

Romans 14

Sunday 5/9/2010

We will be back in there today. Last week, in this great chapter, we laid out the background for the study of the Judgment Seat of Christ. We talked about verses 10, 11, and 12, where it says that we shall all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

We talked about how this particular chapter, Romans 14 and 15, is dealing with the aspect of how we get along with each other. One of the things that we need to know and understand is the fact that the Judgment Seat of Christ is directly in relationship to everything we do and what we do as it impacts other people.

We have been talking about the whole Bible being built around two days. We got through the issue of special days in Romans 14. We talked about the aspect of the Day of the Lord, which is the Second Coming of Christ, and that is to the nation of Israel. Then there is the Day of Jesus Christ, and that is to the church, you and I. I showed you how the whole Bible is wrapped around those two components: God's day and Christ's day.

Then I gave you a great little concept that really breaks a number of Bible doctrines down into that little sinner, son, and serpent. How easy that makes our relationship with God and understanding the judgments in the Bible as they relate to us and all the other things that God does. Without a doubt, the most important day in our lives as a child of God is the Judgment Seat of Christ. I told you last week that over the next couple of weeks, we are going to lay out every aspect of this day as it is laid out in Romans 14 and then throughout the whole Bible.

I. Why the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Let me start by saying this: people ask me many, many times, "Why does God have a Judgment Seat of Christ?" There are a number of reasons why there is a Judgment Seat of Christ. I guess the main reason is because of one of the sub-themes of the Bible. We know that the theme of the Bible, the thing that the Bible is built around, is the Second Coming of Christ. Everything in that Bible points to the day that is God's day when His Son sits down on the throne in Jerusalem. We know that as the Day of the Lord.

The Day of Jesus Christ for you and for me, which is the Judgment Seat of Christ, the Rapture of the Church, there are many aspects to that. But when you break it down to the lowest common denominator, the Judgment Seat of Christ is basically where God rewards those of us who, once we are saved, simply find out what God wants us to do in our life and then do it. It is a simple fact. Most people in the day and age that we live in do not understand this. God saved you for a purpose. There is something that He wants you to accomplish with your life.

Now, the devil's job is to deceive you. The devil's job is to counterfeit the phony for the real. The devil's job is to bombard you with misinformation or put you in situations that lead to confusion. It is a situation where he wants to make everything complicated.

In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul was writing to the church at Corinth, as he writes to seven of the churches in his time and day. He talks about the greatest fear that he has for the church. I must say that the fear that Paul had all the way back at the church at Corinth is the same fear that I have for the church today and anybody who really understands what is going on.

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The devil's whole function is to destroy the simplicity of everything that God has for you. We are told today that the Bible is a hard book to understand. We are told today that the Christian life is almost impossible to live. We live in a day and age where I have never seen God's people so confused. We are living in a day where I have never seen God's people so without power in their life. We are living in a day where most of God's people have no clue of what God wants them to do. Yet, that was Paul's greatest fear: that the devil would come in and destroy in the minds of God's people the simplicity that is really in Christ. That is what the devil has done.

Years ago, I heard a great message out of Luke 21, and I have preached it many, many times. It is a great little outline. It is basically a three-point outline built around a God for God's people.

1. Be not deceived. The man talked about how the devil is out to deceive us.
2. Be not disarmed, because the devil wants to take away from you the Word of God that God has given you and put you in a world of confusion.
3. Be not discouraged.

Let me tell you something, folks. I do not care what anybody says, and I do not care how black it is and how hard it is and what the devil has done, even if he has had a great hand in corrupting the minds of God's people from the simplicity that is in Christ, there is no reason why you cannot have all the things that God wants for you to have in your life.

The Judgment Seat of Christ has many aspects to it, but the main aspect is simply this: God has a plan for your life, and God is going to reward those people who live on this planet with all the things that we have, with all the places we have to go, with all the things that we can get involved in, all the things that the devil throws at us to get our focus off what God really has called us to do. God has a plan for you and I, and God has a Judgment Seat of Christ, and its lowest common denominator is for those who figure it out and then spend the rest of their life giving God what He died for them to give Him. The Bible talks about a living sacrifice in Romans 12.

Now I know that the Bible says in Ephesians 5, and it talks about the relationship that we have with Christ to our earthly marriage. The Bible talks about in Revelation 19:7-8:

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

There is a verse that tells you that the bride, the church, has made herself ready. She has now been to the Judgment Seat of Christ. The Rapture has taken place on this earth. The Tribulation is going through its seven years, but we up in heaven now are standing before the Lord Jesus Christ and giving an account of the plan that God had for us.

I do not understand what God wants you to do. I fully understand what He has me to do, but I do not know what He has for you to do exactly. I see things in your life. You come, you grow, you get involved in the ministry. It is very obvious that most of you, if not all of you, have very much to offer to God. We get the idea sometimes that God is looking for perfect people. God is not looking for perfect people. God knows that you and I are not perfect.

We get the idea so many times, "Well, I do not know that I can read," because we think we have to be perfect with God before we can do something. That is not true. God does not ask you to be perfect. Now, He does ask you and me to be as holy as we can be and to abstain from some things that we have talked about over the last couple of weeks, but perfect? No. God knows that you and I cannot be perfect. That is why when He died on the cross and went back to heaven, He gave us the Holy Spirit of God, and He gave us the Bible that we can live as holy as we can within these imperfect bodies and this imperfect world.

But I will tell you what God is looking for. This is what I look for. I do not look for perfect people in the ministry because I know they do not exist. I look for people who are not perfect, but people who are consistent. That in their lives, they want to have the consistency of being and doing what God wants them to do. Everybody makes mistakes. Nobody is going to bat a thousand. Everybody struggles with issues in their life, and we all fail at times. That is being human. God understood that. If you understand He is dealing with a nation of Israel, you will certainly see from the book of Psalms that God understands that concept. But God wants us to be consistent.

I told you last week that our idea of the Judgment Seat of Christ and the rewards and how we get them and our inheritance is completely out of whack with what the Bible says. The longer I live and the more I see the church age the way that it is and God's people the way they are, the farther we absolutely get away from the very basic concepts of the Bible.

