

# Romans 13:11-14

Sunday 3/21/2010

SEC: Introduction To Romans 13 And The Bridge To Chapters 14-15

Hopefully today we are going to come through and finish up Romans chapter 13. It has been a great chapter dealing with our relationship to our government. You will also remember I told you last time that the last section of chapter 13, which is the section we are in right now, starts with about verse 11 and then comes down to the end of the chapter. It not only closes out chapter 13 itself, but it forms a bridge to probably the two most important chapters in the Bible on our relationship to each other.

Remember now that the book of Romans is a definitive book. It basically is written by Paul. It follows after the book of Acts, after the four Gospels, but before Paul starts to address the churches. The book of Romans is a book that basically defines everything that you and I are to believe as a New Testament Christian. It gives us the insight into everything that we are to really focus on as a child of God. We want to remember that. When we get into chapter 14 and 15, we are into probably, as I said, the two greatest chapters that really show us our relationship to other Christians, to each other. Every chapter, or in some cases series of chapters, has been built around our relationship to something. We just finished our relationship to our government.

I am going to begin reading here in chapter 13. We will pick it up in verse 11, even though we have already been through verse 11. Just to put it in context, we will read these last verses down through here. Here is what it says:

*Romans 13:11-14*

*And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*

*The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

*Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.*

*But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

Now, Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. Thank You, Father, for all that You have done for us and all that You have given us. We pray, Father, today as we come to Your Word that You will help us grasp the great truths, that we will, Father, take these things and lay them out in our hearts and give us, Father, the things that You would have us to see. This has truly been a great chapter, as all the chapters in Romans have been. We are coming down to the end now. Lord, in these last two chapters, in the next couple of months, we will have the complete understanding of how God looks at the church age and the doctrines and the aspects and the concepts that we are to believe just about on everything in our world today that we are to follow and understand. Help us, Father, today. Help us to glean from these last few

verses all that You have for us. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

### SEC: The Call To Awaken And The Indicator Of Christ's Coming

Last week we looked at verse 11 and basically the first part of verse 12. You will remember that I gave you Paul's admonition to us as God's people in five areas, five different concepts.

1. The first thing he said to us is that we are to know the time. We talked about how that relates to you and me today living in America, understanding where we are at in relationship to Christ coming.
2. He also talked about the second aspect, that it is high time to awake out of sleep. We talked about how the mark of the Laodicean church period, the church period that you and I are part of, the church period that this church is in, is how God's people have gone to sleep on the issues that are so important and vital to God.
3. Then the third thing we looked at, he talked about our salvation is nearer than when we got saved. We talked about that, how that looked confusing, but it really was not. He is simply saying, and we already know now, that when you got saved, your soul was saved. But when Christ comes back, you get your glorified body. We are talking about that salvation. What he is saying here is this: every day that you and I are alive, we are one day closer to meeting the Lord Jesus Christ. So we need to have our perspective, our passion, and our purpose in line with what Christ told us to do.
4. Then he went on to say that the night is far spent. I showed you how that in the Bible, nighttime will always be the picture of the church age.
5. Then he talked about the fact that the day is at hand. We defined that day as the Day of Christ. There are two days in your Bible: the Day of the Lord will always be a reference to the second coming of Christ when God comes to the nation of Israel. The Day of Christ will always be a reference to Christ coming for you and for me in the rapture of the church. We looked at those.

Maybe some of you have picked up on this. Some of you sharper people probably would. It has been around in the Bible for a while, the underlying concept. I had somebody ask me last week after the sermon, and it was a very good question. I did not really answer them, so I thought I was going to answer it today. They asked me, "Why would God, why would Paul, why would God have Paul, when he writes Romans chapter 13, which very clearly is in relationship to our government, put the last section, the last four or five verses, in relationship to the second coming of Christ and the Lord coming for you and for me?"

Of course, you now may be able to understand better and put it all together, is that the greatest indicator, one of the greatest indicators for you and me as a New Testament Christian, one of the greatest indicators that we know that the day is at hand, that we need to wake up and we need to know the time that our salvation is nearer than it was when we got saved, is to look at our own government. Our government is the blueprint for everything that is going to happen in the next four or five years if it takes that long.

Remember now the great book of Zechariah chapter 14, verses 1 and 2, when it deals with the Antichrist and all of the things that are going to take place. It simply says this in verse 2, I believe it is, Zechariah chapter 14, it says, "all nations were gathered against the Lord." Our own nation is going to turn against God. It already has, but in the sense of totally and completely. In the next four or five years, you are going to see this nation turn its back on the nation of Israel. You are already seeing the signs of it with Miss Hillary Clinton over there making overtones with the Saudis and all of that, and Israel standing up against it. You give it another couple of years, but this is one of the greatest indicators of Christ's coming, and it is our own government and its downfall and the way that it is going. So that is why he tied this in. Not only does it end the chapter right, but it forms that bridge for us to get us into the next thing.

In the next section, we are going to talk about today is where he focuses on probably the most important thing in your life and my life as an individual Christian. You know there are things that are important to us as a church. There are things that are important to us as individuals. One of the things that probably is the most important aspect of your life as an individual will be your individual walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I talk with people many times, I deal with marital problems, and the couples will come in who maybe I do not really know, and somebody will refer them to me, and they will come in and sit down. When we begin to talk about their marriage and talk about their problems and where they are at, when I let them get it out of their system for a while, I begin to just let them vent a little bit because everybody usually is pent up and needs to get it out. Then I come back and I will always start my segment, or what I call my segment. I always start where I am going with a simple question. I say, "You know what, let me ask you a question." And it is a personal question, but for me to make a better assessment and evaluate where we are at here, "Let me ask you a personal question. May I ask you a personal question?" And they will say, "Yeah." My question, I will look at the man and I will say this, "Let me ask you something. Where are you at in your own personal relationship with Jesus Christ?" And I will let him tell me. He may stumble around. Most of the time they are 100% honest. I have never really had anybody try to shame me. They just basically tell me where they are at. Then I will look to the lady and I will say, "Ma'am, let me ask you a question. Where are you at in your own personal relationship with God?" And you know what? That is the question. That is probably the single most important question in reference to the things that we looked at last week. Where are you and I at in our relationship as far as our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ?

#### SEC: The Contradictions Of The Christian Walk

Now I am going to define some things for you today, and you are going to get a lot of stuff out of this just because we have got two or three verses left. By no means is there not a lot of stuff in here. You are going to see we are going to pick it up where we stopped last week, and that is the first half of the last half of verse 12. It simply says this, verse 12 says, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand." We talked about that. Now the next part of that verse says this: "Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

The last part of verse 12 simply says that we are to cast off the works of darkness. If you do any kind of work with people in the Bible at any amount of time, you are going to find that you are going to bump into people who are highly educated, most of them. Because you have to get a higher education to get talked out of your Bible. You are going to find a bunch of people out there that believe there are contradictions in the Bible. You are going to find out that there are people out there who believe that there are simply contradictions in the Word of God. Therefore, the Word of God cannot be trusted to the degree because it has contradictions in it.

Some of you students, as you get older in the Bible, you are going to have to get a hold of a couple of works. Those works are the books called problem texts. In those books, they deal out and go through all of the major contradictions and show you how that they do not. There are no really contradictions in the Bible as far as the skeptic is concerned. Over the years, I have found that probably there are about 2,000 of them. At some point, you are going to have to go through those in your life if you are ever going to get a real handle on the Bible. I have them marked in my Bible with the references and the answers as I have come down and learned them through the process of growing in the Word of God. But at some point, if you are ever going to functionally be able to use the Bible and deal with it with people, these questions are going to come up.

I would simply say that out of the 2,000 so-called contradictions, probably 1,600 of them could be taken care of by just common sense. They are really not hard. But the other 400 may take a little while. I think out of that other 400, 20 of them could really be called difficult. Probably out of that 20, 5 or so could really be extremely difficult that you would have to really spend some time. But at the end of the day, you are going to find out simply that there are no skeptical contradictions in the Bible as far as the skeptic is concerned.

But at the same time, and I want you to listen to me now, there are some contradictive things in the Bible. There are no contradictions in the Bible, but there are some contradictive things in the Bible. These are the ones you want to learn, and these are the ones that, by the way, make good preaching if you ever want to get to that point where you want to use them.

