

Revelation 3:7-20

Sunday 3/27/2011

Let us do it this coming Saturday, the 2nd. Quicker the better, I think. Amen. We will get her done. Get in here and have fun. We are going to learn about the ministry. Ask any questions you want to ask. Come on in. We will have a good time. Looking forward to it.

If you have your Bibles this morning, do not turn anywhere yet. We are going to be moving through the Bible today talking about some things. As you know, we have been coming through every book of the Bible and basically have been dealing with Christ and how Christ is portrayed in that individual book. I think there is a lot of value in learning those things because the whole Bible is centered around who Christ is. Each book portrays Christ in a different light. I think it is important for you in putting your Bible together that you get that information. Obviously, when we start through those, we have to deal with other issues that come up that I think are really important for you to learn.

We got to the book of Acts. We just kind of cleared off a spot. We have so many new Christians and new people in our church that really have a desire to learn the Bible. As I told you before, I have probably spent more time in the last eight years of our church here with Acts than I have any other book, just helping you get the material that you need because Acts is such an absolutely vital book for you to have. The book of Acts is really the right place for us to do what we are going to do today.

I told you last week that since we have been talking about the Bible in the book of Acts, we have laid out all the different aspects of it. We now know, we showed you how Bible Christianity has really messed itself completely up. We talked about the three families of manuscripts. We talked about all of the things in the book of Acts that really show you why Acts is so important, how the book of Acts defines everything that you are going to get into in church history. I showed you how, why that in the Old Testament you have the historical book first, which is Genesis, and then you have four history books. Then I showed you in the New Testament you have the four history books first, then you have the defining book for the New Testament, the book of Acts. We talked about why. You should know now, if you have been coming the last couple of weeks or the last month or so, you should understand to a better degree why this church stands on the things that it stands on without any compromise or any apology.

I told you that this is the right place to do this. This morning I am going to reach way back into a series of sermons that I did many, many, many years ago. I am going to try to put them all together in one today that will help you understand. I want to preach you a message on the seven things that you lose when you lose your Bible. I think that it is something that you absolutely need to be aware of and made aware of today because of the times that we face.

I. The King James Bible and Its True Proof

If you already know that this year is commonly called the birthday of the King James Bible. I look at things like that and I understand why they do what they do on those things, but I do not get too excited about that. I think that when you say that 400 years ago, this is 400 years later,

this today is the birthday of the King James Bible, that may be true in a sense, but I also know it is not true because that King James Bible was around long before King James decided to do something with it. I think sometimes when you get caught into that trap, then you fall into it when they tell you, "Well, what did they use before the King James Bible?" Just because it was not called the King James Bible does not mean that book was not around before 400 years ago.

Some dear person, and I love when you do this, somebody gave me this today. I guess this was in the newspaper about a pastor over here someplace in Illinois, Pastor Huff, and they are a King James Bible Church. There is an article in here today. Was this today's paper? Two days ago? It says, "King James, some say it is non-negotiable." It is a pretty good article, but again, it lends itself to trying to prove the King James Bible is the Word of God and why some pastors and what they say in here that there is only a thousand churches out of all of the churches in this country that still believe the King James Bible is the Word of God. And down through there, it talks about how that they celebrate this. I always love when people do this. I am just going to read a quick quote from it.

It says here that, "As it heads into another century, the King James arguments are being heralded around the world. Through the Easter season, actors recite every word from Genesis through Revelation in London's Globe Theater. Celebrations are scheduled in the hometown of the 47 British translators who produced the work. Winston Churchill called it a masterpiece, and George Bernard Shaw saluted it as magnificent." Now when you start to read stuff like that, it sounds impressive. Let me tell you something. George Bernard Shaw was the biggest practical atheist the world ever saw. George Bernard Shaw died and lived to be about 98 years of age. His famous quote is that somebody asked him about his Bible. And he may have thought in a literary sense that it was a great masterpiece. And that is what you have got to be careful of. He may have thought in a literary style it was written, in English it is written in, it is a masterpiece of literature. George Bernard Shaw busted hell wide open and is screaming his lungs out for water this morning. That is what God's Word did for him. It did absolutely nothing.

Winston Churchill, Billy Graham asked Winston Churchill one time if he believed in God. Winston Churchill said, back to Billy Graham, he said, "Do you really believe that God is interested in the history of men?" And that bird had just written four volumes on English history. And he could not see the hand of God in his own country where that Bible came from. So I am not impressed with things like this. I wish you had given them to me and I always put them in my file and keep them. But the bottom line is the greatest proof that the King James Bible is the Word of God is not what somebody writes in a Kansas City Red Star. The greatest proof of the King James Bible being the Word of God is not what Winston Churchill thought of it or what George Bernard Shaw thought of it or what anybody thinks of it. The greatest proof that the King James Bible is the Word of God is the transformed lives that you find down through history that transform people from darkness to light, going to hell to go into heaven and gave them the truth of God's Word that helped them figure out what is going on on this planet. Now that is where it is at.

And I have come down through here and I have showed you many, many things. And the devil knows much better than I do that when you lose your Bible, you have lost God and everything

about God. I showed you how that the nation of Israel did the exact same thing. Last week I showed you how that by the time they go into captivity and by the time Christ shows up and certainly today they are just a former shell of what they once were. They represent absolutely nothing. They are not even a former image or a shadow of what they once were when God was doing great things with them. I showed you how that Bible Christianity has done the exact same thing. We have everything Christian today and everything spiritual today, but we have nothing scriptural. We have nothing biblical because we have lost our Bible. And when you lose your Bible, you enter into what Proverbs 22 and 23 tells us is we enter into the fields of the fatherless. We then enter into a world, into a life where we are at today as Christians and America certainly at it, that they have no roots. They have no understanding where they have come from. They have no passion, no purpose, no perspective, no nothing. What God has done is God has slammed the door shut to the churches today and that is why men do not have any purpose and perspective in what they are trying to do.

II. Doors in the Bible: Opportunities and Judgment

Now before I get into this, and I must confess to you, this is going to be a little rough today. Not that it is not rough every Sunday, but some days are easier than others, but this is not a good subject to open the gate and let me out on. I am going to give you a much better day if Manual Cleaver was preaching this message, but that is not going to happen either.

Let me set it down and give you a kind of a context here. There are different studies you can take in the Bible. Doors in the Bible are one of the greatest things that you can study. I do not know if you have ever taken a study on it, but it is a great study because doors in the Bible represent some things. Doors in the Bible represent opportunities. And you are going to find that almost every time you find a door in the Bible, it is representing something that God is trying to do.

I think the first time you probably find it is back in Genesis 7:16 with Noah. There is a great story. Noah was told to build an ark. That Bible says that that ark had windows in it and that ark had a door in the side. And when that door was an opportunity, because God's judgment was going to fall. God kept that door open 120 years. For 120 years, people had a choice to get in that ark. Only 8 people got in. But the whole world for 120 years. He tells you right there in Genesis. He says, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." And he says 120 years before God brings that judgment. And for 120 years, that door in the side of that ark was open that somebody could get in. And then there came a day when God shut that door. And when God shut that door, you could not get in if your life depended on it. You could not get that door open if you had an atomic bomb. You know why? Because when God opens a door, this is very important. We get a little farther down the line in this message. When God opens a door, no man can shut it. And when God shuts the door, no man can open it. And you better learn that lesson today.

The Bible is a great book and all of these things are pictures. You know that ark back there in Genesis 6? You know that is a picture of Christ? You realize that those people going in were not Jews, they were Gentiles? You know what you have got in Genesis 6, 7, 8, 9? You have got a picture of New Testament Christianity. That ark is a picture of Christ. You know how those people got in? They got in through a hole in the side of that ark. You know how you and I got in

Christ? We got in through a hole in His side by a Roman spear that killed Him that put us into the body of Christ. Somebody said one time, "Well, I think the church is going through the tribulation." I said, "I think you are nuts." I would not have to have any other place in the Bible, though there are plenty other places in the Bible, other than Genesis 6, 7, and 8. Bible says, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of Man." You are already told that the flood back there in the Old Testament, the timing of all that is a picture of God dealing with Israel in the tribulation period. That book already showed you that that judgment in Genesis 6 is a picture of God's judgment on this earth in the tribulation period. And there are a bunch of Gentiles that get in an ark that is a type of Christ through a hole in the side that saved them from going through that great time of God's judgment. I do not need no rocket science to figure out that this church is not going through the tribulation. You say, "Well, our church is." That is because your church is unsaved. Unsaved people are going to go through it.