I think Luke 17, and I have never given you this verse. I got this verse many, many, many years ago, and I will be honest with you, it changed my whole perspective. I have never preached on it. I do not think I have ever given it in Bible study, but it is something that certainly at this particular point in time, when we are looking at the Judgment Seat of Christ and contemplating all of its long-range ramifications, you need to understand. It is one of the most incredible verses in all the Bible of how God views what we do.

Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

Now, "trow" is an old English word that means "I think not." In other words, what He is saying here is there are no rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ. There is no millennial inheritance for the things that we are supposed to do. We think we are going to get rewards because we go to church. I told you last week, that is our job to be here. God died for the church. The Bible says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is." We think we get reward for reading your Bible. You are told to hide the Word of God in your heart. We think we get rewards for coming to Bible study or coming to church or winning people to Christ or helping people or the giving of the finances or all those things that go along with that. Those are things that once we get saved, we are supposed to do.

I told you last week that I do not really expect anything at the Judgment Seat of Christ. I am in a very, very precarious situation. I knew that when I got into this vocation of being a pastor, because it would be hard for God to give me anything because I get paid for what I do. Now I know that there are always over and above things, but I do not even look to that. I understand that great reality of that verse is that we do not get an inheritance based on the things that we do in most cases. We do not get an inheritance because you are here today or you get rewards because you are here today or you read your Bible last night. Those are the things that we are supposed to do. But I will tell you throughout this message that there are some things. There are some things that you need to understand about how you do get a millennial inheritance. That is what I want to help you with today.

II. Warnings Against Losing Your Crown

Now in your Bible, there are two definitive passages on the Judgment Seat of Christ. We are going to look at one this week, and then we will look at one next week. The one today will define the whole concept of the Judgment Seat of Christ. It will give you much information on where you stand. It will show you the basic things that you need to do and understand to ensure that you do get a millennial inheritance.

Now there are two warnings in your Bible, and they both deal with you getting an inheritance and a reward. The first one is in 2 John 1:8.

Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

Now the first warning is "look to yourselves." You know why? Because the greatest enemy you and I have against God in our life is us. We like to blame our problems on everybody else. In most churches, the pastor gets blamed for everything, whether he does it or not. Sometimes he deserves it. Sometimes he does not. But I have learned over the years, the bottom line is simply this: the only one we can really blame for your lack of being spiritual or not being where you need to be is yourself. You cannot blame somebody else for that. I hope that you see that. That is why the Bible gives the first warning: "look to yourselves that we lose not those things which we have wrought."

Then the second warning is in Revelation 3:11.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

The second warning is not to let somebody take that crown from you. Now this is why I tell you single people, be careful who you marry. Be careful who you marry. If you are plugged into the Word of God and you are really trying to grow, you need to be careful with whom you hook up. You need to be careful whom you become yoked to. Because the idea in the Bible is that saved people are like oxen. Oxen were yoked together. They were yoked together because they were supposed to pull the load together, to work together. So it is very, very important to understand that the Bible says, "Let no man take thy crown."

You marry the wrong person, or you get hooked up, and you could, in many cases, if that person is not the one that God wants you to have and has not went through the process of spiritual growth and proved themselves as the Bible says, you can kiss your whole millennial inheritance away. How many times over the years have I seen that happen? You can get your crown taken by a pastor, somebody who does not teach you the Bible the way that it needs to be taught. Somebody who does not teach the Bible and lay it out and give you everything that you need to have every chance you have. A church can take your crown. Some of the people you hang out with can take your crown.

In 1960, and few of us remember the 1960s, most of you were not even born at that point in time. But in the 60s, we had a group called the hippies. There are no hippies anymore. They all died out with the Brontosaurus and the Tyrannosaurus Rex. But anyway, the hippie movement was a movement that was organized against any established anything. They hated the government. They hated anything that the government did. Back then, everybody dressed, common people dressed a certain way. They were ultra-radical in their dress. Their hair was very long. They did not wash. They wore clothes with peace symbols on them and love buttons and all of those things. Free love was the key word back then.

It was, in fact, just this week, I do believe, that we celebrated the anniversary of what has been commonly known as the Kent State Massacre. I think you saw it in the paper this week if you were paying attention. That happened all the way back in about, what, 1968, 1969? I was in the Army when that all happened. What happened was that they were burning down. The hippies were against everything: the war in Vietnam, the government. Marijuana flowed freely. It was an incredible time. They would go into campuses and they would burn down the buildings. They would tear down everything they could because everything that was a fixed thing represented the establishment to them. They were anti-establishment.

I remember I was just a young guy, and I always did not always figure the thing out. But I learned some lessons through it. They would burn cars and turn them over in the street. They would burn down buildings. In fact, the massacre at Kent State was based on a crowd of people, and they had to call out the National Guard. The people were pelting the National Guardsmen with rocks, throwing things, bottles, and spitting on them. They would do all kinds of terrible things. They surrounded these National Guard guys on a little hill there, and somebody in the National Guard panicked or whatever, or thought their life was in danger. So when one guy opened up, they all opened up, and they killed, I do not know, seven or eight college students. Oh

boy, you would have thought the end of the world came. Well, it did for eight people. But anyway, it was touted from one end to the other. It unleashed riots everywhere.

I learned something out of that. I try to learn something from everything I see in life. I think that there is a lesson in everything. I learned something. I learned something that people that wanted to tear down and destroy things. In my generation, it was the hippie movement. They were anti-establishment. They wanted to bring down the government, to bring down society. They wanted some goofy little, all of the music back then, the Beatles music, "Yellow Submarine," "Strawberry Fields Forever." That is all drug-induced music about the world that they all wanted to live in. I remember back then, I watched that years later, I thought to myself, "Boy, there was a great lesson in that," because those people were anti-establishment, and their whole life, they wanted to bring down the establishment of this government in this country. I noticed that people back then, they wanted to tear things down, but they never wanted to build anything up.

I looked at that and I thought to myself, "You know what, that is a character of human nature for me as a Christian." So I have stayed away from people, Christians, unsaved people, who their whole life want to tear things down that God is doing. Because I learned a great lesson: people who want to tear God's work down never build anything for God. People who want to tear people down, they never build anything for God. So you need to be careful that no man take thy crown. There is absolutely no reason, based on our study, why there is any reason for you not to have all that God has for you.

