businessman, and many of you are. If you have a business, and the moment you leave the job site, or you leave the office, that a party breaks out, no work gets done, would you be happy with that? How do you think God feels the moment He went back to heaven, 95% of the Christians said, "Let's have a party," and are not doing the work today? I mean, it is a sobering thought. It is a sobering thought. "Greater things will you do than I will do," Jesus said.

You know, one way or the other, I have preached in almost every state in this country. I have been in and I have preached in Russia, Central America, South America, South Africa, Central Africa, Germany, France, Hungary, Romania, the Philippines, Korea, just about every place I can think of. And I am a nobody. I am an absolute nobody. And I thought to myself, you know, Christ never got there. He never preached in Africa, South Africa, Australia, Central America, South America, He never got there. But then I thought to myself, yes, He did. He got there through me. Christ will never get to preach in your neighborhood, unless you take Him in. Christ will never get to preach in your office, or where you work, unless you take Him to work with you. He will never get to reach and do what He wants to do, unless you allow Him in with you. That is the greatest aspect that you could ever think of in your life. God saved us for a purpose. There was a methodology to His plan of salvation.

I have told you before that when God's Son went back to heaven, He replaced Himself with three things. He replaced Himself, first of all, with the Day of Pentecost, with the Holy Spirit of God. By 90 A.D., He had replaced Himself with a second thing, which is the Word of God. John writes the last things in the Bible. Then when you come to the end of the book of Acts, you find that He replaced Himself with a third thing, the local church. You ever put those three things together? He replaced Himself with three things. It took three things, three things, for God's Son to replace Himself with in you and me, because He had a job He wanted me and you to do.

The first thing was the Holy Spirit of God. You have to have the Holy Spirit of God, because God has got a plan for you. How is He going to instruct you without being inside you to give you exactly what He wants you to have? So He gave you the Holy Spirit of God, the power that you need to have. But that wasn't enough, was it? Because you need a road map. He may give you the Holy Spirit of God, but if He doesn't have a set of instructions and a road map to show you where to get where you need to go, you aren't going anywhere. So the next thing He gave you, He gave you His Bible, His mind. Now you have the Holy Spirit of God, and you have a road map to know where God wants you to go.

You know what I do in this church? It is the only thing I really do. I do it a lot of different ways. I do it a lot of different times, a lot of different ways, and I say a lot of the same thing a lot of different ways, because I have learned over the years that is the best way to communicate. But the bottom line is, all I am trying to get you to do, all I am trying to get you to do is understand that God saved you for a purpose. That Holy Spirit of God is your guide, and that Word of God is your road map. But you see, that still isn't going to do any good, because you can have the guide, and you have got to have the road map, but you need a way to get to where you want to go. So God replaced Himself with a third thing, the local church, the vehicle by which you get where God wants you to go.

See our job now? See my job? My job is to get you saved, get the Holy Spirit of God recognized inside you as what He really is, your teacher, your trainer, your lead, and your guide, then get you the road map. Show you that the Bible is the road map, the Holy Spirit of God is going to trace out in your life where He wants you to go. But then I have got to get you there, and the way you get there is through the local church. How shall they be sent? You see, we get the idea that preachers stand behind the pulpits on Sunday and missionaries go to foreign fields. And that is backwards. If you are saved here this morning, one, you are a preacher, and two, you are a missionary. This church sends you out every Sunday morning, or every Monday morning. Every Monday morning we send you out to the mission field. Every Monday morning when you go back to work. This afternoon when you go to your neighborhood, or you go to your friends, wherever you go, God has sent you out from this church as a missionary, as a preacher.