The doors in the Bible are very important. They represent opportunities. Back in Exodus 12:7, you know the story back there. They were down in Egypt. They were down in bondage. That is a picture of an unsaved man. And they were told to kill a lamb, a picture of Christ, take the blood of that lamb, which washes away your sin, and put that blood on the door post, that door. Because God was going to take them out of Egypt. And they went out through the blood and the blood was put on a door. You know what happened? If they did not put the blood on, the death angel came that night. You could not run out once he knocked on your door. He killed the first boy in your family. The bottom line is that blood on the door was an opportunity for them to get out of Egypt. And God put the blood on the cross of His Son and it is an opportunity for you to get out from this world if you want it.

John 10. John 10:1, 3-5 is a great study. There is a door up there in the third heaven. You may not know that. You may not believe that. Whatever. There is a door up there in the third heaven. In John 10:1-2 it talks about somebody going up into that door. There is a porter up there that opens that door, lets him in, and then opens that door and he comes back. The man going up and coming back is Christ. And at the first coming of Christ, that door is open. He comes down and then he goes back up. That is chapter 1, 2, and that is where he is at today. When you and I get raptured out, that door is going to be open and we are going to go up through that door. Why scientists have talked about for years and years and years about parallel universes, about wormwood doors or doors that open up from one universe to the other. And they cannot even figure it out that God talks about it in John 10 because they do not believe the Bible.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 2:12, "Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord." Doors are opportunities. Paul said in Colossians 4:3, "Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ." Doors in the Bible always represent opportunities.

I will give you an example. We see it around here all the time. Anna is not here today. She is down in Wichita. But Anna's grandmother died this last week and they had the funeral on Thursday and she was Catholic and it was a Catholic funeral. And some of you folks were there at that funeral and she got to the place where she was sitting there with her mother and her mother has been to our church a couple of times, came New Year's Eve to hear Anna's testimony.

And her mother does not believe in God or did not. She is starting to come around and Anna has done a great opportunity witnessing to her. And so they are sitting there and they are passing out this piece of paper that all Catholics pass out. Just go through all this stuff with the mass of the dead and all that stuff they do. Anna is just looking at it and everybody is reciting it and Anna will not recite it. And her mother reached over to her and she says, "You are not reciting that." She says, "I know." And her mother looks back and says, "It is not right, is it?" Now, there is an opportunity for you. There is a great opportunity for you. And sometimes God will give you those opportunities. That is what it is. We are so out of touch with the Holy Spirit of God, we think the way we witness is just kick the door down, go in with a shotgun and shoot everybody inside. And that is not the way it works. You go over there and you call through the Bible. God gives you a door of opportunity. It is your job to be prayed up in the book, following the Holy Spirit of God and recognize the door when God opens it. Not your job or my job to have a battering ram and knock it down. God will open the door for you and give it to you.

We have got another guy, he works on Saturday, John Wolf. John is a great guy, loves the Lord, and his wife, Sybil. They are great kids. And he works for the post office and he works that shift where his days off are Thursday and Friday or Wednesday or Thursday. I am not sure what it is. But John, he is a missionary there at the post office. He is bringing two guys to Bible study. And about three or four weeks ago, a guy came to Bible study and raised his hand and was not saved. He is the kid that would not move, would not get saved. And so I just let the thing go. And about three or four days later, the guy called me on the phone. He said, "I was embarrassed." He said, "I was afraid to raise my hand." I said, "Do not be about that, man. It is okay." And he said, "But I would like to tie it up about being saved." And I said, "I will tell you what, this Thursday night, you come and meet with me. I will meet you here at 6 o'clock and we will open the Bible. You can ask any question you want." He got saved. And then he says this, "My wife is in the same boat I am. She has got questions about salvation. She wants to know if she can come and talk to you." Now where did that start? It all started because one guy working at a post office at a mail sorting machine, waited for God to give him the open door, the opportunity, and he took it. When you and I kick the door down, it hardly ever works out. When you wait for God to open the door, it always works out. It is just that simple. It is just that simple.

III. The Philadelphia and Laodicean Churches

Now in our study of seven things you lose when you lose your Bible and putting a timeframe to it where you can grasp it. We need to know that thing about the door. And then we need to look at something else. I want you to turn over to Revelation 1, 2, and 3. Let us go to 3. We will just go to 3. And I want to talk to you some things here about doors. Because once you understand that a door in the Bible is an opportunity, then I am going to show you some things about doors and Christianity. And I am going to show you what is wrong with 20th century and 21st century Christianity. And I am going to show you what you lose when you lose your Bible.

Revelation 1, 2, and 3 is pretty simple. We have been around it before. Probably the second most time we spend time in the Bible is the book of Revelation. You and I know that the book of Revelation is kind of an overview of the two church history going into the Tribulation, going into

the Second Coming, going into the Millennium, going into eternity. We know in chapter 1, 2, and 3 you have seven churches that he addresses. And those seven churches represent for us the seven periods of church history. They start with the church at Ephesus. That is where we were in Acts when we ended last week, Acts 20. That is church history proper like I told you. And then it comes up through seven churches. They are listed on our chart over there. And then you have the Philadelphia church, which is the church that your King James Bible comes out in. It starts around 1600 to about 1900. And then the last church is called the church of Laodicea. The word Laodicea means rights of the people, justice of the people. And I want you to see, to understand where we are going here, you need to understand one of the greatest contrasts in the Bible. And I am talking about a contrast between the Philadelphia church and the Laodicean church. And then what we will learn from it and we will move from there.

If you have your Bibles, turn to Revelation 3:7. Let us look at the Philadelphia church here. By the way, Philadelphia means brotherly love.

Revelation 3:7-8

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Now this is called the church of the open door. In the old days, and the churches are around to still have these names, but if you ask the average person in there why they do it, they would not know it, but done 80 years ago. A lot of Baptist churches were called Open Door Baptist Church. There are still some around town. They would not understand why they are called Open Door if their life depended on it. You find some churches around town are called Antioch Baptist. That is a good name for a church. You know why? Because they are first called Christians in Antioch, and that is where we know now from the book of Acts we get our roots that bring us all the way through. But you know what? They are not interested in, they would not know why this is called Antioch Baptist. They would just say, "Well, I do not know, it was that way when I got here." They would not have a clue. We call ourselves Old Path Baptist Church. You will not forget why we call that. It comes out of the Old Testament in Jeremiah. In the Old Testament in Jeremiah it talks about that God tells the nation of Israel to get back on the old paths. That is where we are at. That is why we believe the book we believe. That is why we hold to what we hold, and that is why we preach the way we preach.

Now this church down here, he says, it will represent the church from 1600 to 1900 in church history. I want you to notice that it has got a key, keys open doors. And you are going to find that that key there is called the key of David. And it says down there, "thou hast little strength," and the reason why they got this key is because they have kept my word and not denied my name. This church is the church of great opportunity. This church has an open door church. This church because they kept the Bible, they had the Bible. Now see, this is what makes the King James Bible the book that it is. Not somebody writing in the Kansas City Star about it and everybody

thinks about it. I could give a flip what you think about it. It is the greatest book this world has ever seen because it is God's book. It is the greatest book this world has ever seen because any church that has it, God will give them an open door. And when you have that open door, then you have the opportunities.

Now I need to pause here for a minute and just say this too so we do not get the wrong impression. Because the church has the King James Bible, it is the King James Bible, it does not mean it is a good church. Some of the biggest idiots I know in my life believe the King James Bible is the Word of God. It is not about the fact that you got it. It is not about the fact that you say we believe it. It is about the fact that when it comes down to your ministry and it comes down to your personal life, do you follow it? I can put on a space suit that can make me an astronaut. So I am going up through all this here pretty quick and I will not need a space suit then when I go.