You have heard me say it many, many times, God replaced Himself with three things. He replaced Himself, first of all, with the Holy Spirit of God when He went back to heaven. In the process of time, He gave the Word of God. In the process of time, He established a church. Those three things, done biblically the way God wants them to be done, are everything that you need.

III. The Master Builder and the Foundation

Now let us read our text this morning of the first definitive passage. I want you to turn to 1 Corinthians 3. This is going to be your first definitive passage in the Bible. Then we will break it down, and we will see how far we get because I want to get you out with plenty of time to go eat. I have been practicing my Chinese all week.

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;

Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;

And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

Now Father, help us today to take this passage and learn some great truths about the greatest day in our lives. We know now, Father, that there are no special holy days for Christians, but there are two days in the Bible that every Christian should look forward to and understand. Help us, Lord, as we come through Romans 14 to see the reality for all of us to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. Father, we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Now I want to kind of break this down, and if you want to follow down and put these in notes and then put them into your Bible, you will really have a good breakdown on how this thing works if you do that.

Now the first thing it says here is the fact that we are laborers together. That is a great concept because that shows you that the number one thing about the church needs to be the unity of the body. There are many things in the Bible that God uses to describe us as the church. We have probably 170 some people here today, maybe more than that, and we are all individuals. But as a church, the Bible says we should all be one, and that is the key: unity. That is why it is called a body.

We have all seen people who are not very coordinated. We have all seen people who do not have very good coordination skills. The standard joke is, "I cannot chew gum and walk," it is not coordinated. We have all seen examples of that, and some people are less coordinated than others in some things. I marvel, I really do. I think of all the sports that I marvel at, it is basketball. To watch some of these professional guys or even the college guys do the things that they do, I mean, they make it look so easy. You talk about somebody who is absolutely coordinated themselves beyond belief. Then the team that plays together, I mean, they all coordinate. It blows my mind. A guy dribbling a ball and everything is happening so fast, and he is coming down, and

he does not even look, and he throws the ball that way, knowing that a guy is going to be there to take the shot. I am sure they practiced that all day long, weeks long. But it looks like it is so easy. It just flows like some kind of beautiful music that just is playing. Everything just orchestrated at the right place. The team that works together that way, and I am sure it is, I know it is the same in football and baseball, but it is more apparent in basketball. Watching those guys go up and dunk the ball, man, I cannot even touch the rim at the highest I jump. If you want to see my lack of coordination, just watch me play basketball sometime. I have no coordinated skills in anything in sports much, but basketball, absolutely not.

I will tell you, but would you want somebody that does it and does it well, that it is all fluid, it is just all moves? Everything is just like it is orchestrated. That is the way Christianity should be. Your body is that way. You are coordinated, that your brain cells send messages to your hands and your feet and what you want to do. You coordinate it. You walk, you run, you do this, you do that. Everybody is coordinated to be able to do that. Of course, that is what the body of Christ should be. The pastor gets the vision. He keeps the goals before the people. Everybody does what they can on whatever level they are. They begin to just work the ministry, and you grow through that. That is just the way it works. Some of you cannot disciple anybody yet, but you can clean the building. You can help with this. You can do whatever you can do, and you work in and grow into that aspect of it. So the first thing he says here, which is the first key, is "laborers together."

The second thing he says in verse nine, he says, "ye are God's husbandry." A husbandman in the Bible is a man who tends a garden. He takes care of the garden, makes sure it grows properly. The example in the Bible, the first one anyhow, would be Genesis 9. Remember that back there when Noah came out of the ark, down around verse 20, the Bible says that Noah began to be a husbandman. What did he do? He planted a vineyard. So a husbandman in the Bible is somebody who takes care of the garden. That is a reference to you and I. We help others grow, and we tend to our vineyard. Our vineyard right here is this church.

Today is Mother's Day, and I know that. Everybody probably in most cases across the city and maybe across the country is preaching out of Proverbs 31 about the virtuous woman, and everybody likes to take the virtuous woman and apply that to a mother. I am not saying that you should not because it obviously fits that passage in an inspirational application. But you do understand that that passage in Proverbs 31 is not just only talking about our mothers. It is also talking about the church. In fact, that is the primary application. That virtuous woman in Proverbs 31 is the church, and it is just a picture of what you and I should be doing. It comes down there and it talks about how she is virtuous. Her price is far above rubies and all the things that go along with it. When you get down to Proverbs 31:16-17, it talks about her gardening skills. It shows you that this virtuous woman is a husbandman because it says:

She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

To me, that has always been an incredible passage for me. I always liked verse 16. Once I understood that whenever God called me to build a church, I had to look at it like a garden. I had to realize that when you plant a garden, and I am not good at planting gardens, I am better at

doing churches than I am ever planting gardens. But when you plant a garden, you have to prepare the soil. You have to get the rocks out of it. You have to get everything furrowed out and get everything that is conducive to growth. Then you have to plant the seed. Then you have to water. You have to have the right amount of sunshine, right amount of water, right amount of time of the year. Everything just kind of goes. If you do everything right, it pretty much grows on its own.

I remember as a young man, when I saw Proverbs 31:16, where it said, "She considereth a field." I knew from Matthew 13 that the field is a picture of the world. I know in that great parable over there in Matthew 13, it says that Jesus Christ bought the field. We know the great verse, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son." I began to look at that. I began to realize the great concept that was developed out of that. When God came down and sent His Son, He died for the whole world. In other words, He bought the field. But you notice when it talks about that virtuous woman, when it is talking about me and it is talking about you, it does not say "the field," does it? It says "a field."

You see, God never asked me to win the world to Christ. He never did. He never asked me to do anything on that scale. But what He did ask me to do was to consider a field. Back in 1976, when God opened the door, really the end of 1975, when God opened the door for me to come to Kansas City, God used those events and brought me to a place and brought me here, and God gave me a field. But I had to consider that field. Then I had to make a decision based on my considering that field, and that was whether to buy it or not. Sometime in my life, when I saw what God wanted me to do, and God developed me and brought me to the place in my life where I understood what God wanted me to do, I looked at my vineyard, my field, Kansas City, and I decided to buy it. I did not buy it with money. I bought it with the same thing that God bought the whole field with. That was the intensity and understanding that this is my field.