People thank me all the time, and I do appreciate it. I take it in the spirit that it is certainly given. There hardly isn't a week goes by that somebody doesn't pull me aside. You know, you have seen your family grow, and you have seen some people in your family saved. There is a lot of work involved with it, but the times we spend together in the Bible where some of you have just grown incredibly in the last three or four years, people pull me aside and they will say, "Bob, I want to thank you for all that you have done for me." They will say, "Bob, I just want you to know I really appreciate it. I just wanted to take the time to thank you for all that you did for me, for helping move the Bible, for getting my so-and-so saved, or for doing this, or for doing that, or working with my kids, or helping my kids with their marriage. I just want you to know I really appreciate it, I want to thank you." I will look you right back in the eye and say, "Don't thank me, pal. I have got an ulterior motive." You think I helped him with her marriage because I am just a nice guy? I am not. You think I helped him get saved just because I am a nice guy? I am not. You think I did all that I do with all this around here just because I am Mr. Jellybean, just a nice cool guy that goes around doing nice things for nice people? I didn't. I did everything I did because I expect something out of them. I do everything I do because you and I owe God a debt. You and I need to understand that when you got saved, you got your life taken out. I may have been the one to help you, somebody else may have been the one to help you. We may have spent hours in your life, but if you think we did it just because we are a bunch of good old boys down here that just do good things, you got the wrong thing. We want something back out of you. I don't want to help you get your life turned together so you can go on in your meaninglessly purposeful life. I want you to get your life straightened out and get everything on par in your life

so you can do what God has called you to do when He went back to heaven and saved you to do it.

That is why when I give those Bibles out, I will be right up front with you. Hey, you know what? I am about ready to ask for a couple of them back too. I will give them out and I will tell you, "I am going to give you this Bible. You know what? It is yours. As long as you are going to use it and you are going to serve God and you are going to do what is right, you don't want it, give it back, I will give it to somebody else that does." I am not wasting that kind of stuff on you. This church pays for those Bibles. Your tithe pays for those Bibles. It is part of the ministry and the outreach of this church. I am not going to squander it away.

Remember that one stupid guy one time, he was sending Bibles into prison and the prisoners kept writing him back saying, "Send us more Bibles, send us more Bibles." And he thought a great revival was going on. They were passing them out, taking the pages up, rolling them up for cigarettes to smoke. Don't you tell me about human nature. Everything I do, I am going to tell you right now, it isn't that I don't love you. You know I love you. I would die for you. If we had a war and we are in a battle someplace, I would take almost every one of you in my foxhole. No problem at all. If we were on a boat someplace, going somewhere, and the ship got torpedoed or hit an iceberg, or whatever the game is, I watch too many movies already. And if the ship is sinking and everybody else is in a life boat, and I say to so-and-so, "Where's Tom, or where's Joe, or where's Ralph, or where's Mark, or where's Mary, where's so-and-so?" If you were down there and John was sinking, and you were down there, and John's son said, a big beam fell on John's leg and he can't get out. And I go down and I say, "John," and I say, "You can't, Bob, just get out of here. You just get out of here. You have got to leave me. That's okay. You are going to leave me." You think, you know what I do? I couldn't leave him. I just couldn't. I would stay down there with him and we would drown together. I mean, how do you leave? How do you do it? I mean, everybody else is in the boat. I am going to say, "Well, gee, John, nice knowing you. Thanks a lot, pal. Boy, I tell you what, you have been faithful to me and faithful to God. Water's getting kind of high. I have got to go. Here, I will tell you what, John, the best I can do for you. Here's a straw." Oh, absolutely not. You know what? I love you. But I have a purpose behind my love for you. It is because I want you to do, I want you to see, I want you to understand why God saved you. I want you to see that you and me have replaced Him. We don't have time to fool around and just dilly-dally around like we have got the rest of our lives. It is the urgency of the hour. Jesus is coming. People need to be saved. Christianity is not getting it done. Don't let us be in that same crowd.

God's plan on this planet Earth, found within God's eternal Bible, God allowed you and me to be born when we were born. He put you and me in the right place, gave you the right parents, good or bad, put people in your life at the right moment, and then He revealed Himself to you. Then when you got saved, He gave you exactly what you needed to get the book. He gave you the right church. He gave you the right purpose. He gave you everything you need. He put the right people in your life. Nothing in your life has been by accident, but rather by God's design. Oh, I know we have made our mistakes, but God even takes the mistakes that we make and turns them around to push us in the right direction if we just grasp the concept that we are here, left down

here, after we are saved because we have got a job to do as His replacement. That is why when you get saved, God gives you a whole new purpose. Because you understand that purpose. We help you get to that point in life. You will understand where that purpose turns into a plan. Once you understand God's purpose, you will understand God's plan, and you will begin to get God's perspective. Once you see God's purpose and God's plan, and you get His perspective, it turns into God's passion. And once you get the purpose and you get the plan and you get the perspective, you get the passion and it turns into God's power! God wants you to do what He wants you to do.