Now, you take Jesus Christ. You want to see a contradiction? You will never get this contradiction from the skeptics of the Bible because their whole goal is to discredit the Bible. So I am going to show you a legitimate, absolute contradiction in the Bible. This makes a great sermon. You just start out like I just did, and then you bait them, and then you bring it back around, and then you show them what a real contradiction is. You want a contradiction in the Bible? I will show you one.

*Hebrews 12:3*

*For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

You know what that is saying? It is saying, there is your first contradiction. There is the greatest contradiction in the Bible. You know what it says? It says it was the most contradictive thing in the world to equate my Jesus with sin. That goes against everything that you could ever imagine about God. How in the world could we take the perfect, holy, sinless Son of God and equate Him

to sin? That is why the verse says that "for consider Him that endured," He endured it. What He endured? The contradiction that He was equated with sin for you and for me. There is your contradiction. That is the most contradictive thing in the world to equate Jesus Christ with sin. Why do you think at the crucifixion, the sun did not shine, the stars did not shine? It was darkness, the earthquakes, the hail, the rain, the whole physical world rejected the concept that the sinless Son of God was being equated with sin.

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Wow, what a contradiction. The most contradictive thing in this world. Oh, it is not about Isaiah's age contradicting the Chronicles and Kings. It is not about, over here it says there was 4,000, over here it says there was 400, and some scribe made a zero mistake and did not copy it right. We are not talking about that piddly stuff. You want a contradiction? I will give you one. The most contradictive thing in this world was a sinless Son of God being equated with my sin and your sin.

Now, you want another one? I will give you another one. There is another one in the Bible. The other one here says a child of God having the armor of light, but also having the works of darkness. You realize as a child of God we cannot have it both ways. Now, I do not know anything about most of you today. Many of you I know pretty well. But I cannot see deep inside the recesses of your heart. But I know this: if you are saved here this morning, and I cannot vouch for you, if you were saved here this morning, I am going to tell you this: you are either in fellowship with God or you are out of fellowship with God. You are not kind of halfway in between. We as Christians like to be fence straddlers. We like to keep one foot where it is comfortable and then the other foot where maybe it is not comfortable, so we can jump back and forth. You cannot do that as a child of God.

Sitting here this morning, the second contradictive thing is simply this: somebody who has been saved and born into the newness of life and has the light of God and is told to put on the armor of God but they still walk in the darkness. Jesus Himself was puzzled with this. When He said in Luke chapter 6 verse 46, it is one of my favorite verses in the Bible. I have several, but one of my favorite verses in the Bible is Luke chapter 6 verse 46. It is so plain and it is so clear. Jesus Himself said:

*Luke 6:46*

*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

That is a contradiction. I am telling you, the two great contradictions in the Bible, the first one was equating Him with sin. The second one is after you and I get saved, we are to walk in the light as He is in the light.

There is a great verse in Ephesians chapter 5, verses 10 through 13. It says this:

*Ephesians 5:10-13*

*Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.*

*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

*For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.*

*But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.*

Now, the thing that I want you to see here, and you have got to read the verse, it does not say "have no fellowship with the unfruitful workers," the people. I have unsaved friends. I have unsaved friends that I do not spend a lot of time with, but I have learned in my life, you have got to have a balance. If you come to the point where you shut all your unsaved friends out of your life, you are never going to be able to be a witness. I have unsaved friends, but they understand who I am and where I stand. I do not have any problem with them knowing that I am a child of God and I am a Christian.

Somebody said one time, "Well, you know what? I am afraid if I get saved and go back to my friends and be a real powerful Christian, that I will have to give up all my friends." No, no, no. If you get saved to become a powerful Christian, they will give you up. You will not have to give them up. Light and darkness never have gotten together. It is a contradictive thing to think that a child of God who has the armor of light could do the works of darkness. That is contradictive in the Bible. That is an absolute contradiction.

You see, and you hear this, people say, "Well, now you should not judge, judge not lest ye be judged." Oh, I beg to differ with you. The Bible says, "He that is spiritual judgeth all things." See, I am not judging people. I do not have a right to judge anybody. I am as rotten as you are. I do not have a right to judge you anymore than you have a right to judge me, but you will. But we do not have a right to judge each other. But what we do have a right to judge is what other people do. It is to the standard of, "I am not going to be part of it." The Bible says that he that is spiritual judges all things. You do not judge people, but you judge the things that people do in relationship to your walk with God. Your walk with God is the most important thing in this world. If you are not walking with God this morning, then you are probably walking with somebody else. But you cannot walk two ways. The Bible says, "How can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3. You cannot walk in light and do the works of darkness at the same time. That is contradictive. You cannot do that. You cannot do that.

Then he goes on and he says this: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Now, how do you reprove them? "For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." Ah, the secret things. The Bible says it is even a shame to talk about them. How do you reprove them? Look at the next verse: "But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light." You know what? Your very life and the way you live it, what you will listen to and what you will not listen to, the things that you will get involved in versus the things you will not get involved with, is the very reproofing to a world that wants, a Christian world that wants to walk in darkness. Your life ought to be reproofing.

He says, "have no fellowship." Oh, that is the key word. After the ballgame we always go out to Jason's Deli. We think that is fellowship. And it is in a way. We all sit down, we all eat beyond our wildest dreams, and we all go home and have nightmares because we ate too much before we went to bed. Status quo. That is fellowship. But that is not the Bible fellowship that he is talking about. The Bible fellowship is defined for you in 1 John chapter 1 verse 7:

*1 John 1:7*

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

True biblical fellowship is walking in the light, not in the darkness, nor with the children of God who do the works of darkness, and your life reproves them. Your life reproves them. Your life ought to be such as a child of God that worldly Christians know better than to try to dump something on you. Your walk with God ought to be so bright and so shining, you ought to be in the light so much that darkness cannot comprehend where you are at. Remember now, you do not go very far in Genesis chapter 1 verse 4, and you find where the light and the darkness, they will never get along. You know why? Because they are contradictive. "The light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

I am telling you. Two great concepts for you and for me as our walk in the Bible. One of them here, the other one is over there in 2 Corinthians chapter 10 verse 5. You want to walk with God? There are two things you have got to follow. Two great concepts right here. Over here in 2 Corinthians chapter 10, when you come down through that, you know what it says? It says, "casting down." You have got to cast down. There are some things in your life to have a walk with God, you are going to have to cast them down. I mean, throw them down. Get them away from you. Take them off and cast them down. You know what it is? Imagination. He listed for you imagination. "Every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God," you and I are to cast down.

Ah, then there is a second aspect found here in Romans. We are looking at it right now. Not only are you to cast down some things, but you are to cast off some things. See those two concepts? Not only are you to take your mind and your imagination and your heart and all of those things that will run you and ruin you and cast them down, but there are some things in your life you need to cast off. That is the fellowship with the works of darkness. God's people will never get this. They will never get it. They will never get it.

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians chapter 6, verses 14 through 17:

*2 Corinthians 6:14-17*

*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

*And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*

*And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

Now, we use that verse for why saved people should not marry unsaved people. That is a verse that if you meet somebody who is, or somebody gets hooked up with somebody, guy or girl, it does not make any difference, and that person is unsaved and the person is saved, it is too stupid to see and understand the concept and see the long-range damage of it. That verse is a good verse to sit down and talk to somebody. You show them, "You know what? The verse says that there is nothing in common here." We are talking about two worlds that will never get together. Why? Because as you come down through the passage, we are talking about light versus darkness. But it is not just talking about marriage. It is talking to the things in your life and my life we have fellowship with.

He says, "be not unequally yoked." Yoke is putting together. Yoke is, yes, you marrying somebody, but yoke is somebody going into business with somebody. Yoke is getting into some relationship with somebody. Yoke is joining some club or some organization. Yoke has a lot of things that it deals with. But it says, "be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers for what?" Here it comes, "fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion?" Ah, there is our word we use for the Lord's Supper. What does communion mean? It means to come together, togetherness, commune. They all live together. Community, we all live together. He says, "And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord?" What is a concord? Well, we know what a concourse is. A concourse is something that links you to something else. You go down to the plaza and go down to the train station. You know what you do if you want to go over to shopping places and the hotel? You take the concourse. You take up the steps. You walk up the ramp. You walk this thing and there is a concord or a concourse that connects something together. For light versus darkness, there is no togetherness. There is no concord. Not at all.