You have to decide in your life at some point, ladies and gentlemen, where your field is going to be. It may be here. It may be in this church. God may take some of you young men down the line and some of you young ladies and give you another field someplace else, but she "considereth a field and buyeth it." That is the first concept. The attitude of what God has called you to do, you have to buy it with everything you have. The Bible called the church over there, the Pearl of Great Price in the New Testament. It gives the story about a man that went seeking goodly pearls. Remember that story? The Bible says when he found one pearl of great price, and that pearl of great price is you and me, the church. That is why this virtuous woman here, her price is far above rubies. You know why? Because it is a pearl. When you get to that point, that story in the Bible, he says he findeth one pearl and he gives everything he has for that pearl.

Once I understood that when Jesus bought the whole world by giving everything that He had in His attitude, His mind to buy it, once I realized that my job was to consider a field, and I understood that my field was right here in Kansas City and I was to buy it, then I bought it with all the intensity that I could muster, just like Christ bought His. I take my vineyard right here as a husbandman of this church, just as serious as God did when He did the whole world because I understand that that is what it takes. She "considereth the field and buyeth it." Then it says, "with the fruit of her hands, she planteth a vineyard." The fruit of her hands. You have to build a

church. I tell you all the time, this is like a vineyard. It is like a garden. You do not just go out and throw all the seeds out and then you just hope they land and grow. No, no. One seed at a time, you put your finger down in that hole, put it in and cover it up. You move on down, you plant those things one tree at a time, and you have to build a church one person at a time. It is a vineyard.

The reason why pastors want to deal with mass evangelism and do not want to deal with anybody and do not want to work with anybody and will not spend time with their people, teaching them the Bible and will not do the things that really need to be done in somebody's life, is simply because they have not bought the field. They may be a pastor. They may have a church, but they never considered the field and bought it on the same level that Christ bought the field. You do not build churches by doing great things and building big buildings. You have to get down to the nitty-gritty, and this is what most young men will never understand: the real inside of the ministry. A husbandman, he keeps the vineyard. Long before you got here, some of you got here, we were clearing the ground. We had to clear out the rocks. We had to get all the stumps out. We had to get everything that made this thing conducive to spiritual growth. We had to get all the elements that will hurt the growth of any vineyard. Then one by one, the Bible says, "with the fruit of her hands, she plants it one tree at a time, one tree at a time, one tree at a time."

Verse nine goes on and says, "ye are God's building." 1 Corinthians 6:19, a familiar verse, says:

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

You are bought with a price. You see, in the Old Testament, God did His work through the literal temple. In the New Testament, God does His work through you. Your body now is the temple. This is why when we studied the aspect of our liberty in Christ, this is why the Bible says that we are to exercise temperance. We are to understand our liberty. We are to do things in moderation. We are to abstain from some things that give the appearance of evil. We are to balance in our life. Our testimony is the most important thing that we have. Because there is somebody always watching our lives.

I think one of the greatest examples in the Bible, and this is really my pattern that I have used. In 1 Kings 6, 7, and 8, you do not have to turn back to it. You have one of the most incredible studies of when Solomon built the temple, and you realize that when he built the temple in those chapters there, you have everything that you need to build people. You know it took him seven years. It took him seven years to build that temple. At the end of that seven years, that temple was ready for all the world to come to it. That is a pattern if you do not know that.

I look at some of you that came in when our church, what, almost seven years in January, somewhere in there. We have been here. Yet I look at some of you that came in right at that particular time and maybe six months, a year later, and watched how you have taken advantage of the things. Some of you figured it out and got it all worked out in your mind. You saw what God wanted you to do in your life, and you began to put those things in your life. Here it is. It is almost seven years later, and you can actually see where you now are able to understand things on a greater level than you were when you came in. You know why? Because it is a pattern.

You give me a young man or a young lady who will give me their undivided attention. I will do whatever needs to be done in their spiritual growth and go after it on their own the way that they need to do it. You give me that person for seven years, and at the end of that seven years, I will show you a temple that is ready to go to the world. It took Solomon seven years to get that temple ready for the world to come to. You give me that same seven years and give me somebody's undivided attention, male or female, that want to do what they have to do and will do it the right way. I guarantee you in seven years' time, you will be ready to take it to the world. That is a pattern. Boy, when you come in 1 Kings 6, 7, and 8, it is just laid out for you just as clear as what you need to do this. Then he did this, and then he did this, and then he did that. It even tells you when you get to that point, what not to do. It is an incredible pattern in the Bible. It is a pattern that I use.

Verse 10 says, "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon, but let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon." Two concepts in this verse:

4. We are to be a wise master builder.
5. We are to take heed how we build.

There is a great illustration of this in the Bible in the Gospels of Luke. Again, you do not have to turn to it. You can just listen to all these, write them down, look them up later. But there is a great story in Luke 19:12 that has always been one of my favorites in all of the Bible. You know why it is my favorite? It is my favorite because it has a parallel passage to it, but they do not match. I do not know. I love things like that. I do not know what you occupy your time with. I know some of you love video games, and some of you do all kinds of things for recreation or relaxation, and I am glad for it. But for me, the Bible to me is this aspect of it. I call this level seven or eight when it comes to the Bible. It is my favorite thing to do in the Bible: to find passages that do not match. Because I understand, when you have verses that are both correct, but they do not match, then there is some underlying reason that you have got to find. It is usually a great Bible truth why they do not match. To me, the great fun time in the Bible when I do not have anything else I have got to do is to get some of these passages that seemingly do not match and yet take the time to find out how they do match. Because when you have two parallel passages that almost say the exact same thing, but there is a difference in them.

Before I went into ministry and left Ohio, my father in the Lord, Malchabaka, when I got ordained, most churches when they ordain somebody, they bring them in and grill them for 48 hours, torture them to find out what they believe. I have never done that. That really never happened to me. But I will tell you that my father in the Lord, he was very, he did it. He just did not do it all at one time. I remember we went out one time, and we were driving someplace together, and he gave me 10 places. This was right before I came to Kansas City. He was always doing things to me to, we had about, I have given you, talked about those 10 questions that I ask people that were asking me that if you know these 10 questions and you can lay them up, you know the Bible. But he understood a great truth. He understood the fact that just because you know the Bible, that does not mean you know the Bible.