Now he says, and this is the key, "I have set before thee an open door and no man can open it and no man can shut it because thou hast little strength." That is the place the church really needs to be. I will tell you a biggest problem in Bible Christianity, churches are too big with too much power, too much strength. Now you all probably figured this out already but in the next three or four years we are all going to get killed. We are all going to get clobbered. This whole country is going down a tube so fast it is unbelievable. This whole country is just about ready to self-destruct. But you see people never learn the lessons of history. They have never been a country on planet earth that survived 200 years after they dumped the Word of God. Never has been. Any country on this planet that dumped God's Word never survived 200 years without it going into the ash heap and being part of history and being absolutely nothing at this point. And that is where America is at. America dumped the book in 1888 and we are fast moving around those lines.

And I think that the church is the best when it is at its best when it has little strength. You are at the best of your ability with God when you are out of control and God is totally in control and you are at your weakest. You see we like to think we are at our best when we are the strongest but in reality we are at our best when we are at our weakest. Because I believe when we get to the judgment seat of Christ there will be things that we will lose rewards on simply because we were too strong and did it ourselves that will be in weak letting God do it for us. So I think the church is going to get a great awakening of weakness where we have to go back to depending on God. You know what you are going to find then? You are going to find out who really loves that book and who really does not. I think it is a good thing myself. I think it is a very good thing. He says, "thou hast set before thee an open door and no man can open it, no man can shut it. Thou hast little strength" and then he says this, "thou hast kept my word and not denied my name." In Revelation 1:13 says that his name is called the Word of God. So you begin to see some things here.

And then the contrasting church that will be in Revelation 3:14-20. This will be the church of Laodicea. I will read it in verse 14.

Revelation 3:14-20

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Now look at this church. This will be the church that comes on the scene from 1900 to about 2000 where we are at today, 2011 up to the rapture of the church. This is what we today, our biggest struggle will be to avoid the apathy of this church period. I want you to look at this, the key verse here is verse 20. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock." This is Jesus now. "If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come into him and will sup with him and he with me." Now sup is the old English word for supper, something to eat, fellowship at the table. They used to sing a song, "Come and dine the Master calls, come and dine. You can feast at Jesus' table anytime." But you cannot do that anymore because in this church here, if you look very carefully, this is a contrast, the church of the open door, this is the church of the closed door. On this church, the door is closed. Not only is it closed, Jesus is locked out of His own church, knocking on the door, trying to get back in and He says, "if any man hear my what?" His Word of God. You see that thing? That is the church you are up against today. This church has the closed, God has closed the door. It is closed and it has put Jesus on the outside of the church and He is trying to get back in. The only place in the Bible where this happens. And this church has no opportunities. That is why it has to conjure up all the great things that the church does today. That is why it has got to have great buildings. That is why it has got to put in Starbucks and McDonald's, have gymnasiums and all the things that go along with it. That is why it has got to have all the things that make it a little world that attracts people. Because they do not have the Bible. They do not have God's power. They do not have the thing because God slammed the door shut. When He shuts it, no man opens it.

Now you know, back in the 60s and the 70s, it was my day when I was putting all this stuff together as a young man and I was being taught and trained the Bible. We all thought that the Laodicean church, because this was 70, this was almost over 40 years ago. We thought that the Laodicean church back then was all the Protestant churches because in truth they had come out of the Reformation. They got strong, got the right book, got going for the Lord. But then they all went back in. That would be your Lutheran, your Methodist, your Presbyterian and all those groups. And back in the 60s, late 60s and the 70s, we all thought in Christianity that that was

talking about that. We had no idea. We had absolutely no idea that Baptist churches were going to throw out God and the Bible the way that they did.

Now I am not going to preach on everybody else today. I am a Baptist and I will preach in my own backyard and I will preach to the Baptist. So if you are a Baptist here this morning or you go to a Baptist church then you will fit right in. I am talking about my heritage today and I have a right to say something about it. I have been with it for 40 some years now. So I earned a right to say a little bit about it and I am going to say it today. I have been kept quiet about it, have not said a lot about it, but Katie barred the door, look out brother and say, "I do not like the way you talk." Well, you are going to like it less before I get through, but that is where we are going today.

This church has closed the door and put Christ on the outside. He is knocking at the door trying to get back in. I told you, I thought back then we all thought it was the Protestant system, but no. It is the remnant church. It is us. It is the churches who once stood for the Word of God that now do not stand for the Word of God at all. I actually lived, and I have told you this before, through the time period of watching that transition. My home church, Canton Baptist Temple, was a church that was founded on the King James Bible. Harold Henniger was one of J. Frank Norris' boys. He believed that Bible when he started out. But by the time I got there in the late 60s and the early 70s, and all the apostasy began to creep in and all the influences from places like Bob Jones University, Baptist Bible College, Tennessee Temple, all those places, and these scholars began to take the Bible apart, and they started sending their kids down there. It came back with their faith destroyed in the Word of God, and suddenly, slowly, by the time I left in 1976, it was absolutely on its way, and today they do not believe they have an absolute infallible book in their hand. Ghetto, Landmark Baptist Church, Akron Baptist Temple, you just go around this country. The churches that 35, 40 years ago believed they had a book do not believe it anymore, and that is why they all went down the tubes, and they are struggling. In Baptist Temple, in my heyday was running 5,000 people. When I was there last fall, visiting my mom, went to church with my sister, they have got about 900 people there. In an auditorium that holds 3,500 people.

And you have heard me say it many, many times. My job and goal is one thing as a pastor overall, and I make no apology for this, and that is to build a Philadelphian church within the Laodicean church period. Now I have come to think that that was a snappy thing to say years ago, but I have come to believe now in the last 9, 10 years of my life that that is really hard if it is not impossible. Because I did not take into account that to build a Philadelphian church, you have got to have Philadelphian Christians. And trying to build a church today for God, Philadelphian, that would open door with a lot of closed door Christians is kind of tough. He says about these Christians that they are neither cold nor hot. You see, they are not in apostasy, but they are not on fire. They are lukewarm. Oh, they go to church, and they carry a Bible, and they pray before they eat. They do all the things outwardly, but there is just no power in their life. They cannot stand for anything. Bible says they are wretched. That means the church is sin-ridden. They are miserable. That means it is a Prozac Christianity. It talks about the fact that they are poor. They are spiritually poor. They have not built any gold, silver, and precious stones on their foundation. The Bible says here that they are blind. They are spiritually blind. And they are

naked. And that is a reference to the judgment seat of Christ. Five things there, five being the number of death for dead Christians.

Now I need to explain this message here because there are two sides to it before I get into it here. And the first side is you can take this and apply it to Bible Christianity that has departed from the Word of God. We are going to talk a lot about that. But you also can take it to God's people who claim to have the King James Bible, have the right Word of God, but really never do anything with it. In my mind, there is no difference between the two. Just because you have got the right Bible in your lap, you think that means something. It does not mean anything if it is not daily transforming your life and God giving you the opportunities. In both cases, they do not really believe it. In both cases, they have dumped the book. And it is one of those things where it is all down through history, you see that thing play itself out. So we are going to come at it from two angles. But I want to begin talking to you now about the seven things. The seven things, we have got a good introduction, a good foundation here. The contrast of, you understand doors, open door, contrast of two churches. And I want to show you what happens when God slams the door in your life as a Christian or in any church or any denomination, however you want to put it, when you dump the book, you lose seven things. And these seven things are an absolute disaster in your life and is what brought Christianity to the place it is in. And these will be the answers that some of you are looking for.