Here he says, "And what concord hath Christ with Belial?" That is an Old Testament name for the devil. "Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?" You see, light and darkness can never get together. He says, "what fellowship, what communion, what concord, what agreement?" And the answer is none whatsoever. You cannot put the light, the armor of light, and then still do the works of darkness. It is contradictive to God for you and I in light to have fellowship with the works of darkness, no matter what it may be.

SEC: Principles Of Walking With God

All right, verse 12 again. "Cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." See, you cast down the things that are inside. You cast off the things that are outside. Now you have cast it off, you have got to put something on. You are going to learn a lot about your walk with God today. You have got to cast something off to put something on. Thinking you can walk

with God when you have still not cast it off, you are kidding yourself. You are kidding yourself. "Cast off the works of darkness. Let us put on the armour of light."

Now the interesting word there is "armor of light." In the book of Ephesians chapter 6, we know that we have the great chapter there on our spiritual warfare. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." "Take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore," and it goes down and says, "having your loins girt about with truth." We know what that means. We know what that means. The strength of any believer is going to be in your loins. That is why when he talked about Abraham back there and he talked about the nation of Israel long before it was ever a nation, you know what he said? He said that nation is going to come out of your loins. That is a man's strength. That is a woman's strength. Any game, any sport you play, you play with your legs. You pick up with your legs, not your back. It is the loins girt about with truth.

Then he says, "feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." Right now, on whatever level you are on, in our men's group and our ladies' group, you are there for one reason. You are there to get your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. You are preparing yourself to take the gospel where God wants you to go within this local New Testament structure.

Then he said the "shield of faith." What do you do with the shield of faith? You quench all the fiery darts. Because when you get into this ministry and you get into working and doing for God, the devil is going to throw those darts and they are fiery darts. You have got to have something to block them with. You know why it is called the shield of faith? I will tell you why. Because if you are going to be in the ministry and you are going to do something in this church and you are going to help me accomplish what God has called me to do, I am going to tell you something right now. You better understand why you believe what you believe and understand and fully believe what we are trying to do. Or you will be out before you get in. If you do not have faith in that book, if you do not have faith in this church, if you do not have faith in this program, you are never going to make it. You have got to have a shield for that.

Then the "helmet of salvation." I think the greatest picture of that is David and Goliath. David is a picture of you and me. The unsaved Philistine wanted to fight David and destroy the armies of God, made fun of him, disdained him, and called him all kinds of names. Little David went right down to fight a 14, 16-foot giant. What a picture that is of you and me going out into the world tomorrow. Little podunk me going up against the world. Little podunk you going up against the system. But you know when David finally got him, David picked up five smooth stones. You know why he used stones? Because stones are a type of picture of the Bible, a picture of the Word of God. You say, "Why did he pick five of them?" Because Goliath had four brothers adjacent to himself, made five. If they wanted to make it a family affair, David was going to go five for five. He picked up five smooth stones. When he let that stone go, you ought to study that armor that giant has. He has got a shield, he has got a spear, he has got greaves, he has got everything he needs. But when he goes to fight David, he looks at little David, he laughs and makes fun of him, and he takes off part of his armor. The mistake that he made is he popped off that helmet and said, "I do not need this." When he walked down there, David hit him right

between the eyes, boy, absent from the body, present with the Lord. Why? Because he had no helmet of salvation. You are not saved, you do not have a chance. Let me say it so you all understand it. It is biblical. You are not saved, you do not have a chance in hell. Notice how people like to say things. I love cussing as a Christian and getting away with it. Somebody says, "Yeah, you do not have a chance in hell to do that." You are right. You go through life without Christ and die without Jesus Christ, your personal Savior. You have no chance in hell when you get there. I am telling you, the ones who say "world," they do not even know what they are talking about. They go around asking God to damn everything. You know why? Because at the end of their life, God is going to damn everything in their life.

Then he talks about the "sword of the Spirit." We know that is the Word of God. I will tell you what, little Nikki, you hit it up last Thursday night on Bible study out of the book of Nehemiah 4 verse 17. She asked a question when they are rebuilding the wall of Nehemiah. They are building the wall of Nehemiah, which is a picture of you and I building our church. She had a question. She said, "I do not understand why it says that they only did the work with one hand, and the other hand, they had a weapon." Did you ever try to build something with one hand? It takes two hands to build anything, unless you are good at holding nails with your lips and hammering them with your hammer. It takes two hands to do anything. But here, in building the wall, which is the picture of the church, they choose to use one hand and then keep the other hand on the weapon. How in the world do you build anything with just one hand? Of course, the great picture there is you take your left hand and the person's next to your right hand, and you work together as a team. So you have your hand here, his hand here, you do the work. That means you have got to be coordinated in unity, and with the other hand, you both hold the weapon, the sword, a picture of the Word of God. That is how you build a church. You get people to get one hand in, the other hand on the book. You cannot build it right if you do not have the book, because the book tells you how to deal and how to get through and how to deal with circumstances and situations and keeps you on task with what you are doing. You have got to have the sword on one hand, and then you put your other hand in. You find somebody else who put their hand in. They have got their hand on their sword, they have got their other hand in here, and together, when everybody does that in the church, you build the wall. It is called unity in the Bible. It is called oneness of mind, oneness of heart, oneness of spirit.

Then he says, "praying always." Then he says, "breastplate of righteousness." He says, "cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." You know, at the end of World War II, I got a lot of weird books. I bought a book 30 years ago, two volumes. It was done by the U.S. Army Medical Corps that did ballistic studies on their soldiers. It was a whole, with really graphic pictures. I just bought it for the pictures. But it showed every kind of wound that a soldier could get. I mean, there are some absolutely very graphic pictures in here of how guys got killed in combat. But it comes up with an assessment and a threat rate of what would kill somebody versus what would not. The overall assessment led to what they started to do in Korea and then they did in Vietnam, and now every police officer wears them, and every guy in Iraq and Afghanistan, wherever he is in a world of trouble, they all wear them. You know what it was? It is called, they called them flak vests. A flak vest was something you wore in Vietnam that did not stop a bullet; an AK-47 would go right through it. But it proved through their study that

most of the fatalities in combat were due to upper body penetration with shrapnel. So they gave you a 22-pound flak vest in a country that was 112 degrees on its best day, and you wore that around all the time. So when a mortar round went off or a grenade went off or a teller went off, you had a better chance of surviving because that body armor would stop the fragmentation from coming in and doing damage to your vital parts. You could survive a leg wound. You could survive an arm wound. But it is tough. You get shot in the head, a little tough, going back to the aid station, saying, "I got my head here, blow it off. Could you put it back on for me?" A flak vest was something that they used. Now they developed it. Now it is full body armor. Every police officer out there can take a high-volume bullet right in his chest, and it will never hurt him, but it will not kill him. Every combat soldier over there has a flak vest with different size plates in it that will stop an AK round. Why? Because they realized that this was the vital.

You know what God realized for you and for me? He realized the greatest thing that you have got to protect. I gave you a little verse a couple of weeks ago out of Matthew, and it said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:37. The greatest thing you and I have to protect is our heart and our attitude of heart. So he gave you, he gave you a breastplate. He gave you a bulletproof vest that will protect your vital organs and protect your heart if you put it on. But you have got to cast it off before you can put it on. You have got to cast it off before you can put it on.

Now, I am going to tell you right now, ladies and gentlemen, without a doubt the hardest thing to do as a child of God is to love Him with all of your heart, with all your mind, and all your soul, all the time. But that is our job. The only way you can do it is to protect your heart. The only way you can protect your heart is understanding the concept of the breastplate of righteousness and casting down and casting off and then putting on the armor of light.

Sin starts, always has, and always will, will start in the heart. The Bible says in the book of Matthew that he that lusts after a woman has already committed adultery in the heart (Matthew 5:28). The Bible says if you hate somebody, you are already in your heart, you are a murderer (Matthew 5:21-22). You know why? Because sin starts in the heart. It is your heart you have got to protect. It is your heart where pride is going to come up. It is in your heart where envy is going to take over. It is in your heart where self-righteousness is going to reign in your life. That is where it starts. The only way to stop it is with a breastplate of righteousness and putting on the armor of light.