I will never forget. He gave me 10 passages that probably were the roughest passages in the Bible that were similar, but they were different. He said, "You know what? Humor me, go ahead and take a week, take your Bible. Next Sunday, bring me these 10 things down and show me how you got the answer to them." He says, "Here are two passages that do not look like it is the same thing, but it is the same thing, but it is not. There is a reason why they do not match." Boy, I will tell you what, you talk about a challenge, but it is things like that that ignited my excitement about the Bible because I know everything in the Bible does match. When you see something that does not match, there is something there. That is Luke 19, because, in fact, that was one of the passages that he gave me years and years and years ago. He used to call this level seven and eight in Bible study. He said, "This is what separates the men from the boys."

I understand that Matthew 25:14 is the same story as Luke 19, but they are different. Yet when you reconcile the differences, it is an incredible study, which most of these things are. One of the things that you will find different in Matthew 25, in this story here in verse 14 on down through here, you will find that the theme in Matthew was the kingdom of heaven. I think it is 52 times in the book of Matthew, you find the phrase "kingdom of heaven." You will find that when he tells this story, which I am going to tell you in a moment, the money here is talents, and talents is a Jewish monetary form of money. But when you go to Luke 19, the story there dealing with the kingdom of God, 44 times in the book of Luke, you find a reference to the kingdom of God. The money here is not talents. The money here is pounds, and pounds is Gentile weight, English.

When you look at those two stories, they are almost exactly the same, except the one book deals with the kingdom of heaven. The other book deals with the kingdom of God. The one book deals with a Jewish monetary system. The other one deals with a Gentile, in particular, English monetary system. Well, when I broke it all down and worked it all out, I basically found that you have two systems of the millennial inheritance. In the one in Matthew dealing with the kingdom of heaven and the talents, you have the system that shows you the Jewish inheritance. When you come to Luke 19 story with the kingdom of God and all that thing down there when it is pounds, then you have our millennial inheritance and what it is based on. It was from that concept years and years ago, I later saw this concept in 1 Corinthians 3 about being a wise master builder.

From the day you got saved, you are to be building on a foundation in your life. The Bible says that you are to be a wise master builder, and you are to take heed how you build. This building is simply based on what you invest your life in once you have been saved.

Now the story of Luke 19 is a great story. Here is the story. It is a story of a man. This man will be a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says He comes down here and He finds 10 servants. Now that is another key that when I started to put it together that caught my attention because I know that 10 in the Bible is the number of the Gentiles. I know already that Noah was called the father to Gentiles, and in his genealogy, he is the 10th from Adam. I knew that the first Gentile kingdom was found in Genesis 10. I knew that when they went to get a bride for Isaac, he took 10 camels. I know that the last Gentile kingdom found in the book of Revelation is represented by 10 toes of Daniel's image. I know that Acts 10 deals with Gentiles, Romans 10 deals with Gentiles, and John 10 deals with Gentiles. So the moment I saw that he had 10 servants and it is the kingdom of God, I knew what we got here.

So what He does, He comes down here and He takes these 10 servants. Now this is important, and He gives each servant one pound, and then He goes back to heaven. He comes back at a point in time, and He now wants to see what these 10 servants have done with what He has given them. The one guy who had one pound says, "Hey, I made great investments. You gave me one pound. I got 10 pounds back for you." The other guy says, "You gave me one pound. I made some great investments. Here is five pounds for you." The other guy says, "You gave me one pound. I went and buried it, and I do not have anything invested in it, but here is your pound back."

You know what that is a picture of? That is a picture of the Judgment Seat of Christ. When God saved you, God gave you ability. God gave you talent. God gave you a job. God gave you a family. God gave you people in your life, and He gave you everything that you needed to take what He gave you and make good investments. So when He comes back, you can stand there and say, "You gave me one. I got 10 for you."

Now the thing I want you to see here, and this will eliminate any problems that some of you may have because we always like to blame our situation on circumstances. Look and see here, my friend. Everybody got the same amount to start with. There is no reason for you not to stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ and have everything that God, the only reason why you will not be there is because of the fact you will not take and make the investment with what God has given you. You have invested in your career. You have invested in your family. You have invested in your business. You invested in everything out there except the reason that God gave it to you to invest it in. It is the investment of your life and my life. Some people take the abilities, everything that God gives them, and make good investments. Most do not. But that is the key. That is the key. You and I are to be a wise master builder.

How many of you who have 401ks or you have an investment or you have some kind of, you have some kind of down the line for your retirement, you know, that you put money back and you were with some investment firm. Would you just give it to anybody and just say, "I will do what you want to do with it"? Every year you put a hundred thousand dollars in, and every year it goes down and it does not go up. You find that you have some guy who does not even care about your investment. He just, he does not care as long as he gets his 10% off the top. He does not care about making you any money. Would you stay with that guy when you get 65, 70, 75, and you try to retire, you call up your financial guy and you say, "What do I got?" He says, "You ain't got nothing. Why? Because you gave it to me, and I made bad investments for you." Well, that is the way it is with God. He gave everybody in this place, everybody in this place, everything that you need. The moral of the story is simple. It is the investment of your life.

You have heard me say it many, many, many times. There are only two things in this world worth investing your life in because they are the only two things that are eternal for all of eternity. One of them is the Word of God, and the other one is the souls of men. The Judgment Seat of Christ will simply be in one format. God gave you a talent. He gave you a pound. He gave you the abilities you have, and He expected you to make good investments and bring a return. Everybody gets the same amount to start with. You make good investments in your life as a wise master builder. Everybody starts with the same amount of grace, the same amount of faith.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

What does that mean? We get the idea that it means that Christ comes down and strengthens us. No, no, no. Read the verse. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." It is not God that strengthens you. It is the thing that you do for God that strengthens you.