IV. The First Two Losses: No Perfecting, No Furnishings, and No Work of God

Now the first place we are going to go is found over there in 2 Timothy 3, a very familiar passage.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Now the first thing that you find there is two different aspects and they work together. You lose your Bible and that Bible says that God gave it to you, it is inspired of God and it is profitable. And it is profitable for some things and at the end of the day it will perfect you for the work of God and it will furnish you with all good works. Now those two things work together. And when you lose your Bible, the first thing you lose is:

1. No perfecting in your life.
2. No furnishings in your life.

We are going to talk about this. I am asked the question all the time. Can you get saved with any other Bible than the King James Bible? Of course you can. I can lead somebody to Christ without a Bible. Can you get saved with a new Bible? Sure you can. But what you cannot do, what you cannot do, what is absolutely impossible to do is to grow beyond spiritual infancy with these new Bibles. You just cannot. I told somebody this last week, we were talking about it when

somebody came over for their own time in the Word of God together. And I told him, I said, "The devil is not stupid. The devil, he never thinks short term, he always thinks long term." If you want to see how the devil works and how the devil's plan lays out, he never looks at short term. That is one of the mistakes that we make as human beings and you have to correct when it comes to the Bible. God never looks at short term. God always looks at long term. And we get so localized with where we are at in our own world and all the things around us, we just take the opposite approach. So we look short term and always miss the long term. When the devil came to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3, he was not looking for the short term. He was looking to damn and doom all mankind. He was after the long term. When Christ came down and died on the cross, he was not looking at short term. He was looking at long term being the price to pay for everybody down through history that could get into heaven because of his death on the cross. And the devil just looks at it that way. You see, the devil does not mind if you can get saved with an NIV because this is what the devil knows. He knows that down the line, five or six generations, that you will be such a watered down milk toast, lukewarm Christianity that you will not stand for anything. He knows it 30 years, 40 years after you accept that, bring it into your life and raise five or six generations of preachers with no absolute, with no perfecting, with no furnishings, with nothing that gives them any moral compass of standing for truth that Christianity will be an absolute zero. Boy, has it happened.

What takes over when you do not have truth? Your feelings. Now it is what you feel about it. Now it is what you think about it. Now it is how you perceive it. When you lose the Bible, you lose the Bible with the Bible says it is most profitable for. Doctrine. Paul uses doctrine 21 times in his writings. In an NIV, they take it out 14 times. They take it out completely, except 14 times. And it is absolutely, they change it 14 times. They completely destroy the cross references. They tell you it means teaching. Doctrine does not mean teaching. Doctrine means to teach. The Bible has a specific doctrinal teaching that God wants you to follow about every subject in life. You just make it teaching. It can be anything. And of course, that is why we have churches today that do not want any doctrine. You do not have an absolute standard. And a book that will be your final authority in life, you will never grow. You cannot grow. It is impossible to grow because your growing depends on sound doctrine which God uses to perfect you and to furnish you.

I read an article the other day that everybody was emailing me and sending me copies of it. I am sure most of you have seen it now. It is about the new book that came out called Love Wins. And it is put out by a guy named Rob Bell. And the article was built around a pastor that was a Methodist or somebody down someplace south and he read this book and he took the position that there is no hell anymore and he got fired. And he ought to be fired. But the bottom line is, let me tell you something. Forty years ago when I was getting into this, the only one that did not believe in hell were Jehovah Witnesses. Everybody else believed in it. Hell was a doctrine. Hell was not negotiable. It was not something that you would ever question and think about. The only ones who did not believe in it were the cults like the Jehovah Witnesses and some of the other ones in the Unity and all of those groups. Anybody who was anything to do with mainline denominationalism understood the concept of hell. Do you see what has happened? And it says in the article that this book is revolutionizing the evangelical that is causing, it is giving pastors time to pause and think. Well, I have got a book that does not have to worry about me pausing

and thinking because it lays it out exactly what it is. But when you lose this book, then you have got to go to that guy's book.

It all tell you when it started. It started with that idiot Rick Warren when he wrote that book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. The year he came out with that book, it showed up to that point the Bible had been the best seller every year. Now, maybe you went out and bought a book. That is fine. I did not go buy one, but it was because it was a choice between the *Battle of the Bulge* and his book and I just took the *Battle of the Bulge*. That is my choice. I only had so much money. Bottom line is this. If you got it, good. I am glad. But that book when it came out, that was the first year the Bible lost in record sales of being the number one book bought. And you know why? Somebody, a pastor asked me, he says one time I was with a group of pastors and they were talking around and he looked at me with the highest look and he says, "Have you read the new book by Rick Warren? Have you read a new book, *The Purpose Driven Life*?" And I said, "Yeah, I read it." He said, "Well, it was not one of the greatest books." I say, "Yeah, it is one of the greatest books to come out." He said, "When did you read it this year?" I said, "No, I read it when I got saved 30 years ago." He said, "Well, it just came out last year." This is the greatest book on *The Purpose Driven Life* right here. Amen. But you know what that tells me? When you think a book a man writes will give you better purpose and direction in life than a book God writes, it is getting late. It is time to go home, folks. It is getting late. But that is where we are at today. When you do not have this, you have got to rewrite things. That is the way it works.

In that Old Testament, there were seven pieces of furniture. Each of them means something. There was the brazen altar. There was a laver of water. There was a seven-pronged candlestick. There was the showbread on the table. There was the altar of incense. And there was a holy of holies. And there was the ark. Those seven pieces of furniture in that Old Testament tabernacle, that Old Testament temple, the Bible says in the New Testament, your body is the temple. Those are the furnishings. Each one of those seven things means something in your life, and they need to be furnished and built in your life for you to grow spiritually. And you do not have those things, then you are not going anywhere. And you might get saved, but the devil knows that Christianity is in the mess that it is in today because we have had four or five generations of God's people and preachers and seminaries who have provoked a book that has no perfecting to it. It has no furnishings to it. And you might be able to get saved by it, but you will be a baby Christian 30 years later and beyond because you cannot grow with it. And the devil would just love to have Christianity filled with baby Christians, and that is where we are at today. That is why at any time everybody says anything, everybody's head turns, everybody thinks, "Ooh." That is why when *The Da Vinci Code* came out and all that stuff and somebody talked about the gospel of Judas that he was not a bad guy, everybody went, "Ooh." Bible believer just said, "Yeah, right."

Now I talked about the second thing. The second thing is found in 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Now that is a great verse. That Bible says that if you lose the word of God, then you do not have any work of God doing anything in you because God effectually working in you depends on what you do with that book and no working of God in your life when you lose that Bible. Revelation 3:15 says, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot."

A great verse in your Bible is Philippians 1:6, and it says this.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

God saved you for a purpose. God saved you because He has got a work that He wants to do through you. Listen to me very carefully. He saved you not just to go to heaven. He saved you not just to take away your sins. He did all that because He had a purpose, and He started a work in you the day you got saved. And the only way that you will perform that work for God is by the book working through you. No book, no work. It is a process of your spiritual growth of that book working in you as you learn that book.

At the judgment seat of Christ in 1 Corinthians 3:13, it says when we stand before Him in that day, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." For the day shall declare it. He is going to bring you and me up there at the judgment seat of Christ. He is going to go back to the day you and I got saved. He is going to put that thing on the screen just like these churches like big movie screens waiting to see the one He has got. He is going to show the day you and I got saved. He is going to lay that thing out. He is going to show us the work that He had for us, the work that He started, and the book that He gave us to finish and do that work. I am never going to find out why we did not get the work done. That work will not get done without the book.

He says in Ephesians 4:12, that He gave the church, the leadership of the church, "for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." He said in Galatians 6:4, that "every man prove his own work." He said in Philippians 2:12, to "work out your own salvation." That does not mean you work out how to get saved. It means that salvation is more than just the day you got saved. Salvation is a state that you live in the rest of your life. After you get saved, you work out the issues to get the work done that God has saved you and called you and began in you the day you got saved. We will never get it done.

2 Timothy 2:20-21

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

You see, when you get saved, whenever it was, maybe it was just last week, maybe it was a month ago, maybe it was five years ago, maybe it was last year, maybe it was 30 years ago, when you got saved, God started a work in you that day. And the only way that work gets done, the only way that work effectively gets done is the Word of God, effectively working in you and God defining everything in your life and making it clear what that work is.

Now I cannot preach to you on this one any farther, I have to preach to me. The old boys in the old days used to define it two different ways. They used to call it a work for God or a work of God. They used to say that most churches are works for God. But you do not want to work for God, they used to say. You want a work that is of God. And that is the difference. That is the difference between the church of the open door and the church of the closed door. The church of the closed door is a work for God. You do everything for God. You have God in your mind, so you do it for Him. But the church of the open door is not a church for God, it is a work of God. And God comes down and does the work of this church in everybody today in your heart starting the day you got saved. And the only way you get to that end is by that book right there.

I would say this because I cannot preach this to you or preach it to me. This church, good or bad? This church, good or bad? Is nothing more than the extension of the work God started in me 40 years ago. This work, good or bad? It is irrelevant. This church, good or bad? Is all I have to show for the work God started in me 40 years ago and what He did for me and where I am at today in my life? This is the only thing I have to show. This is all that it is. This church, good or bad, is nothing more than the extension of the work God started in one guy 40 years ago.