You ever studied the two D's in the Bible? My way of remembering things. The devil and Daniel, two D's in the Bible, about as contradictive as you could get. The devil, Ezekiel chapter 28 verse 17, the Bible says that when he wanted to overthrow God, when he wanted to bring rebellion against the things of God, when he wanted to stop God's plan, the Bible says that he was perfect in all his ways until iniquity was found in him. Where was that iniquity found? The Bible says in his heart he was lifted up. Your heart is the biggest problem you have got. I am not talking about you getting heart disease and dying of a heart attack. I am talking about spiritually.

Then you have Daniel, Daniel chapter 1 verse 8. Daniel was tempted with the world. Daniel was tempted, held captive by Babylon, a picture of the world system. They wanted to give him

everything and make him just like the world. They changed his name from the name that meant something for God to a name that meant something for the false gods of Babylon. They did everything in their power to get him to become like one of them. But the Bible says in Daniel chapter 1 verse 8 that Daniel purposed in his heart. That is where your sin starts. That is where my sin starts. That is why you have got to cast down the imagination and cast off and put something on.

Verse 13 says, "Let us walk honestly." Wow, what a word. "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying." Now there is some great stuff in here. The first great concept that just kind of jumps out at me, he says simply this, "Let us walk honestly as in the day." You know what that day is? That is the day Jesus Christ comes back. You know what he is saying? He is saying right now in this life, we have got to walk before God just like we are going to walk before Him when we get our glorified bodies. What a foreign concept.

Let me ask you a question. Say tomorrow morning you get up and you go to work. You roll out of bed about 5:30, 6:30 every time you get up. You will stagger into the bathroom, and you are going to take a shower and brush your teeth and get all ready to go to work. You get a shower, and then you get down there, you steam all over the mirror and you start to shave or brush your teeth. Of course, if you are ladies, you do not shave like guys do. But anyway, the mirror is all fogged up, you have got the stuff on your face or you have got your toothbrush in your mouth and you take your towel and you wipe that off and you want to have a heart attack. Standing right behind you, here is the Lord Jesus. He stands there and he says, "Hey Bob, how are you doing?" And I say, "Well, I am doing fine, Lord. What are you doing here today?" He says, "I read My own Bible the other night and I read back there in Genesis 5 where I walked with Enoch," and he said, "You know what? It has been a long time since I walked with anybody. So I just thought I would come down and spend a couple of days here with you." Oh, that is great. We would be excited about that for about the first 30 seconds until we realized what we really had planned today. So you go down there and you just stand. He said, "I will be out of the way. I will just be over here. I am just going to enjoy My time with you." So you get ready for work and you are thinking about an alternative plan now. You say, "Well, come on, we will go." And He is down there. He gets in the car beside you, and He is just talking to you and you are driving down the freeway and you are trying to keep your thoughts really clean because you know how your mind wanders. But now He is sitting right next to you and the last thing you want to know is Him looking over at you and saying, "You have something on your mind?" You are driving, you are working hard at it. About that time somebody cuts you off and you do what you almost always do and you catch yourself and catch your head. The Lord just looked over, He just smiled. He says, "So you go to work," and you get into the little deal there and the first thing you do is, "Oh, you are going to check your MySpace or NoPlace or wherever that is," and you pop that up on there and He says, "My, my, those are some pretty nice pictures you have on there." "Oh, yeah, I do not know who put those on there, Lord. I tell you, I really do not know those gals. I do not know where they even came from. I tried to get them off. Somebody got into my computer and hacked into that thing." And He says, "Yes, I am sure they did. Of course they did. Mm-hmm. Oh, what is this little thing down here you are saying about so and so? Oh, that is

really good. Did you write that?" "No, I do not know who wrote that. I really do not. I do not know." And then you go on with life and you know, you go through today and you go home and you do all your trials and all your troubles and you are over there, down at the cafeteria at lunchtime and your buddy comes over and says, "Hey, Bob, let me tell you this one. You liked the one yesterday? Let me tell you this one." At that, you are saying, "I really, I am not, I had the Lord standing right there." He said, "No, I would like to hear it. I really would. You know, I have not had any good jokes for a while. We do not do those up in heaven. I would like to hear this." "Oh, no, Lord, You would not want to do this. You would not want to hear this." But that time you are going down there, and you are going home and your cell phone rings and it is your favorite person on the other end, and they say, "Have you heard about so and so?" And you say, "Well, I cannot. I am really busy right now. What is the matter? My battery is going dead." Click. Lord says, "I just saw you charge that thing. It is full before we went to work. You must get a new battery here. Let Me fix that." "No, no, Lord, it is okay. It is okay. It is okay." You know what? It would be a pretty solemn thing if tomorrow morning we really saw Him standing behind us. But you do not know how ludicrous that whole concept is. He goes with you everywhere you go tomorrow. He hears everything you hear. He sees everything you write. He hears and sees everything you do. The aspect that He does not know and He does not see and He does not hear just because you cannot see Him. My dear friend, we should walk now today just like we will before Him at the judgment seat of Christ. That is why I am trying to tell you.

You know what the Bible says in Ephesians 4? It talks about the process of spiritual growth. In verse 15, here is what it says:

*Ephesians 4:15*

*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

We ought to grow up into Him. You know what our prayer groups are about with all our three levels of helping you get in there and people work with you and help the older ones, help the younger ones that is bringing around? It is to help you grow up every day to be more like Him. It is to help you understand exactly what He is saying here, that tomorrow you are going to be one day closer to your salvation of your body than you were from the salvation of your soul. Every day you are going to be one day closer to standing by Him. Every day you and I ought to work at thinking more like, being more like, and doing more like He does until we grow up into Him on that day. You know how you do that? I am going to show you how you do it here in a moment. I am going to show you how to do it. We should walk now today just as we will before Him.

Now let me ask you a question. A couple of nights ago somebody asked a great question about the twelve doctrinal principles of salvation. I told you, I said, "You know what? Salvation sounds like such a simple thing, does it?" To most people it is. The reason why most people have trouble with their salvation after they are saved, or they doubt their salvation after they are saved, or they have trouble believing they can be saved after they are saved, if they do something wrong, if they were truly saved, people struggle with things. The reason why people do is because people do not understand what salvation is. I gave you the twelve Bible principles on salvation. If you

understand them, there is no way you could ever doubt your salvation. Or if you are not saved, there is no way you could ever think you were saved, and then you really get saved, and then you could really do something with your life. I told you, salvation is such an easy term. Born again. "Well, I am saved. Praise the Lord." "Well, I got born again. Amen." "I got washed in the blood. Oh, that is great." "Well, I, you know, I got a new name written down in glory. That is great." "Well, I am in a..." What does all that mean to you tomorrow morning? Of course, there is more to it in salvation.

Now, let us take our walk with God. That is an easy term too, is it not? You hear me say it all the time. You hear everybody say it all the time. Walk with God. "Walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another." "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." You walk in the path. "Come on, let us walk now." "Walking together, how can two walk together except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3. You hear it all the time. But there is more to it than just a catchy little phrase, "Let us walk with God." Just like there is more to salvation about your salvation, I am going to give you 12 biblical principles on your walk with God. You want to walk with God? You want to have a walk with God? You want a real biblical walk with God? Well, then here they are. If you do not have these or understand these, I have got some bad news for you. You may think you are walking with God, but we like to define our own lives our own way, do we not? That is why we do not like the Bible. That is why we do not like hard preaching. That is why we do not like accountability and responsibility when it comes to ending in the Bible. It goes up against what we really think we are when we are really not.

12 walks you want to study in the Bible as God's people. Great principles, great principles. Now, let me start by saying this. There are only three men in your Bible that the Bible says walk with God. I would start with this. I study these men's lives. This will take you about nine years and then you will be ready to do something. There are three men in the Bible that the Bible specifically says they walk with God. The Bible did that because if you want to learn a walk with God, study these men's lives to start with.

6. The first one is Enoch. Genesis 5:24.
7. The second one is Noah. Genesis 6:9.
8. The third one is David. 1 Kings 8:25.