You remember your story of Moses, the great leader of God's people, the greatest man in the Old Testament before the law, who represents the nation of Israel and God before the law came in or up to the law and up to the kingdom where it gets established. God gave him the law, and you know what the Bible says? The first time God met him and God had a job for him to do, he could not do it. He was scared to death to go before Pharaoh. He did not speak well. He did not look well. He did not do anything well, and his self-confidence level was down to the bottom, and he is making all kinds of excuses to God. He says, "How is Pharaoh going to listen to me? What am I going to do? What abilities do I have? I am just an old sheep herder. How in the world am I going to go up before the most powerful man in the world?" You know what God asked him? He says, "Well, let us think about that. What are we going to do? Oh, I know. What do you have in your hand?" He says, "Well, I got a shepherd's crook." He says, "Well, then we will just take that."

You know that shepherd's crook is what he used to bring the plagues down? You know that little shepherd's staff that he had in his hand is what he used to turn the water to blood? You know that little shepherd's staff that he had in his hand is what God used to bring all the plagues down on the greatest nation on the face of this planet. You know what God will do? God will start with what you have in your hand today and build it from there. It does not matter what it is. Maybe all you can do at this time of your life is rearrange the seats. Maybe all you can do is come and just give a testimony. Just help these young gals or whoever, or help somebody encourage them. But you have got to start somewhere to make the investment. You cannot just throw it in a corner someplace or bury it like this guy did. Then when the Lord comes back, dig it up and say, "Hey!" The investment of your life starts with what right now today you have in your hand and the attitude of your heart.

Boy, I remember my father in the Lord preaching a great message out of Moses' life. When he would come down today, you heard me say it many, many times. I heard him say, I could close my eyes and hear him preaching it. When Moses went before God and he says, "I do not have the ability to do this," like some of you think. He says, "I am not able to go before Pharaoh. I am not able to do these great things. I do not have the ability that anybody is going to listen to me. I am not able to get all this done." God said, "I am not asking you if you are able, Moses. I am just asking you if you are willing. Because if you are willing, I am able." We will start with whatever you have in your hand, and that is where you make your investment. It is just that simple. It is just that simple.

Verse 11 says, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." The foundation of your temple, God's house, will simply be the day you got saved. The rest of your life you will make good investments or bad investments, and you will build on that foundation, good or bad.

Let me ask you a question. What if every day of your life when you woke up at six o'clock in the morning to go to work, there was somebody on this planet somewhere that every day of your life put \$1,440 in your bank account? That would stay in there for the next 24 hours, and you could keep it all and spend it all as long as you bought and spent all of that money. Well, I guarantee you, knowing us the way I know us, we would not lose a dime. We would buy everything we could. We would stick it away everywhere we could find to. Well, let me tell you something. Every day of your life, every morning when you get up, God has deposited 1,440 minutes in your bank account of your life. Every day of your life you have 1,440 minutes that you spend some way, some shape, some form, making wise investments.

IV. Building Materials: Gold, Silver, Precious Stones

Now verse 12 says the rest of your life after you are saved, you should be a wise master builder, and you build three things on this foundation. Three simple things that I talked about last week that if you will take these things, you will develop the right attitude about it. You will get the right concept on it. Your millennial inheritance will never be sure, and no one will ever take it from you. You will never lose it. Your attitude of not what you do for God, but basically why you do it for God.

You know what the first thing he says? He says build on this foundation gold. Gold. Now I do not have to tell most of you, and most of you know this, that gold in the Bible represents the deity of Christ. Everything in the Old Testament was overlaid with gold. You had all the tabernacle furniture, it was made of wood, but then it was overlaid with gold. You know why? Because the wood was a picture of Christ's humanity, and the gold overlaying it was a picture of His deity. Gold is the highest standard on this planet. Years ago, we used to have Fort Knox, and Fort Knox was the standard for the U.S. dollar, how much gold we had. In the 1950s, the Illinois Society of Architecture took a look at the temple back in the Old Testament under Solomon, and there was a saved man there, and he did a study on it based on the dimensions, based on the size, based on everything that was in there in 1950. That is 60 years ago, and he said that the net worth of the gold in that temple 60 years ago was 171 billion dollars. 60 years ago. I cannot even imagine what it would be.

You get on the news and you watch the commercials, and there he is on TV, Gordon Liddy, "Buy your gold where I buy mine." Everybody wants you to invest in gold. Everybody wants you to invest in gold. Many people do because they think that when the whole thing collapses, that is going to help them out. You think that gold will always be worth something because there has never been worth nothing, so therefore you are going to invest in gold. Well, I have news for you, Revelation 3, the Bible tells the Laodicean church that the investment we ought to be making is gold tried in the fire, but we will never get it. We will never get it. There is no higher value wisdom in this world than gold, and gold represents the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. When it says build on that foundation the first thing is gold, it is talking about get to know who He is. Know who God is in your life and know what He thinks.

We have no idea of what we talk about knowing God. We do not know God. We talk about all kinds of spiritual things, but yet our actions, the way we do things, it only displays that we really,

we have the talk, but we really do not understand. We really do not know who God is. I think it is incredible that, one of my favorite books in the Bible for me as a personal Christian is 1 John because I think 1 John really represents what my relationship should be as a Christian, and yet every time you pick up a study on the first book of 1 John, and every time you find a commentary on 1 John, they will tell you that the theme of 1 John is love. I do not know how many times I have heard that. I do not know how many times I have been places where somebody did a devotion or some pastor preached on 1 John, and he says, "Now you know the theme or the subject of 1 John is love," and I have never understood that. I am going to probably quote this wrong, but the last time I went through 1 John, I think it was 27 times. Now 1 John has only got five chapters in it, and they are not very big chapters. It is a very short book. At least 20 some times, I think it is 27, but at least 20 some times in that little book, you find the word "knowing," "knowing," "knowing." You know why? Because you do not just wake up in the morning and love God. You have got to learn how to love God. It is not natural for you and I.

You know what? That is why people do not keep coming to church. I have seen it all my life in ministry. I have seen people come to church for two or three weeks, they get saved, and then they show up for about another month, and then you never see them again. I have seen people come to church unsaved on a Sunday morning or Sunday night, never come back again. You know why? Because the guy preaches some message or you have some evangelist in, and he tweaks some emotional thing in you, or you are going through something right now, and it moves you, so you come down and you make a pretense of getting saved, and because you are in this problem you are in, and you get up and you go back out, and as soon as your problem is over and you are feeling better, you do not care about God anymore. That is human nature.