Boy, you know what? You take that concept and take that thought world right now and just where you are at. If what we are saying is true and what the Bible is saying is true, you know what? And you know what we are doing. I am not saying that we are the only church out here doing the job. You know I am not saying that. But you go try to find you another one that preaches the Bible and believes the Bible. You know what that says? You know what that tells me? That tells me that if God could have dumped you anywhere, God could have put you off into a Methodist church or some dead Baptist church, God could have left you in the slime pit you were in. He pulls you out and He brought you here where the Bible is taught, where the Bible is believed, where everything we do is try to be focused on what God wants us to do. And you are just in spite of that in His hand in your life, in His orchestrating the events and doing the things that get you here, you are just going to sit here like it is any other church. My God, what is wrong with God's people today? He could have put you out someplace where you would have never heard there was a true Word of God. He didn't. He put you here, and I am going to tell you this, to whom much is given, much is required. My temple, that thing is booming out there. Oh, I like when it does that. Got a camera phone. If I come back that side, give me a couple shots of it.

See, the answer to those four questions can only be answered by you and me. How are they going to call on Him if we don't tell Him? How are they going to believe if we don't show Him? How is every, are they ever going to hear the gospel, the good news without a preacher? And how will you and I ever fulfill all that God has ordained us to do to bring forth fruit and our fruit should remain if we are not willing to go?

VI. The Judgment Seat of Christ

You know what my perspective of the Judgment Seat of Christ is? My perspective is this. We are all so satisfied with the way we are. We get so like-a-go-day-s-a-go in our aspect of God and the church and what God has called us to do. And maybe not so much you because you are here. But boy, you look across Christianity, my friend, and I am telling you, there is an apathy. There is a lethargic attitude, no urgency that everybody is just playing the game. Nobody understands what I have told you this morning, and the ones that hear it don't care.

One of these days when the rapture takes place. My perspective of the Judgment Seat of Christ is in a heartbeat, in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye. We stand at the great Bema Seat, the great Judgment Seat of Christ. And there, in an instant of time, in a split second, we fully understand everything. I mean everything that God did for you. I mean you feel every pound of that nail in His hands and His feet. You feel every biting of His back with the cat-o'-nine-tails. You see the

agony and all that He went through and all that He felt, and you realize that it was your name that He had on His lips just like Dan sang this morning. And you realize all that He did, and then in a flash you see everything in your life. How He orchestrated, how He maneuvered, how He put people in your world, how He got you to be saved, how He got you to this church, how He gave you what you needed, how He gave you all the classes and Bible study that you could figure everything out that God wanted you to know. Suddenly you are going to realize that in all of your life, after all that He did and now you totally realize and understand it, you are going to realize that you wasted your life. You took what He gave you, what He did for you, and what He prepared for you, and you squandered it. You gave it away. And I guarantee you, my friend, in that day there will be people falling on their knees begging God to go back, to just give them now that they understand, now that they grasp it all, now that they have a perspective and realize all that God intended and all that He has done. "Oh dear God, just give me five minutes, ten minutes, two minutes, just give me thirty seconds. Let me go back and do a little." And there will be no going back.

You can know everything that you are going to know then right now today in your hymnal on page 418. A great songwriter by the name of Charles Luther wrote one of the greatest songs that I think that dispels the despair of the Judgment Seat of Christ, and that great song's title is simply this, "Must I Go, and Empty Handed?"

Must I go, and empty handed,

Thus my dear Redeemer meet?

Not one day of service give Him,

Lay no trophy at His feet?

Must I go, and empty handed?

Must I meet my Savior so?

Not one soul with which to greet Him,

Must I empty handed go?

Oh, my dear friend, if there is any song today that we ought to have burning in the whole of our heart, it ought to be that song, that we don't go in on that day empty handed, not after what He has done for you and for me, not after what He has given up, not after you understand the events and all of the things that He has put in your life to get you because He desires that you take His place.