Now, each one of them represents a different aspect of your relationship with God. I do not know if you know that or not. Every one of those three guys represents something different, a different aspect of your Christian life. I am not preaching on this morning, so I do not have time to get into them. But it is so easy to say, is it not?

All right, the first principle we are going to talk about in the concept of walk is what we are at right now. We will start here and work around it. It says, "walk in light."

9. Walk in light. 1 John 1:7; Ephesians 5:8. We are to walk in the light as He is in the light. In other words, this is where the contradiction comes in. How do you walk in a light as He is in light and still do some of the things, say some of the things, get involved in some of the things that the works of darkness do? That is the problem, see? So the first thing is if you have a real biblical walk that you pretend you do, then you are truly going to walk in a light

as He is in the light. Do I need to go down the list this morning of things that He would not do? I do not think I do. Walk in the light as He is in the light.

10. The second one, 1 Thessalonians 4:12; 2 Corinthians 4:1-2. You walk honestly. That is honest with yourself because everybody really sees who you really are even though you do not. Remember the book last week, The Emperor's New Clothes? Well, everybody sees how spiritual you are when you are not honest with yourself and see how spiritual you are. It all goes right back to that.
11. The third one is Romans 6:4. Walk in the newness of life. You know what that will be? That will be what some of you people are teaching right now, the seven things that changed about you the day you got saved and understanding that.
12. The next aspect of your walk will be Galatians 5:16, and that will be walk in the Spirit. Wow, there is a whole concept of that.
13. The next one will be found in Colossians 2:6, and it will be walk in the Lord Jesus Christ. We will talk more about that later.
14. The next one will be walk by faith in 2 Corinthians 5:7.
15. The seventh one will be walk in good works. That is Ephesians 2:10.
16. The next one will be walk worthy of our vocation, Ephesians 4:1. You know what? I am going to tell you something. Let me ask, do not raise your hand. I would not want you to embarrass yourself. What is your vocation? Do not shout it out. Do not raise your hand. If you do, I will make you leave the church. Do not. What is your vocation? You do not even know. You do not even know. Then I am supposed to believe you have a walk. I did not write this. But if you are sitting here this morning and you claim to have a walk with God, and that verse says in one of the 12 concepts, "walk worthy of the vocation by which ye are called," and you do not even know what that vocation is. I mean, I give you young Christians a free pass. You have been saved for, you know, 30 seconds. You are in, but I will tell you what, man. You are going to claim, you are going to tell me you have a walk. I am not going to tell you what it is.
17. Your next one is walk in love. Ephesians 5:2.
18. The next one is walk circumspectly. Ephesians 5:15. You know what circumspectly is? That is carefully. Always watching. Walking circumspectly is that you are careful of where you are at. It goes back to what we were talking about in here. One hand in the work, the other hand on the weapon. That is walking circumspectly. Make sure you do what you do. Make sure you handle your life the way it needs to handle, based on the biblical principles, making decisions based on them. That is what it means. Walk circumspectly.
19. The next one is walk worthy of the Lord. Colossians 1:10. What does that mean? That goes back to what we studied earlier in our first lesson. Worthy of the Lord means the debt that you owe. A debt to unsaved people to win them to Christ and not be ashamed of the gospel. The debt to each other to love each other. That is what it is talking about. Are you still walking? Or do you fall out of rank?
20. The last one is probably the greatest one. That will be Colossians 4:5 that puts it all together. Walk in wisdom.

12 concepts of your walk with God. If you cannot lay them out, lay them out, put them out, put them down and run them through the Bible today, kid somebody else. Okay, kid? Shout it down

the street. I preach too many Bibles for too many years. I know what it takes to make a young man or a young lady. I know what it takes to build a Christian. I know these concepts that have to be absolute. You cannot have one set of rules for yourself and one set of rules for everybody else. We all play by the same rules and we do not play at all. It is that simple. We like to talk about how spiritual we are. We like to pretend how spiritual we are. But the bottom line is, this is where the rubber meets the road.

Okay, I gave you 12 things, areas that we as God's people should walk in. Now I am going to give you six that we should not walk in. Now it talks about rioting, drunkenness, chambering, wantonness, strife, and envying. Now this is where your old 1828 Webster dictionary comes into hand. Obviously, when the King James Bible came out and the first editions, what about 1778 or something in that, of the edition, then it is the final edition. I did not say revision, I said edition. From that point on, when the King James Bible was written, English language was at the apex of its purest form. We are now 400 years past that point and the English language today is absolutely degenerated beyond belief. Our language has got so trashy and our language and our definitions of life and the value products have changed so much that nothing means anything anymore.

I liken it like this. My favorite store is Walmart. I can live in Walmart. If I had a Walmart down to me, I did not need, and I could walk to it, I would not need a car. I could get all my clothes, I could get all my food, I can get everything I need from Walmart. Walmart has everything. If you really get lucky and you catch them blue lights going off back there, you can really hit it big. But think about this. Some night, tonight Walmart closes. I do not think they ever close, but let us say they closed. Why they do not close is because they are afraid somebody will come in and do this. So they close at 11 o'clock. 11:30, me and about four or five of you break in. We are going to do something fun. We are going to change all the barcodes and all the stuff. We are going to take us eight hours and we are going to go through it. We rearrange all the barcodes so the next morning when the store opens up and some lady comes in and she buys a 100-inch screen, plasma TV, she gets it for \$1.49. The lady comes over here and she buys a bag of diapers and she pays \$1,447 for it. Your dog now costs you about \$2,000 a month to feed him. What we did is we changed all the price tags. Well, everybody that worked at Walmart went home and slept. Got a good night's rest because of the hard day's work. We snuck in and we changed the prices. Now what was valued at \$1,400 is now valued at \$1.49. What was valued at \$1.49 is \$1,400. You know what the devil has done while we have slept in Planet Earth? He has come in and changed all the barcodes. The things that used to mean something do not mean nothing anymore, have no value to them, and the things that are valueless now have great value to them. That is what has happened in a nutshell. That is exactly what has happened on Planet Earth. That is exactly what you and I are up to. That is why if you want to find out some of the meanings of the words, you have got to go back to when the language was its purest. Some people have a tough time with that, but then they probably stayed in seventh grade longer than I did. Bottom line is if you do not continually learn about your own language, and that is another thing, you realize that most Europeans, and I know they are decadent and they are off the wall and they are all in hell and there is no religion over there and they are about as apostate and amoral as you can get, but you know what? You would

be hard-pressed to find any European teenager who did not speak at least two, maybe three languages. You realize the most American teenagers cannot even speak their own native English?

Now you take the word "rioting." We think of that. We think of the race riots. We think of riot. We think of somebody pouring out into the streets like the riots in California over Rodney King or when O.J. Simpson got off for murder. They rioted. People think in such terms. They go to the streets and they peacefully riot, burn down buildings and turn over cars and do all those kind of things. That is our mindset, but in the Bible term, rioting is very much what God's people get into all the time. It is basically causing an uproar. It is basically running to excess. Anything that we do can be a riot. In other words, anything that causes an uproar within the concept of Christianity, God lists it out as a riot.

Then look at "drunkenness." See, we think booze, do we not? But yet when you go over to Revelation, the Bible says in Revelation 17:2 that the whole world is drunk with religion, is it not? See? Now, drunkenness in the Bible is anything that takes away from your reality and controls you and you become drunk to that it controls you. There are people in this world who are drunk on pornography. There are people that are drunk on booze, yes. There are people who are drunk on power. There are people who are drunk on all kinds of things. We look at the word drunkenness and we immediately associate it with booze, and it is not.

Now look at the next one, "chambering." Now, chambering will be lewd living, immoral living. Chambering, chamber, bedchamber, see how it works?

Now, the look of the next one, "wantonness." Now, wantonness will be no respect for authority or no taking responsibility. We in our own world today, this is called situation ethics. If it feels good, do it. Do whatever you want without any responsibility to it.

Now, look at the next one, "strife." Now, strife and envying are listed over there in Galatians chapter 5, verses 19 through 21 as works of the flesh. What is strife? Strife is rivalry. Strife is competition to be better than somebody else, to surpass another, contention over superiority. Always being in the center of controversy, always coming to a place where wherever you do, you cause a problem.