I was in a church one time years ago, had multiple pastors on staff, and I was pretty high up in the food chain. So we had an older guy there that was a good guy, and he loved the book, and he loved the Lord. And some of the deacons did not like him. Because he was a crusty old guy, and he kind of told them like it was. And they did not like it. And so I had to, they wanted to get rid of him. So the big dog told me to sit down and try to work the thing out, and I did not like these guys anyhow because I like this old guy. And I just liked him because he was not afraid to say what he thought needed to be said. And I was sitting in there, and they went after him, about four or five of the most pious, gas-bag deacons you ever saw in your life. And I was sitting down there, and I was watching them. And they were going after him. And they were saying, "I do not like this is what you do." And somebody else said, "I do not like what you are doing." Somebody else had enough guts to say, "I do not like you." And somebody else said, "I do not think your ministry fits into this thing, and I do not think, da-da-da-da-da-da-da." And finally, after they were done ragging on him for a while, and the guy looked like he was getting beat up, and he probably thought I was going to side with them because that is the way it goes in these situations. He got a pleasant surprise. They said, "What do you think, Bob?" And I said, "Let me tell you what I think." I said, "I think that guy had been in the ministry 40 years." I said, "I know personally about 200 kids and people he put in the ministry." I said, "That man sits here today in front of you, you are accusing him. And that man, God started a work in his life 40, 50, 60-some years ago. And he sits before you today with all that God has done in his life and his world and the people he has touched and the ministries he has been involved in, and that is the extent of his. Tell me what any of you guys have done. I know you, pal, been saved for 20 years. You were

here when I got here. I know you have been saved for 30 years. You brag about it all the time. You could take all of you collectively and what God has done with you, and you could not come up with what God has done with him. And yet, you want to judge this guy?" I said, "His spirituality and his gunpowder, you guys would not have enough to blow your nose." I said, "Who are you to criticize this guy who obviously God started a work and did something and here he is with what he has done. You have done nothing and you want to criticize him." They did not like it. God's people are the weirdest people on this planet.

Ask yourself, how long you have been saved? 15 years, 20 years, 30 years, what do you have got to show for it? What do you have got to show for it? God started a work in you. God started a work in you. And where is it at today? And you young Christian, 10, 5, 10, 15, 20 years from now, and I have great confidence in you, and I am telling you this. You will look back in your life and you will find exactly where you are at in that day is where you are at is nothing more than what you have allowed God to do with a work in your life. That is why church has failed today. There is no work of God going on. It is all works for God, but it is not a work of God. And they continue to blow air into it like a big blow up blimp balloon to try to keep it afloat so it looks like it is real and it looks like it is doing something. But in actuality, it has been dead a long time ago because you lose the book, the book will not effectively work in you, and it is that work that God starts with that takes you through. You have got something he wants you to do. If you are coming to this church and you are involved in this church and you believe this is the church that God has you be in, I will tell you something right now. God has a work for you. You look around you to some of the people that have been saved five, four, three years, they are getting more done in their lives than Christians I have known down through my life and saved for 40 years. Why? They recognize there is a work that needs to be done. You will not get it done without the book.

V. The Third Loss: No Love for God

Now the third one, this one is a killer. John 14:23. He says in John 14:23, "If a man love me, he will keep my words." Now notice it does not say the message. It did not say the original manuscript. It did not say the thoughts. It did not say the fundamentals. It did not say the originals. It says, "if a man love me he will keep my words." Then he says in John 8:47, "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." Boy, that is rough. That is rough. This is a real killer. This one is going to hit us right between the eyeballs. Because this one states that he says you do not have a Bible, you cannot love God.

Do you love God? Do not answer. I do not want you to incriminate yourself without a lawyer. Let me read you Miranda rights before I answer that question. Do you love God? Do I love God? Do we really? Let us take the little test, the Bible test. The Bible says 1 Corinthians 8:3, "But if any man love God, the same is known of him." You know if you love God this morning it shows. You ever notice Christians when they are in fellowship with God and they love God that it shows? They come in, they have a smile on their face, they have got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in their heart. You know that is a true verse, but you know it is true the other way too. If you are out of fellowship with God and you have got an axe to grind with God or somebody else and have thrown you out of fellowship with God, it shows just as neon sign as it does when you love Him.

You cannot hide it. The funniest thing in the world is a fake Christian. You fake a lot of things. You cannot fake loving God. There is just too many aspects to it. Do you love Him? Do I love Him? He said in Matthew 22:37,

Matthew 22:37

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

It is the first and great commandment, do you? You ever analyze those four things? John 14:23 says, "if a man loved me he will keep my words." Remember that church back there in the church of the open door and have the key of David? You know what the key of David is? Key of David is Psalm 119. The longest chapter in your Bible and the greatest chapter in the Bible and loving God's word written by David, hence the key of David. That church back there in the open door, the thing that got them through was they had a love for that book and a love for God, the same love that David had and God gave them an open door just like He gave David. And David said back there all coming through these things by so many times, he said in Psalm 119:97,

Psalm 119:97-104

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.

I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.

How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

He says in Psalm 119:127, "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold." He said in Psalm 119:140, "Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." He said in Psalm 119:162, "I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil." "I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love." "Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments. Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." That is a great verse for Christians right there. I had a woman one time she said, "Well, I want you to know," she said, "your message offended me." And I said, "Well, I would like to talk to you about it." So that is fine but before we talk remember, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Now what is your problem? You cannot offend me. Nothing you can say can offend me. You know why that verse works? Because when you have that book in your life you do not care what somebody else thinks. You know why you get offended? Because you care what somebody else thinks about you. That is why you get offended.

Everybody says somebody there hurts your feelings. Well, you are offended. Well, sure you are offended. You know why? You care what somebody thinks. If the truth is the truth, what is the deal? Is it true? Then it is the truth. I do not always like the truth. I do not always like everything that I say. I do not always like everything that people say about me, to me, around me, behind me and upside down me. But so what? If I did not understand that verse with a stand that you have got to take to preach that book and the people that are going to love you and the people that are going to hate you, if you do not get your firm feet on that book and understand it, here will be you in 10 years. "Come on let us go out." "No I cannot. There are people out there that do not like me." "Well, come on let us go get something to eat." "No I cannot. I will see somebody out there." "No I cannot. I am just not going to be able to do it. I just cannot. No, no, no." "You know what so and so said about you?" "I cannot take another one." "No." Who gives a rip? Let me tell you something. If the book is the truth and God has called you to preach it and God called you to stand on it and stand on it. What do you care what they think? There is always going to be somebody that will like what you say. Man, I do not get out of bed in the morning and people's days are not ruined. He says, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." I am only worried about what one person thinks about me and he is not you. It is Him. You worry about taking care of Him instead of worry about taking care of everybody else you will do better in life. You might find some steel to strap onto that backbone. "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." "Lord, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments. My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly." Psalms 12:6-7.

Psalms 12:6-7

The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

You see without the book you lose some things. Now let me finish. I do not know if we probably even have any here today but let me finish off your NIV or guys today. Let me put a bullet in your head. If this does not fix you nothing will fix you. Reality TV shows are the big thing now. I am not sure what they mean but reality TV reality means real truth. Okay here is a good dose of reality for you. Let us say your wife, say I am not married. Play along with me then. You probably never will be because you will never find anybody that loves you as much as you do but stay with me. Say your wife writes you a love letter every day for a year. 365 of them. 365 letters are the most honest sincere intimate heartfelt love letters from the heart that she could ever pen. And say at the end of the year she walks downstairs into your room or your bedroom or your office or whatever unexpectedly and she finds you reading a stack of letters written to you by some prostitute whore that you have taken up with. Told you it was going to be rough. Now you see why I did not have kids come in today.