I have told you many, many times about this time I had strep throat for six months, and that is because every time I went to the doctor, he gave me the medicine, as soon as I started feeling better, I quit taking the medicine. Sometimes we just use Jesus Christ and the church and salvation as a feel-good concept. That is why we have divorces in America. People getting married today, and they do not know the person they marry. They fall in love with what they think the person is, and you never want to fall in love. When you fall in love, it is real easy to fall out of love. The only true concept of love in marriage is to get to know that person and know what you love about them. Because when you fall in love, you fall out. When you fall in love, down the line someplace, you fall out because it is not real. It is not based on anything. It is not based on knowing that person. It is based on the fact that you fell in love, and now a better deal is coming along, so you fall out. You fall in love, and then when the tough times come, it is easier to bail out because you never really knew what you loved about that person. How many times have I heard somebody say, "I do not even know why I married him," and I just look and say, "I understand. I know why. I know why because you never knew him." How many times have I heard, "If I knew now about him what I knew then. If I knew now about her the way she was, I would have never married." Well, why did you not find that out? "Well, he told me it was the ex's fault." Oh, okay. We do not take the time to learn. We do not take the time to know.

The next thing is silver. It compounds itself. The first thing you build is gold: getting to know who God is. The next thing is silver, and silver in your Bible is the price of redemption, is it not?

That represents what God did for you and me. Numbers 3:47 and Exodus 30:13 talk about the redemption money. It is silver. In Matthew 26:15, Christ was sold for 30 pieces of silver. In Genesis 37:28, Joseph, the greatest type of Christ in the Old Testament, is sold for 20 pieces of silver. He is a picture of Christ going for you and for me. Oh, there is a good one. There is another one. That is one Mel threw at me. Now Joseph is the type of Christ. Christ was sold for 30 pieces of silver. How come Joseph is only sold for 20? That is one to work on a while. That is one of those ones he threw out back there now that I think about it.

It is a simple fact. We do not do for Him because we have no clue of what He has done for us. A couple of weeks ago on Thursday nights, somebody asked a question tonight about the crucifixion, and I forget where it was at that point and what we were talking about, but I ran you back to the Old Testament and Isaiah and Job and Psalms, and I showed you that the real concept of what Christ did and what He paid on the cross is not found in the Gospels. It is found in the Old Testament. I told you that you could almost systematically walk through the Old Testament, and you could almost find hour by hour His crucifixion laid out for you and find out exactly within that time frame what is going through His mind. You know, we get such a shallow concept of Christ's death on the cross. It means nothing to us anymore, but when you understand those Old Testament passages and you understand the real price of your redemption and you begin to contemplate what Christ did for you.

I am telling you, when you got saved, the only three things you have to build on that is gold, silver. When you get to know who He is and you get to understand every aspect about Him and you get to know who He is, what He is, how He thinks, and then you fall in love with that, and then at the same time, when you get to know that, the next thing you do through finding out who He is, you cannot help but find out what He did for you.

The third one is precious stones, and in the Bible, precious stones will be people. It said in Proverbs 31 that the virtuous woman's price was far above rubies. That is a precious stone. In Song of Solomon, the church is likened to a black pearl. That is a precious stone. In Matthew 13, it was the pearl of great price. That is a precious stone.

Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

God has jewels that are likened to people. Now the standard teaching is on it, and it may be true or may not be true. But in the Bible, we will look at it here a few moments, and one of the crowns you can get is a soul-winning crown. Based on Malachi 3, it has been taught for years and years and years that at the Judgment Seat of Christ, the crown that you get has a jewel in it for every person you ever had an influence and won to Christ. It is incredible. Precious stones,

precious stones are people. Precious stones represent the people that God has put in your life and my life, and that is the format.

You cannot understand who God is. The biblical process of spiritual growth that leads to maturity and millennial inheritance is simply gold. You get saved, lay that foundation, that foundation is Jesus Christ, the day you got saved. The rest of your life you build upon that foundation. Three things:

6. Gold: Getting to know who He is. You cannot get to know who He is without getting to know what He did for you.
7. Silver: There is the silver.
8. Precious Stones: You cannot get to know who He is, what He did for you, without telling somebody else about it. There are the precious stones.

It is a process. That is the simplicity that is in Christ, nothing complicated about it. You give me your life. You take the Bible, the principles in the Bible. You get into a program in your life that is conducive to spiritual growth, and you define some things, and then you build on your foundation: gold. Get to know who He is. Every principle I lay out, everything we talk about, and then find out what He did for you, and then take that and you go tell somebody else what He did. As I have said many, many times, most of God's people are really good at telling other people what God will do for them, but they are not very good at telling other people what God has done for them because they are not doing anything.

V. Building Materials: Wood, Hay, Stubble & The Fire of Judgment

But notice also in verse 12, the three alternatives, the three things that are good that you ought to build in your life are gold, silver, precious stones. Now you have to understand, everybody builds something. The key here is "wise master builder" and "take heed how you build" because you are going to build something one way or the other. One of the greatest things I ever learned about God is there is no neutrality with God. There really is not. There really, we like to pretend there is, but there really is not, and I think that is one of the hardest realities for God's people to grasp, and I do not think most of them ever grasp it.

Sitting here this morning, you are either in fellowship with God or you are totally out of fellowship with God. You are not kind of in fellowship with God. You are either in or you are out. There is no twilight zone, that purgatory thing, that is Catholic, that is not Baptist. You are either in fellowship with Him today or you are out of fellowship with Him this morning, and what determines it is one little concept in the Bible: confessing to Him in 1 John 1:9 and Him forgiving you of your sins. It is just that simple. Jesus said one time, "He that is not with me is against me." I will take that one and work on it for a week, and I know what we like to do. We like to come up with our own interpretation of "with me." Well, that may work for you, but it will not work for Him. His whole concept of "with me" is different than your concept of "with Him." I promise you, there is no middle ground with God. There is no neutrality with God. You are

either building gold, silver, precious stones, or the next part of that verse is you are building wood, hay, and stubble.