Then you have "envying." What is envying? Envy is wanting what someone else has, and you try to get it through hurting them or lessening their effect to make yourself look better. I mean, all of these things are defined in the Bible. Envy is not just, "Well, I wish you had your new car." Envy is looking at another Christian and feeling because they are doing something that maybe you are not. Then when you get in your little groups, you trash them, you see. Everybody sits around and says, "Oh, yeah," but what you are doing is holding up a big sign, "I am envious of that person. I am envious of that person." These are the things that you should not walk in. I might add, based on our contradictions, you cannot walk in these things and walk in the other.

SEC: Putting On The Lord Jesus Christ: The Joseph Principle

Verse 14, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh." Probably of all the verses that I have given you today, this verse is probably the most significant verse to us as God's people. When I talk about having the victory of God in your life and the victory in

your walk with God and the victorious walk, this basically sums it up right here. We will end with this today, and then we will start chapter 14 next week. But this verse is probably the most significant verse to us as God's people of ever having the victory in our lives that we desire so desperately.

There are a couple of things here. The first thing I want you to see is it says, "put ye on," "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ." Remember earlier I told you in Colossians chapter 2 verse 6 that it talked about walking in the Lord Jesus Christ, and I said I would tell you that later. Well, here it says, "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ." Now, there is a lot of weight to that verse, and the average person would just read it and never think more about it, but I am going to tell you something here. There is a reason why it is in the book of Colossians, and there is a reason why it says "the Lord Jesus Christ."

You take God, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. We know that they are all three, one. We know them as the Trinity. We know that the Son is every much as God as God the Father, as is the Holy Spirit, all three in one. You know how the old thing goes? "The one in one is three, the one in the middle died for me." You know how the thing goes? Anyway. But they are all the same, but they are all different. You realize that God has an office, not an office like we have got back here, but a job that He does. Jesus Christ, God the Son, has a job that He fulfills, and the Holy Spirit of God has a job that He fulfills. You will never understand God in His entirety and have really what you need to have in your life of understanding who He is until you understand all three of those offices. Part of your growth process, coming through the Bible and learning the Bible, should be simply this: What does God the Father mean in your world? If you had to open up your Bible and explain God the Father, could you do it? How about God the Son? Could you do it? How about the Holy Spirit of God? What is His job? What is His function? Could you lay it out?

Well, then you have another problem because when you come down and it says, "walk in the Lord Jesus Christ," and here it says, "put on the Lord Jesus Christ," it is very evident that He picked those three names because every one of those three names, the Lord Jesus Christ, make up the complete title of who Christ is. If you do not know who Jesus Christ is as Lord, if you do not know who Jesus is as Jesus, and you cannot take the Bible and lay it out as who He is as the Christ, you are kidding yourself. Kidding yourself. This is an easy message, but it is a hard message. It is probably not a hard message. It is a reality message. But then we are going into Chapter 14 and 15. So that is why He lays these things out. There is a reason why He did not say, "put ye on Jesus." There is a reason why He did not say, "put ye on the Lord Jesus." There is a reason why He did not say, "put ye on Christ or the Lord Christ." There is a reason why He said, "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ," because the complete name holds the secret for complete success. You have to understand how that thing works. It is part of the process of growing spiritually. It is part of the process of getting saved, getting here on Thursday night, getting involved in what we get on, let somebody work with you, help you get plugged into the Bible, and it goes from there. So He says, "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ."

Now, I want to draw your attention to the phrase, "put him on." Put him on like he is a jacket or a coat. Ah, where does this take us? Oh, it takes us back in probably one of the greatest stories in

all of the Bible in Genesis, Chapter 37 through 50, with a man by the name of Joseph and a story about Joseph's coat of many colors. Remember that story? You have been in Sunday school at any time at all. Somebody told you the story of Noah's Ark, Daniel in the lions' den, Abraham and Isaac and all of that stuff. But down the line, I am sure you heard the story of Joseph's coat of many colors. You know how it works? There is a great picture over here. This is why it says you are to put on Christ like you put on a coat because that coat of many colors back there represents something. You want to learn what it represents? Listen for the next four or five minutes and you will have a better understanding even though I do not have time to get into it all today. But that coat of many colors is a picture of a Christian plugged into God with the blessings of God and the hand of God all over their life and in their ministry. I watch people in this very church and I would not tell you who you are because I do not want to cause a problem for you and make you stumble or give you a problem with pride or anything. But I am telling you right now, I guarantee you right now, bottom line, I can see people coming up in this church that have got the coat on. You do not even know it. Maybe you are not supposed to know it. It is my job to know it. But I see it. I see it. I see it.

When you study the life of Joseph, and let me just tell you something. Joseph, when we talked about growing up into Him, we talked about walking in the light as He is in the light. The study is Joseph. Joseph is the greatest type of Christ anywhere in your Bible. The life of Joseph is a life that mirrors what you and I are going to go through if you are going to have the victorious Christian life. I want you to know, Joseph did not have a bed of roses. Joseph's life from beginning to end was full of strife. His life from beginning to end was full of heartache and problems and everything that went on and everything that he had to deal with. But you know what? The thing that got him through, when nothing else would get him through, is the fact that he always had that coat that his father gave him.

Now, Jacob back there is a type of God the Father. You notice that there are 12 boys back there, 12 tribes in the nation of Israel. Joseph is the younger one. Joseph gets the coat. Joseph gets the coat because of the fact that he had a better relationship with his father than the other boys did. The other boys were kind of grown up. They were doing their own thing. They had their mindset. You were not going to teach them anything. They had their own stuff going for them. They hung around with the dad because he was the breadbasket and they ate off of him. But they had their own plans. They knew where they were going. Joseph was not like that. Joseph is exactly where you and I should be. Just a little 15 or 16 year old kid staying close to father, who just loves Jacob with everything that he has and Jacob loves him. You know the first time you find Joseph, he is out feeding the sheep. He took care of his father's sheep. Did you hear what I said? He took care of his father's sheep and his father loved him and he loved the father and they had a better relationship with the other boys. You know what Jacob did? He had him a coat of many colors. The manifold blessings of God. All the colors of the rainbow. All the colors. Who does not walk into someplace, a beautiful autumn, when you go down to the Ozarks or you go out west someplace in this autumn and the leaves are turning. I mean, you go down in the summertime and it is all green. You go out in the wintertime and it is all brown. But when you go down in the fall, it just knocks your socks off with the colors. We are color-oriented. A lot of bright colors break things up. Why? They know that so well that when they do, you are not going to believe

this, but when they do studies on how to make gas stations or restaurants, they will put the color scheme because there are certain colors that will make you eat faster and move out. Yeah. They do whole studies on them. Well, this color here will make a person, they even use them for bathrooms because they want you in and out so you can get back and, you know, everywhere people look at the thing and they say, "Well, colors will move people different ways." That is true. In this case here, the Joseph's coat of many colors was a picture of the blessings of his father in his life of what him and his father had. Oh, my, my, my, the blessings were good. The coat was neat, but his brethren hated it, did they not? They were envious of it. You want to talk about envy and strife? Just study his brothers. You want to talk about envy and strife? Just go to any church in this city where God has got His hand on some young Christian's life and ministry growing up and doing things. And there are other Christians out there that are not doing anything that think they are and watch what they say about him. It is the same story. It is the same story. It is the same exact story all the way back there. Joseph's coat of many colors.

Historically, Joseph is a picture of the foundation of the nation of Israel. Doctrinally, he is a type of Christ, but inspirationally, he is a picture of you and me. He is a picture of you and I putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. You get a new coat. But there is a price tag. His brethren hated him. They were jealous. They envied him. They made him do the work and they took the credit. They talked about him behind his back. They conspired to get rid of him. They devised a plan to destroy him. They decided to kill him and then they finally sold him to the Midianites when he makes his way down into Egypt. He goes through the trials of Egypt and his brethren are saying, "Boy, we got rid of him and his coat of many colors." But you know what? God is always the author of circumstances. When it all came down to an end, his brethren had sold him and tried to get rid of him. God turned that whole situation around and they had to come to him to keep from starving to death. Because all through the trials and all through the thing, you know what? The thing that he had is what they never had, is what they always wanted, was that coat of many colors. I talked to you about a walk. I talked to you about a walk. That walk starts with you putting on the coat of many colors. It starts with you putting on the Lord Jesus Christ. It starts with you coming to the place where you start to put those characteristics of Joseph in your life. You start to get the manifold blessings of God in your life. Yes, there will be problems. Yes, there will be people who will backbite you. They will talk about you. They will get in their little groups and they will assassinate your character. They do it all the time. They have always done it from the very beginning of time and they will do it right up to Jesus Christ coming back. The great contradiction is now you know you cannot walk in the light and still have the works of darkness.