In the course of what follows you confess to her and you say she says, "What about all the letters I wrote you?" And she says, "Well, you say to tell you the truth, honey. I already read a couple of them and I threw them out and then I just picked up these letters and I mean these letters are

filthy. These letters are corrupt. These letters are absolutely" and you said, "I just keep reading these adulterous letters from this old whore." What do you think she would say when you looked up and said, "But honey, you know I still love you." Please. Well, let me tell you something. God wrote you 66 love letters and I will tell you right now if you are reading any other Bible in this book right here you are reading out of a book in a Bible that was written by the great whore Revelation 17 and 18. So how do you think he feels when you look up holding the adulterous, whorish letters from Rome and you say, "But I love you." And she is found in Proverbs 5 and Proverbs 7 if you want to go home with her this afternoon and spend a little time with her. But you better be careful what it says. We are so cheap we talk about loving God. We talk about loving God like we talk about loving somebody we meet after we have been met them for three days. We fall in love with people then we fall out of love with people. And we fall in love with God and then next week we get a better deal and we fall out of love with God. You do not fall in love with God. You have got to learn to love God. And the only way you learn to love God is to get into the love letters that he wrote you. Spending times reading the letters from a harlot will not help you. You know now that every other Bible on this planet comes from Rome from last week with the manuscript evidence we went through. And then of course the Thursday night Bible study for those of you that bother to come.

VI. The Fourth Loss: No Ability to Worship God

The fourth thing gets only worse from here. John 4:23-24. Now the next thing you lose when you lose your Bible is your ability to worship God. We have weird definitions of things we really do. Bible says in John 4:24 it says that God is a Spirit and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth. I see churches all the time having their signs or in their brochures. Nine o'clock worship service. I have always wondered what those were. I have heard pastors get up and say, "Now you worship God with your tithes in their office." I have always wondered how that was done. I have been to churches where they have got worship singers, praise singers. We talked about them last week so we will not go into them again. People who stand up there and lead you in worship. Where did we ever get the idea that praise and worship have to do anything with music? I am not sure where we got that. I am not saying you cannot worship God with praise and music but you think that is praise and music you do not know your Bible very well. He said in John 4:23,

John 4:23

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Now take your Bible, hold your finger there and come back to Colossians 3:16. Let us find this thing. Let us get it singing. Let us just get it down where we can understand it today because worship and music and praise are all connected together today. It makes you sick. I hear some of these people say, "I appreciate the song that Tabby sang this morning. I appreciate the music and old Roy sings brother." I have been in places and churches where you could close your eyes and you could be in a bar. Not when you sing, pal. Then you sang New Year's Eve. I want you to sing again about what was it? You sang two songs. The one you forgot the word boy was a killer man

or walking down through heaven. You do not get, you try to close your eyes to that. I will tell you and think about something else other than the Lord. I look at Colossians 3:16. Now Colossians 3:16 is a definitive passage in the New Testament on music. You are a definitive passage in the Old Testament, 1 Samuel 16:23. You put the two of them together and you will change your music habits. So your bongos. Look at verse 16.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Now you see that thing there? Three forms of music. Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs. You ask the average Christian what the difference is between the three, they would not know it. There is a difference between them. But I want you to notice that the songs, the hymns and the spiritual songs are not just somebody getting up. Look at verse 16. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing another with Psalms." The essence in the beginning of that music and that worship goes back to the word of God dwelling in you richly. Every song you get up here and sing had to be based on something that God has showed you in the word of God, the word of God dwelling in you richly. In other words, the seed of everything that you and I do had to be the word of God. You know it shows in people's lives. And I brag on you guys because we never had a dud here, kind of never had one. But the majority of you folks, when you get up here and sing, I can tell you are doing it because you love the Lord. You do not prance around up here. You do not sway back and forth. You stand up here and you give God the honoring glory on what you do when you sing. And it is the greatest stuff in the world. And it touches people's hearts and it does what 1 Samuel 16:23 says music is supposed to do. It touches your spirit. That is what it is for. But it has to have its basis in the word of God dwelling in you richly.

Now look back to John here, look at verse 24. It says, "God is a Spirit." You want to see true worship? Here it comes. "God is a Spirit." You know that, see that thing? That big S like Superman. See that thing? Big S, big Spirit. That is God's Holy Spirit. God is a Spirit. And they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit. That is a small S. That is man's spirit. So God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must, must, must, must, must, must, must worship Him in spirit and in what? Truth. That if you do not have the book, you do not have any worship. True worship. And the Bible says in John 17:17, just in case you did not figure it out, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." It is the book. So you do not have God's Word. You do not have any worship. That is why you have got to have all this flim-flam phony stuff going around. That is why you have got to have people talking about this and doing this and making this and having worship services. You know what? Bible worship is not some service. It is not giving. It is not singing. Bible biblical worship should be an art stage of your life, an attitude of heart that you live in 24 hours, seven days a week. By the Word of God dwelling in you richly. You ought to live in a state of worship. It is about, you see this in our church. We will not necessarily, we may have Bible conferences at some point. We will never have a revival service here because it is a misnomer. It is completely screwed up with what most churches do. Most churches think just

like everything else, worship and everything else, they will program a revival. When they put it on a counter, God is going to come down and put that on His counter. He is going to come down and give the church a revival. You ought to live in a state of revival. You know how this church lives in a state of revival? You know how a week goes by if somebody is not getting saved. You people are investing your life and people's lives all over the place. This thing is growing and going and moving and going and you cannot deny it unless you just want to deny it because you have got an issue with God. I am telling you something. This church lives in a state of revival. It is not because of me. It is not because of you. It is because the book. That is what it does when you approach it and you love it. That is what it does. It is an attitude of heart toward a book that God gave you that produces the right spirit that in all you do, you worship God. That is why it is your spirit and truth.

VII. The Fifth Loss: No Power in Prayer Life

Now, next one, not any better, John 15:7.

John 15:7

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Now you have no Bible, you have no power in your prayer life. Real power in prayer comes from knowing God's word. It is just that simple. I met a lot of people in my life that are very pious people. Prayer can be a very pious thing. You are told that in Matthew where he told you that there are people who love to be seen praying of men up in the high seats in the synagogue and they pray out in front of people. Prayer can be a very pious tool in people's lives. I have been in this business for a lot of years. I have seen a lot of pious Christians that I would not. If I had to go into combat in the foxhole, I would just soon take a good German shepherd with me because people get pious. I have known people all my life that use prayer as a very pious tool because prayer gives the oppression that you are spiritual, false impression. Prayer does not prove you are spiritual. It does not prove you are spiritual at all. In fact, prayer can be one of the greatest things that prove how unspiritual you are if you know your Bible.

I have known pastors, I have known Christians. They get into this pious mode where they love to tell people how much they pray about everything. I have been there all my life. I am not just talking about anybody in particular. I have seen that all my life. They say, the pastor says, "I just pray about everything." That sounds good. "Ooh, I do not do that. He must be really prayer." I see we put those things up. I had a guy one time years ago who was a, they were trying to hire to be a music director for our church, not this church. They were flying him up from Texas. He was a nice kid, typical, no-brainer kid. Had the concept that music, because he was a great musician and he could do a lot with choirs, that he was spiritual. So my job was to take him out to lunch, get a feel for him, find out where he was and all those things. So he is telling me, he is a nice kid. His wife was there, and she is a nice gal. And they were just nice kids. But he said, and he was trying to impress me because when I went back and told him they were going to probably hire him or not hire him. So he was trying to impress me, which is not a good thing to do, not that

way, anyhow. And we were talking about things and he said, "I want you to know." He says, "I have memorized over 500 songs." And I said, "Wow, that is good." I said, "Let me ask you a question. You brought it up. 500 songs. Have you memorized 500 Bible verses?" Do not impress me with your songs. I mean, you think your music is more important than the book? If you know more songs this morning, you know verses in that Bible, there is something wrong with your relationship with God. I just say that to you. And if you go around one of these pious people who says, "I pray about everything and I just pray about everything." It is not a thing I do that I do not pray about. You know what that tells me? That just exposes how inept you are with the Bible. Because there is one thing I have learned over the years.