When I was a young man, I have never been what I would call a great soul winner. I have tried to win people to Christ whenever God put me in the place, and every day of my life I say to God when I start out my morning, "God, You drop me into wherever, whatever LZ, landing zone You want me to be in, You just drop me on the ground and I will do my best to do the job for You." I tell Him that every morning. But I remember as a young kid back in 1972, and this was all new to me too. I heard one of the greatest preaching messages I have ever heard in my life by one of

the greatest preachers, Howard Sears, he is long dead now. He was out of Greenville, South Carolina, and Howard Sears had a brother, Victor Sears, and both of them were great preachers, but Howard Sears was one of the greatest preachers I ever heard in my life. He had the ability that when he preached, you know, when I heard him, he was probably 70 years old, and I would say today, you know, looking closer to 70 than I did back then, I hope when I am 70 I have the power that he had to preach. Boy, I mean, I tell you what, when he said something and he wanted to make his point, it was like a clap of thunder coming down through the auditorium.

I remember he preached that night, and I was just a young kid, I had just given my life to God, I didn't know what all that meant, I didn't know anything about the Bible, I just know I had a burning desire in my heart that I wanted to serve God, I wanted to do what God wanted me to be. Oh, he preached a great message. He preached a message on soul winning. He preached a message on the burden we ought to have for lost people. He preached a message that goes right in hand to hand with what we are talking about in Romans, and he preached it out of the great book of Psalms 142:4. The name of his sermon was "No Man Cared for My Soul." Boy, he preached that thing, and he started by reading Psalms 142:4:

Psalms 142:4

I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

He says, "You know what?" He says, "When you go, when you stand, when you stand at the Great White Throne Judgment, and you have to look at your family and look at your friends and the people you work with, and the people that you were ashamed to let them know you were a Christian, people that would probably have went to heaven if you would have done what God wanted you to do." And he went on and on and on, and he said, "You know what?" He said, "People think that in hell, you know, the greatest cries are going to be in the lake of fire when men anguish." And he went back to Psalms where Jesus on the cross portrayed a man in hell when He says, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" And he laid out and portrayed how that unsaved men are going to scream, that the Luke chapter 16 rich man wanted just water on the tip of his finger to his tongue when he went all through there, these cries of screams through eternity. He says, "We think that's going to be the greatest, most terrible thing we ever hear, but he said that's not true." He says, "The greatest, greatest cry and the most tragic cry and the thing that's going to haunt us down through eternity is the men and the women who are lost without Christ and eternal damnation because you and I," and he says, "in that day, in that day there were men standing there, women standing there, your friend, my friends, family members, children, and they're going to say to themselves, 'I looked on my right hand and beheld, and there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man, no man cared for my soul.'"

Brother, I am telling you right now, you better grasp and you better get it. He saves you for a purpose. He saves you for a reason. He wants you to get His passion. He wants you to get His perspective, and He wants you to understand that you and I take His place, and your job and my job is to be that preacher because how are they going to hear? How are they going to believe? How are they going to know unless somebody goes to them? That is our job. Don't ever let it be

said, don't ever, as best as you can, don't ever let it at the Great White Throne Judgment, any man, any woman, certainly not your own child, certainly not your own family, certainly not people that are close to you, certainly not your own mom or dad, don't let anybody in that day, they may go to hell and they may spend an eternity there, but never, never let them point their finger at you and say, "Where were you? No man, you, you didn't care enough for my soul. You knew the truth." Our job is to take His place.

Well, tomorrow morning, it is afternoon, but certainly by tomorrow morning, this church is sending you out on the mission field again. Oh, I am not saying you have got to go into the office and turn upside the water coolers and make a fool out of yourself. Oh, I am simply saying is take God with you when you go. Let the Holy Spirit of God go with you just as He was in the Lord Jesus Christ in those three and a half years. Take His mind with you in His Spirit so He can lead and guide you and give you everything you need to say in every given situation you are in. But realize every saved person in this room, realize you are a missionary, you are a preacher. Jim, you have got a great opportunity. I know you are young and all this, but you know what, it doesn't matter. I want you to know personally, I am going to pray for you every day. This church is right now, I am telling you, I am sending you out to be our missionary to Afghanistan. I will give you every book, every Bible, every CD you need. You have the opportunity, even though you are young at this and you just knew getting this all figured out again, you know what, God will use you. He will use you. We are going to pray for you. See, we send one to Afghanistan. I send some of you out to the highway tomorrow. Send some of you downtown tomorrow. Some of you out selling cars tomorrow, selling insurance tomorrow. Some of you over to working at the hospital tomorrow. Some of you are going to work your shift even tonight as nurses. We are sending you out. We are sending you out because we need to be the replacements for the Lord Jesus Christ. Father,