You see, wood, that is dead trees. Hay, that is dead grass. Stubble, that is dead wheat. All three of these things are pictures of not only unsaved people but the unsaved world itself in the Bible, and you are either going to build gold, get to know who He is, silver, what He did for you, and precious stones, the people that God is going to put into your life, or you are going to build wood, hay, and stubble. Dead things for dead Christians. Dead things for dead Christians.

Verse 13 says, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day," that is the Day of Jesus Christ, "shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." Now fire in the Bible, of course most of you do know this, fire in the Bible is always a picture of God's judgment. It is the way God purges something. We have a lot of God's people today that have a tough time with the concept of hell. They do not understand why God would even have a hell. We have lost that whole concept, and to me, the concept, when we talk about hell, is a terrible concept, first of all, and I would not wish anybody to go there. The first thing I try to do when I try to talk to people about the hell fire and going to hell and burning in the fire, first thing I try to show them in Matthew 12 is that God never intended for them to be there in the first place. The Bible says that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. God never intended you and me to be there. He never intended any man there. God is not willing that any should perish. We talked about that Thursday night, and this concept of hell, it takes a worse rap than it really is. It is like the fact that God is just, God is a vengeful God, so He is going to torture you down in hell. No, that is not the concept, folks. You have got to get the biblical concept. Fire purges things. Do you not understand that? Fire purges things. One more time. Fire purges things.

At the Judgment Seat of Christ, when your works come up, when you put fire to gold and silver, it just purifies them. It brings the dross to the top, and it purifies them even more than they are already pure. Fire always purges something. Now here is the problem with hell. It is simple. You have inside your body, you have a soul. That soul is eternal. That soul is sinful if you are unsaved, and that soul needs to be purged. When Christ died on the cross, we looked at it a couple of Thursday nights ago, did we not? They brought hell to Him on the cross, did not the devil? Remember in those passages back there where he talks about "my bones were burnt black with heat"? You think it was just too close to the fire? Where it talked about "my bowels were boiled." When He looked at His Father and He cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" When He cried out, "I thirst." Those are things a man in hell says. You know what He did on the cross? He took on His body the purging of your soul.

Now understand this, this is very important. When He was on the cross, His death on the cross, and Him going to hell on the cross for you, was the purging of your soul. Once you ask Christ to come into your heart and save you, He takes His death and He purges your sinful soul, and your soul now has been purged by His fire on the cross. Stay with me. You do not get saved. What is God going to do? When your body is gone and you have a spiritual body that is your soul, that thing is eternal. Your soul is not going to die and go away someday. Your soul is eternal. So what has God got to do? What has God got to do to keep that sinful soul from polluting everything out

there in His future plan? You know what He has to do? He has to do it. It demands being done. He has a lake of fire. That lake of fire is eternal. It is eternal fire. You know why He has to have eternal fire? Because He has an eternal soul, and that eternal soul has to be purged. But there is only one way it can be purged now, and that is to be purged eternally because it can never be purged. So He puts it in an eternal soul, an eternal fire, and it burns for eternity because that is the only way God can purge something that can never be purged. It is just simple. He is not somebody up there saying, "Ah, how can I throw in hell today?" No, no, no. He died on the cross so you would not have to go. He died on the cross and took the fire that you were deserving for you and put it on His own soul so it would not have to transpass to you. But when you reject that, your soul is eternal. He is not going to let you float out all through eternity and cause the problems that were caused back then. Not this time. So He takes an eternal soul, puts it in an eternal fire for an eternal purging.

I told you last week that that fire at the Judgment Seat of Christ is going to try your works and my works. That is the same fire that burns in hell. That is the same fire of God's judgment. God is going to try our works, and the Bible says "of what sort it is." He is going to sort it out. I told you earlier you do not get any reward for reading your Bible, winning people to Christ, building churches. What you get rewards for is not what you do. What your rewards are based on is why you did it. He is not going to ask me how many people I won to Christ. He is going to ask me why I won them to Christ. He is not going to ask me, "Did I build a nice church?" He is going to ask me why I built it. He is not going to ask you what you did, He is going to ask you why you did it. Motive, attitude of heart. There are going to be men who have built churches that are monstrosities, who have won more people to Christ, and all the things they did, they are going to lose everything at the Judgment Seat of Christ. You know why? Because they did it for the wrong motive of what sort it is, and the fire is going to try every man's work. It is going to purge what you did, and if it is not gold, silver, and precious stones, if it is wood, hay, and stubble, the fire of God's judgment is going to just take that thing.

Next week I am going to talk to you about the Judgment Seat of Christ as the terror of the Lord. We are going to see the bottom line of where this thing goes, and then a week after that, I am going to come back and show you, it will give you all the answers, the six questions you are going to have to answer at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

VI. The Example of Lot

You see, the great example of this is back in your Old Testament in Genesis 19, if you do not know that, and it is a picture of a saved man that the fire takes everything he has, and his name is Lot.

And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

Picture of any most Christian today. The Bible says he vexed his soul with the filthy conversation of this world. You know the story? He is a picture of a saved man. God was going to wipe out Sodom and Gomorrah, but He went down to get Lot out because Lot, the Bible says, was a righteous man. I do not know how he was righteous, but God saw him as righteous and went down to get him, and God got him out when the hell came down and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with a brimstone and the fire, just like the lake of fire. Lot got taken out, but look what he lost. He lost his home. He lost half his family. He lost everything he had. He lost his possessions. He lost his wife. He has two daughters left, and yet what happens to that? He goes into a cave, and they have incest, and he has two children: Ammon and Moab, who down through the history of the nation of Israel become Israel's greatest enemies.

You know what that is a picture of? That is a picture of your life and my life at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and the Bible says, and I talked about it, that He will visit the iniquity of the fathers to the third and fourth generation. It did not stop with Lot. Lot never broke the circle. Lot is a great example that changing geographical locations does not solve your problems. Somebody gets mad and goes to another church and says, "Well, I do not like that church." You did not solve anything. That story is a great story that tells you the problem was not getting Lot out of Sodom. The problem was getting Sodom out of Lot. That is our problem.