#### SEC: Making No Provision For The Flesh: The Samson Principle

Then the last part, verse 14, "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, make not provision for the flesh." Now the key word here is the word "provision." The word "provision" has two basic definitions in the Bible. The first one is making a way or providing a place for something to take place. Creating the circumstances, in our case here, for your flesh to get control. The second aspect is the word provision is our word for food. So in that case, it deals with feeding of your flesh.

Now there is a great example that is in the Bible and I cannot think of a better example of someone who is a great, easiest thing out where you can understand. To me, that is the beauty of the Bible. I lay out hard concepts and maybe you are saying, "Well, what does that mean?" Then I bring it in illustration much like Joseph and you say, "Oh, I see it now." Well, here is another one. This will be found in the book of Judges, chapter 14 through chapter 16. In our study on this particular case of "make no provision for the flesh" will be the man Samson. All of the principles so far that we have looked at lay out in this study and are found in his life: rioting, drunkenness, chambering, wantonness, strife, envy.

When you start, when the first time you find Joseph, he is feeding the father's sheep. First words out of Samson's mouth when he shows up is in Judges 14:2, "I have seen a woman; get her for me." What a contrast. First time you find Joseph, he is feeding the father's sheep. First time you find Samson, he is looking with his eyes, wanting something and then ordering his parents to get it for him. He is motivated by the outward of parents and not the inner character. Judges 14:7. Every woman he hooks up with is unclean as far as God is concerned. Finally, he gets an unclean Philistine and he joins himself to her dark work. Judges 16:17. They become, as we laid out on week, unequally yoked. He is so busy fulfilling his personal lust and his desires and his ambitions, he never even knows the power of God left him. If you would have walked up into him in one of his drunken orgy stupors with all the ladies he is hanging out with and all the people he is running around with inside the Philistines and making all kinds of deals, and you would ask him if he walked with God, he would tell you that him and God were just like that. Because that is how it works. That is how it works. All of his life, he shows rebellion against all and any authority. He is never held any accountability for his actions. He has had no responsibility. In all his life, he is in rebellion against, mark him down, his parents, to the religious organization by which God is structuring it in the Old Testament for you and me to be the church, the Word of God, and even God Himself. He reminds me of the type of kids that most parents raised today that I find and you deal with them. You know what? Your kids are very good kids. Your kids are fine kids. Your kids are lovely kids. Right up to the point where you have got to discipline them. You can get along with them every day long, all your day long, and it is just wonderful. Right up to the point when you have got to deal with them on a biblical principle. A lot of God's people are the same way. A lot of God's people are the same way. Talk about loving God and loving this and loving that right up to the point when you have got to deal with them.

Now it says, "make no provision for the flesh." Samson winds up like so many of God's people, a spiritual suicide. A couple of years ago we started this, we never really got into it. It kind of went its way and I just let it go because we will get into it when we do biblical counseling. But I talked about why people commit suicide. We talked about understanding the basic concepts of why people commit suicide. Suicide is a terrible thing. But people do commit suicide. Obviously suicide is rampant in our country today and there is a reason for that. But if you want to totally understand suicide you have got to realize that in your Bible there are seven suicides in your Bible. But you also have got to realize something that not every suicide in the Bible is a physical suicide because there is such a thing as spiritual suicide. Where an unsaved man can commit physical suicide as can a child of God. A child of God can commit spiritual suicide. Samson is a

picture of that. Samson is a picture of a person who was called by God to do a job. But he walks by sight and not by faith. He violates just about every principle that there is. He winds up as spiritual suicide. He violates the greatest principle that goes along with all these things and walking with God that is found in Ephesians chapter 4 verse 27 where it simply says, "Neither give place to the devil." As my old grandmother used to say, "You give the devil an inch and he will make himself the ruler."

You want to study Samson's life? I will give you three points and it is a great outline. I want to give you some absolutely phenomenal principles for your own life. Three great things about Samson's life that fit right into your life and my life.

21. The first thing is that Samson's sin blinded him. He could not see it. He could not see it. I dare to say if you would have talked to Samson all his life he would have thought he was doing what God wanted to do. You know why? Because when you get out of fellowship with God and you start mixing the two together then your reasoning power, your perspective goes out and you lose everything and you do not even know. Like Samson, he did not even know the power of God had left him. He did not even know where his strength was. He did not know and there is a reason why his hair is tied into seven locks because it all ties together. He did not even know where his strength was and what is even worse when it finally left him he did not even know. You know why? Because he was blinded to it. He was asleep.
22. You know the second thing sin did to him? You see, one sin has a progression in your life. One sin blinds you then sin binds you. Sin took over his life and he was no longer in control. Sin will blind you and then sin will bind you. He is bound by the Philistines. Picture the world system. Here he is, the child of God, the deliverer of Israel, the one whom God wanted to use to bring about the downfall of the world and establish the nation of Israel just a short few hundred years later. Now here he is, the aristocracy of God, the joint heir with Jesus Christ. Picture you and me. A man whom God called for a purpose and he had a vow. Remember the vow? Just like he was separated from the vow. But that vow we are going to talk about in a moment just like when you got saved God separated you from the world. Where is he? The child of God. Where is he? He is blinded. They put his eyes out. You know, there have been God's people in my life over the years and seen him, you know, that they could see. He had 20-20 vision. But somebody had put their eyes out spiritually. They could not see what really was there. He got blind, blinded. Then the next thing they did is they tied him up between two posts and then his sin bound him. He could not get out of it. He had lost the power, listen to me, he had lost the power of God to break the bands of this world that now took him prisoner. How? He got blinded. He got blind. He got bound. He got blinded. Sin blinds you. Sin binds you.
23. And then sin grinds you. They tied him to a grist wheel. A big wheel about 340 pounds, a big round thing they use to grind wheat on. When they bound him to that deal, they stripped him naked. Picture the judgment seat of Christ or what is coming. When he pushed that grist wheel around there for the rest of his life, he was providing food for the world. He was providing food for the world because he in his early years made the provision for his flesh. Now he is making provision for the world. They laughed at him. They laughed at him. They made fun of him. For the rest of his life, until he died of spiritual suicide, he pushes that

around. The aristocracy of heaven, the child of God, the man whom God had a plan to deliver Israel was now bound by the world system and his rest of his life. It is just like most of God's people today. You know what it is? You just go around a little circle, do you not? With a burden of the grinding wheel, with a burden and a laughing at you and whips to your back. The world that you thought was so fun, the world that you thought was going to be your heyday, the world that you thought was going to be all yours when you were 20 and 30, no, you got blinded and then you got bound up and now you are grinding it in a little circle in life. That is what people tell me when they come in, "Bob, I have got no purpose. Bob, I have got no, I do not know why I am even alive. I go to work and I come home. There is nothing to it anymore. Nothing means anything." Yeah, you know why? Because you are bound to that wheel and you are grinding in a circle.

Oh, now we have got to see the best part, the best part. The Bible says, "make no provision for the flesh." We now define that as making a way, providing a place for something to take place. We have also defined it as feeding something, food provision. In Judges chapter 14 verse 5, we find an interesting addendum to this story. Now, Samson was a Nazarite and he took a Nazarite vow. Let me just briefly explain that. In the Old Testament, when you had something that you were going to do for God, you took a Nazarite vow. A Nazarite vow was a picture of what happened the day you and I got saved. We did not take a Nazarite vow, but if you study the Old Testament Nazarite vow, it is a picture of what happened. Three things he could not do once he took a Nazarite vow.