How do you think God answers you? You have a need. You have an issue. You pray about it. And then what do you think? You drive down the road and there is a jet out of Whiteman Air Force Base flying over and God takes control and the afterburners come on and he writes the answer in the sky? Do you read through the newspaper and find Dear Abby or Billy Graham, My Word, and find out what the answer is? Where do you get the answer from? You think God speaks to you down inside and says, "Do this." Well, you have got two ears. God will say in this one and the devil will do this one. How do you get the answer? How do you think God answers you when you pray? You should put somebody in your life that tells you the answer? Well, that is only when he cannot get your undivided attention. The answer is in that book. And if you spend your life in that book, you know what you will find out? You will find a lot of things you will waste time asking God about in prayer already told what to do in that book. You do not have to pray about them at all. But see, we are in a world today where prayer is so spiritual, so pious. Let me tell you something, 90% of what you and I ask God to pray or pretend to pray about is already clearly defined in the Bible. We do not have any prayer answers because we do not understand Bible principles. He told you over there in the Bible, he told you, we laid it out the other day in 1 Timothy 2:1, there are four types of prayer in the Bible, only four. Man said to me one time, "I pray about everything," really? I asked him, "What are the four kinds of prayer in the Bible?" Prayer warrior? He did not know. It is the book. Getting the Bible, getting the principles of the Bible is getting God's mind on every subject, his opinion on everything, on the issues of life. When you are faced with those issues in life, you do not have to run up and ask God what it is if you know the book. I am not saying there will not be times you do not have to pray about it. There will not be times you do not have to pray. That goes back to the four types of prayer. That book is a book of principles and it tells you how to deal with every issue in life that all you have got to do before you make that decision is go to the book and find out what God's opinion on it. Then what do you have got to pray about? "Well, God, I just read your word and I am in a situation here and you told me to do this. I am going to pray about should I do this." You idiot. If he told you to do it, you know what a guy said one time? He said, "I have got a problem." He said, "Well, here is your issue right there." He says, "Well, can you give me another verse that supports that?" I said, "Well, did God not write this one?" He said, "Well, the Bible says in the mouth of two or three witnesses, let everything be established." I said, "All right, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit wrote this. There you are." You know what our problem is? We do not want to do what is right sometimes. You know why we pray and keep throwing up those prayers? Because we know what the real answer is and we do not want to do that. We want to hang on to what we get what we want. I know human nature. Say, "How do you know that?"

You are looking at the king of it. Elvis was not the king. I am. When I leave here, somebody say, "Bob has left the building" because that is me. You lose your power to prayer.

VIII. The Sixth Loss: No Power in Preaching

So you go around doing all these goofy things. We have got to move on here. This is the next one. I have got to go back to the Old Testament here. Jeremiah 1. You know the next thing you lose when you lose your Bible? You lose your power in preaching. Now I will confess to you that in some of this other stuff I have talked to you about, I am a rookie at it and I am as goofy as most people are with it. I want to tell you something. When it comes to talking about preaching, I know a little bit about it. I have got something to say on this one because I am a preacher and I have been doing it over 40 years. So I can speak with authority on this one. I own personal experiences. I know something about preaching and I know something about preachers.

Now I want to read Jeremiah 1:7-10. Follow along here.

Jeremiah 1:7-10

But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Now I deal with a lot of people. My world from beginning to end, Monday through Friday through Sunday and everything in between is built around people with issues. Human beings have problems. The patterns may all follow into a pattern, but everybody's problems are certainly different. Problems come on different levels. My job as a pastor and someday if you pastor your job will be to deal with them on those individual levels. If I have learned anything over the years and this is true, people who know me would know this is true, God has given me a great ability with patience with people with issues. I take the stand that I do not care what anybody has done, I do not care what anybody's struggle is. As long as that person wants to do what is right, then I am in your corner. I do not care if it takes a month, 10 months, 10 years, 30 years. As long as you keep getting up and dusting the dirt off and keep getting back in the fight, I am with you. I know that long suffering and patience is key to the ministry. I have learned that. I have also learned that in ministry that you have to learn to wait on God. We get very impatient with things and we want things to happen. We want people to get through their problems quicker than they have the ability to. That is not a good deal. People have to have the things. I had a guy that I won to Christ the other day. He said, "My biggest fear is," he says, "I have been 30 years without God in my life denying there ever was a God." He said, "I am not just sure how God looks about it now, but here I am after 30 years denying that I want to accept Him." I said, "You know what, pal? We all have got that story." I said, "I spent the first 20 years of my life, did not believe in any." I said,

"That is a great thing about God." You see, people do not get over their problems as fast as we would like them to. You stop and think back in your life, we did not get over ours as fast as we probably somebody wanted us to. That is just the way it is. I can deal with all kinds of human issues. People are weak. We are flesh. We are clay. I am weak. You are weak. You have got people with alcohol problems, people with drug problems. You have got people with envy, people with murder, people with lust. People with backbiting, people with marital problems, family issues, you just name it. You all have got it. And when I deal with somebody like that and I have to deal with people like that, I can deal with a man and woman and never lose any respect for them. A lot of people, and it is weird to me, but I understand how people are. People have some deep, dark issue, and they will say, "Why do not we go to Bob and talk about it?" "No, I cannot do that." "Well, why?" "Because he will look different than me." "No, I will not." But the devil will do? He will get you thinking that. And then finally, when it goes so far and it gets so bad and it gets unfixable, then you will want to come in. If you had have come in when you had the issue, we could have got it fixed. But the devil will put that thought in your head. I never looked down. Why would I look down on you for what you struggle with? Man, I struggle with things all the time. Everybody does. We are all human. That is just where we are at.

But I must confess. I must confess. I have a real struggle with one thing. Bible says, "Confess your faults one to another." Here I am this morning. I am just being honest with you. I have a real struggle with pastors and with God's people in one area. And it is an area I really have an issue with. I do not care. You can be an adulterer. You can be a fornicator. You can be a drug addict. You can be anything in the world. And I will get along just fine with you and I will help you when I can. And I never looked twice at you. But I will tell you what. There is one problem that I have with people that people have that I just cannot get past. I really hope I never get past it because I never know how to deal with this. And that is cowardness. Being a coward as a Christian. I have a real problem with pastors who are cowards in the pulpit. I have a real issue with Christians who are cowards with what they believe. You see, I have got people out of drug addicts. I have got people out of adulterer's relationships. I have got people out of all kinds of issues. I have never learned how to get somebody to get steel in their backbone to cease to be a coward. And I will tell you what. I look at what God has done for me and what God has given me and how He has taken care of me and I should be in hell when there is no question about it. And I look at some of God's people. I look at some of these pastors, boy. And I will tell you what. When it comes to that book being a coward. When it comes to standing up for what is right, being a coward. That book is either right or it is wrong. Take a stand one way or the other. May I take it down a couple of levels? This church is either right or wrong. Take a stand one way or the other. Preaching and Christians today are absolutely powerless. In their witness and their preaching. And they have no book. They cannot take a stand on anything.

I watch pastors in their congregations. They are afraid to get up and teach the Bible, to preach a message that would step on somebody's toes. They are afraid to preach on sin. They are afraid to call somebody out or keep somebody accountable in their church or whatever they have to do. They are afraid to stand up in the pulpit and to open up that book and to preach the whole counsel of God because they know that preaching, that kind of preaching is going to offend people and people are going to get mad and people are going to leave. And they leave, there goes

the offerings. The offering, there goes this. There goes that program. There goes all of that. Let me tell you something. I have said it before. When you build your church on trying to run and win a popularity contest, you are going to lose when it comes to the judgment seat of Christ. It is just the way it is. You cannot play the middle of the road. You cannot be down the center. You have got to be both ways.