24. The first thing he could not do is he could not have anything to do with a vine tree. No grapes, no raisins, no raisin bran cereal, no prunes, no nothing. He could not have anything to do with anything off a vine tree. He could not touch them. No wine, no nothing, completely. Of course, we know that goes back, we do not have time to get into it. We know it goes back to Genesis chapter 3 with the original curse.
25. Second thing he could not do is he could not touch any dead people. No funerals. Picture of you and me staying away from unsaved people. See how it works?
26. The third thing he could not do is he could not get a haircut. He had to let his hair grow, and I will give it to you now since we are here. When he got that hair growing, he put that heavy hair into seven locks because in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit of God manifests itself in seven ways. So that hair pictures that stuff. When he got his haircut, he lost the power. You know why? Because the power of you is in the Holy Spirit of God. When the world takes it away from you, just like Delilah took his haircut, you lose your power.

Now, three things. Now let me show you how this works. If you are a young man here and a young lady and you want to make something out of your life for God, I am just telling you, it is not your choice. Life is choices. If you are somebody here and you want to make something out of your life, you better listen to the next 10 minutes of what I am going to say because this is the key. This is the key. This is the key. He knows he is supposed to stay away from these things. In Judges chapter 14:5, he is bopping down the road, going out to his latest endeavor and encounter. Lo and behold, he takes a shortcut through the vineyards of Timnath. Now, he is supposed to stay away from anything off a vine tree. But this idiot decided to take a shortcut through the very

place he is supposed to stay away from. Who does he meet in that vineyard? A young lion. 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." You know where he found a lion? Right where he was not supposed to be.

Now, somebody said, "Now, wait a minute, Bob. Revelation 5:5 says, Jesus Christ is also called a lion. How do you know this lion is not a picture of Christ?" I will tell you why. Because Jesus Christ never violates His own principles and does not go where He tells you to stay out of. You better write that down. He killed the lion. Next day he comes on the same route. The lion is dead. He killed him. The carcass is laying there. But overnight, or a couple of days, or however long ago, a bunch of bees came in. They put honey in the carcass of this dead lion. Is it not always amazing where the devil puts things that you have got to go through, violating the principle? He was not allowed to touch a dead animal. Now, there are some other great principles here that I will just throw out to you as we get down through this thing. Honey in a dead lion. You cannot get the Word of God out of a dead church. This lion was dead. No life to it. You can pretend all you want. You are going to grow, and you are going to go to this, you know, First Baptist Church, or the refrigerator, or whatever your case may be. You think, "Well, my parents were here. We owned a pew. My dad put it in the bathroom. We got all of these things." You know what? Take the bathroom with you. The principle is, you cannot get honey out of a dead lion without it violating you and winding up spiritual suicide. That is beside the point. I just threw that in. You do not have to pay for that.

He kills the lion. The next day, he comes down through there. When he finds the honey in the lion, he touches the lion, and boy, it is over at that point. Then he has to do three things. He has to offer a male lamb, a female lamb, and he has to get a haircut. God does not. He does not do any of those. He will not, in his own world. He knew what the Bible said. He just violated the Nazarite principle, and now he is just oblivious. No accountability. No responsibility. Oh, there is a different set of rules for him than everybody else. He was supposed to get a male lamb, a female lamb, and a ram, and then get a haircut. He did not. He went on his merry way just like we do. You know what? His father-in-law died in a fire, and God got his male lamb. A little bit later on, his wife gets killed, and there God got his female lamb. Delilah gave him his haircut, and now he is shackled between the pillars of a Philistine temple, and they are making fun of him, and he looks up to God, and he says, "God, what have I done? What am I going to do? I cannot be Your deliverer." God says, "Yes, you can." "No, God. No, God. I did not get a haircut. The world gave it to me. I lost my father-in-law. I lost my wife. Here I am. How am I going to get a ram?" And God says, "I will tell you how. You be the ram." Sin blinds you, it binds you, and it grinds you.

If he would have stayed out of the places he knew he was not to go, the lion would have never been an issue. We have a boy that we are, several boys, and you can get the newsletter over there in the deal. John Buschkett works with our prison ministry, and we have got a young man that we have probably been working with now for probably, oh, I do not know, 12, 13, 14 years. His name is Rob. Rob is an incredible character. Rob got saved. Rob is the kind of guy that Rob, his whole life, he has been, I mean, he is probably in his 40, 45 years now, and I would say probably, I would say he has probably been incarcerated since he was 19 years old, in and out. Rob got out

about 10 years ago, and we had been working with him via the stuff and phone calls and Bible studies and sent stuff in that we could get in, and he got out, went back to Joplin, where he was from. I told Rob, I said, "Rob, the first thing you have got to do is you have got to," I said, "You are a two-timer. They hit you once, they got you, now they got you a second time, you got out this time. Next time, you are going to be in trouble." I said, "You need to find a church, you need to get someplace where you can be in the Bible, and you get up that lifestyle, and you get with the people and quit hanging out with the wrong crowd." Well, he did not listen. He did not listen. I get a phone call from his mother one Monday morning. She basically says Rob is, Rob got arrested last night. He got into a situation, the police picked him up, and when he went in, and his parole officer came in, he lost his temper, and he threatened the parole officer, and you know what he got out of it? You know what he got out of it? He got 25 years. 25 years. He is appealing it. He has been appealing it for 13, 14 years. They are not ever going to let him out. They are never going to let him out. His mother said to me, "What are you going to do? What can we do? What do you think, Bob?" You know what I said? Here is what I said. Honest to God. "You know what I think, ma'am? I think if he had been in church last Sunday night, he would not be in prison today."

Do not go where you know you should not go. The lion never becomes an issue until you go where you should not go. From that point in his life, it was over for Samson. What did he do? I will tell you what he did. He gave place to the devil, and he made provision. He violated just about every biblical principle that you can. He made a place for the devil and a provision for his flesh to fulfill the lust thereof. Sin did what sin always will do. Sin blinds you, it binds you, and then it grinds you. That does not mean that you cannot turn your life around. It does not mean no matter how black, how bad, whatever it has been, you cannot get out of it. But the bottom line is, it is simply this. The longer you are bound, the longer you grind, and the blinder you become, the harder it is to break that circle of the old grist mill. My advice to do? Break it today. Whatever it takes, break it today. That is my advice.

#### SEC: Conclusion: A Call To Action

We are going down to City Union Mission tonight. I cannot think of a better place for you to take your kids. I love when your kids go down. I love when you go down. Because you want to see an example of exactly what I am talking about? There it is. If you are a smart parent, which I hope you are, you are obviously using that with your little children. You ought to pray for those men with those little kids. You ought to let them understand the greatest object lesson. Do not let it slip through your finger of what sin does in a person's life. Sin will blind your child, it will bind your child, and it will grind your child. What better object lesson could you have than tonight at 6:30? Take them home. Create a prayer time with them. Pray with them. Pray over those men. Pray for those men to get delivered. But make them understand they are there because they gave place to the devil in all of their lives. Try to walk in the light and the darkness at the same time.

With all this, we now have the bridge. We are ready to move to Chapter 14 and 15. You now have everything you need to get on the right page. Whatever you have done, whatever you have said, whoever you have said it to, whatever your attitude has been, you now have the wherewithal to fix it today. To move on from here to Chapter 14 and 15. It is up to you. It is up to

you. You have learned 12 great personal principles. You should now know the time. It is high time for you to wake. We ought to know that our salvation is nearer. We ought to know that the night is far spent, and we ought to know now that the day is at hand. We ought to know that these things are all inward. But then he gave us seven more that are outward. We are to cast off, and we are to cast down the works of darkness. We are to put on the armor of light. We are to walk honestly as in the day. No strife, no envying, no riots, no wantonness. We are not to walk in the darkness of this world. We are to put on Christ, and we are to make no provision for the flesh that we may fulfill the lust of this life and this flesh. You have everything you need. You have everything you need. You have everything you need in this bridge to get you to the place where you understand what New Testament Bible Christianity is all about. If you do not do any other thing or get anything when you leave here today, I hope you leave with the aspect of you understand what a real walk is with God.

Now you look at things one way, I look at things another way. To me, it is no accident. He is the God of this world. No accident in March after a week of nice weather that he dumped seven inches of snow on us last night. You know why? He would have blown this building down if he could. He would have killed me on the way home from Jason's Deli last night if he could. He would have done anything in the world for God's people to hear this message this morning. You know what? Because this message will make a difference. You can walk out of here a new person, or you can walk out of here the same old person you were when you came in. But it is up to you, folks. It is up to you. Father, we thank You.