One time in my life I had great respect for a man whose name was Ian Paisley. And Ian Paisley, most of you do not even know who he was. Ian Paisley was one of the greatest preachers in England and Scotland and in Ireland. And Ian Paisley was caught up right in the middle of the Irish Republican Army. And he was a firebrand. He was probably the closest thing. And of course, you know what the battle was in North Ireland. He goes back to Henry VIII and the Catholics and the Protestants and all that stuff. And he was an absolute fearless fireball. This guy took on the IRA. He took on the bombs. He took on the government. He believed the King James Bible was the word of God. He was absolutely my hero in the faith. He was a guy that I thought was a throwback to the old days of the Waldensians and the English Baptist that he was just a rock. Then one day years ago we had a fundamentalist Congress in Washington, D.C. All the Baptist churches were getting together and I went. And Ian Paisley was there. And I tell you what, I got to meet him and I thought it was great and there was a friend of mine there whose name was Billy Bartlett. Billy Bartlett was a strong, or still he was a strong King James guy. And we were all sitting around there talking and Ian Paisley could not get into this country because the, I mean the Pope could get in but Ian Paisley could not get in. And finally they worked some strings to get him in and he finally came over on a limited deal but he had tied in real big with Bob Jones University. Bob Jones University was the South Carolina, Greenville, South Carolina was a big apostate Bible college. Never believed the King James Bible was the word of God day one. And we are down there and sitting down there and Bob Jones had just had him down there and made a big deal because they are hitchhiking off this guy's fame. So we are standing around there and Billy Bartlett says to him, he says, "Mr. Paisley," he says, "Yes," he says, "I want you to know first of all I really appreciate you standing. I really appreciate you standing in the King James Bible." And he says, "Do you know Dr. Peter S. Ruckman?" And he says, "Yes." And he says, "I read his material all the time but do not tell Dr. Bob I said that." My mouth opened just like that. I thought to myself, here is a guy who took on the Irish Republican Army who has tried to be assassinated, they tried to blow him up, he took a stand for God and he is afraid what one of the brethren are going to think about what books he reads and the Bible he believes cowards, cowards, cowards.

You know what Edmund Burke said? Great English philosopher. He said, "Evil triumphs when good men do nothing." Boy, that is a truth, brother. That is a truth. Jeremiah 1:8 says, "Be not afraid of their faces." Oh yeah, you want God, you want a salvation, you want to go to heaven, you want the blessings of God, you just do not want to stick your neck out and take a stand against your church, against your friends, against your family. You want to please everybody. I think of 9/11, boy, I talk about some Christians that I like to have in my church. A 9/11 when those ragheads took over all of the things that were trying to blow up and they blew into the Pentagon and they were trying to do into the Twin Towers, the one jet down there in Pennsylvania, it was headed for the White House. We do not all know what happened on all

those flights but I guarantee you three of them hit their target, one of them that was headed for the White House crashed in the fields of Pennsylvania. Do you know why it did? Do you know why it did? Do you know why it did? Because there were some men and women on that plane that said, "No, not today." Three planes went in and destroyed, hit their targets. One plane, the men and women on it said, "No, not today." And they stood up and they took a revolt and they tried to take that plane back and they stopped that plane from doing it and they all paid the ultimate price and they all died but their terrorists lost on that one. You know why? Because there were some men and women who had their little kids there, some men and women who knew they would never see their loved ones again who said, "Not today," and took a stand. Maybe most of them were lost. Tragically maybe most of them and I do not know but probably many of them went to hell. My God people, if unsaved people can say and take a stand and not today and give their life and a stand for that, why on God's earth cannot God's people take a stand today? Why do you let people push you around when you know it is right and you know it is the truth and you know it is there? Why do you give them an inch? Your attitude should be no quarter asked, no quarter given when it comes to that book. Take a stand. Take a stand. I can put up a lot of things but cowards. That Bible says, "Be not afraid of their faces." You have the power of the living word of God. You have God's word, God's Holy Spirit. Who are you afraid of? You let some of your friends manipulate you. You let some of your family manipulate you. You let people around intimidate you. Why do not you, if you know it is true and you know the book is right, take your stand. He said in Jeremiah 1:10, "this day have I set you over nations and over kingdoms." Now this is your job. This is my job. Where did you think, my God, where did you think that Christianity was a popularity contest? Where did you ever think that you are supposed to win it? Where did you ever think that you are supposed to get along with everybody in your life that is taking a stand for the book will not cause division? Where do you get that? He says, "root out, pull down, destroy, throw down." Then you build and you plant. And the ministry is pulling down, rooting out, destroying, throwing down, exposing the wickedness, preaching the truth. And then, then you build, then you build, then you plant. You have to at some point in your life realize that you have to take a stand. It is going to cost you something. When your friends get an attitude about the word of God and the things of God, the best thing you can do is not go down the middle of the road, put your finger in their face and rebuke them. There is no courage. We are afraid of what people will say, what they will think. Who cares alongside of that book? My God, people stand for something before he comes back. That is the ministry. That is in churches what pastors cannot do. That is in ministry what Christians cannot do because everybody wants to stay squeaky clean. Everybody wants to be everybody's friend. Everybody wants to be popular. Nobody wants somebody to be upset with them. We are afraid of what they will think of you. You are afraid because they have done something in your life to help you down the line that that cancels out the truth of the word of God when people do not do what is right. The book is the book. Take a stand. Stand for something.

IX. The Seventh Loss: No Inheritance

And the last thing. This will be in Joshua 1:6-9. You lose some things. You lose some things when you lose your Bible. You lose your courage. You lose your ability to pray. You lose your

ability to worship. You lose your ability to love God. You lose your ability for God to work in you. You lose the perfecting and the furnishing. And then you lose the last thing which is probably the worst thing. You lose your inheritance. Joshua 1:5 says,

Joshua 1:5

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

That is a great verse that will get you through ministry when you know the Bible is right and you are taking a stand when the whole world turns against you and your friends leave you. That verse will get you through.

Joshua 1:6-9

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Now he says in verse 7 to keep the law, the words of Moses, he says turn not from the left to the right, right to the left. He says in verse 8, the book shall not depart out of your mouth, meditate in it. Do all that according to is written in it. And then he says down through there, he says that be strong of a good courage for unto this people shall not divide, an inheritance. You have got an inheritance coming. That inheritance is your millennial inheritance. In the Bible there is a difference between the rewards and the judgment seat of Christ which the Bible defines as crowns and your inheritance which the Bible defines as your millennial inheritance. A thousand years that you are going to reign with Christ. And yet that Bible says that in both cases you need to be careful. Before the church of Laodicea got into the mess they went in, going back to Revelation 3. The Bible says that they had an hour of temptation and God warned them about. That hour of temptation was the hour when they dumped God's word. In 1888 the Southern Baptist Convention officially adopted the RSV of 1901 and dropped the King James Bible. From that point on it was just one disaster after another. Revelation 3:11 says, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." No man take thy crown. You will lose your crowns by giving up the book. You will spend your whole Christian life going through the motions doing what you think Christians are supposed to do and you will wind up absolutely without any inheritance or rewards whatsoever because ladies and gentlemen if you have never heard anything else I have said today hear this. Everything you get in your inheritance and those

rewards simply go back to the book that God gave you and the attitudes you have about it. It is all about Christ. Christ is the book. You do not have four or five different Christ running around. You do not have four or five different Bibles running around. There is one Christ, there is one book and that is the mind of Christ and everything we get in our millennial inheritance, everything that we get at the judgment seat of Christ has to go back to that book. Everything you do has to do with God's Son and He is the Word and everything you do has to go back to His book. I have known great men who have done great things for God but they had no courage to stand for the book and when they are in the face of great persecution they could stand up boy and even die for Christ but when they got around a higher educated brethren they just folded up like a broken accordion. I am going to tell you something. Listen to me. Everything you do for God goes back to one thing, your attitude about that book. That is why He said to love it with all your heart, with all your mind and all your soul. In another place He adds one more thing to it and He says because it takes it some time all your strength. It is the Word of God. When you lose this book you are done. This whole world has dumped this book, the world is done. Christianity has dumped this book and it is done. I do not care somebody says do you think there are other churches, you preach sometimes like there are not any other churches out there that believe the King James Bible. I do not really care whether they are or not. I do not take a, I do not look for them. I do not care about it. It does not bother me at all. I do not care if I am the only one and there are 50 other thousand people out there in churches in the next neighborhood that all do. I just know one thing. This is what God has given me to be accountable for right here. I cannot speak to them. I do not care about them. I care about one thing. This is our church. Someday you are not going to give an account for it. I am. I will be the one that will be on the chopping block whether we preach the truth or not. Not you. You will be on the chopping block whether you stay or you left because what you do is what you need to do. The bottom line is simply this. When it comes to this church, it is going to have to be based on this book and stay on this book. And I do not really care whether anybody else out there does or not. Do not find out. Do not want to know. Does not interest me at all. I have got one focus and that is the people that God has given me and this book. Everything else will take care of itself. You lose this book, you lose those seven things. You lose those seven things, you are done. Or you may be saved. You may go to heaven, but you will lose everything from that point to the inheritance, including your inheritance.