

1 Corinthians 1-6

Sunday 5/8/2011

If you have your Bible, let's turn to the book of 1 Corinthians. We have been coming through each book of the New Testament, really the whole Bible, and we are in the New Testament right now. We have been focusing on how the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the predominant character in the Bible, is presented in each book. Each book, because it is God's book, is written about His Son and all the events that transpire to bring His Son not only to the nation of Israel, but then to us as our Savior. It is all written around Him.

I learned many, many years ago that for an acute Bible student who really wants to wring everything out of the Bible that you can, you are going to find that almost everything in the Bible means something. Everything in the Bible has some kind of study in it that you can learn more about because God wrote the book and He built it around Himself. Every book of the Bible, and I learned this many, many years ago, portrays the Lord Jesus Christ in a different fashion. Each one will give you a different aspect about His life, and that is what we have been trying to do as we come through each book of the Bible.

I. Review of 1 Corinthians 1-2

We started 1 Corinthians last week, and we learned some things about the church at Corinth, didn't we? There are two books in the Bible written to you about the church at Corinth. In 1 Corinthians, we saw how not to build a church and how not to do ministry. We saw the danger that happens when you get saved and do not have somebody begin to teach you and help you to grow spiritually. I do not know where the idea ever got started, or how it stayed alive, the concept that you get saved and you just continue on in life, and someday you wake up and just know the Bible. God never wrote the Bible and intended for you or me to get saved and then just figure it out yourself.

We find the pattern set all the way back in the New Testament. When Paul started these churches, he greatly influenced them even after he left. He trained up a man, put the man in charge as the pastor, and then even after he left, he was checking on them and writing them letters. This is what the books of the Bible that deal with the churches that Paul writes to deal with. We see now the danger and how problems in churches and problems in Christians highlight the importance of spiritual growth. The importance of not just getting saved—though that is vitally important—but at the same time, the importance that you begin to grow spiritually. That is what God's plan is for you. God's plan in doing that, obviously, is the New Testament local church. We see today in this great study, coming through this book, how that all lays itself out.

I want you to take good notes on 1 Corinthians. I want you to make a real effort for it. I think it will be really important because once we are finished with these books, we are going to come back and really hit hard and focus on the book of 2 Corinthians. You should already have a good outline in your Bible once we get through this because I am going to take a little time and lay all these things out. I think that is really important simply from the aspect that you have an understanding of these two books. In 1 Corinthians, they do just about everything wrong. In 2

Corinthians, he writes them, and now they want to do what is right and they begin to listen to Paul. That is what makes 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians such great books: it is the contrast. In 1 Corinthians, they are told almost every chapter multiple issues that he tries to straighten them out on. In 2 Corinthians, after the desire to be straightened out, Paul teaches them the aspect of ministry. 2 Corinthians is the handbook of ministry in the Bible, and that is why where our church is at, where many of you are at, we are ready for that aspect of it.

It is really good to hit these points because these are things that you really need to know. I think it is absolutely imperative if you are going to learn the Bible that before you try to get into the books of the Bible themselves and ferret it all out and find out what it means, you need to understand what those books really are all about. You need to learn the background of each book of the Bible. It is so important. It is like getting to know somebody before you get married to them. Certainly, before you engage the Bible as far as getting into the books, you need to understand, just like marrying somebody for life, find out everything about them you can, their background aspect, so that there are no surprises later on down the line. Of course, that is what happens when we do not do that with the books of the Bible. We jump into a book, we do not really have an understanding of how it all lays itself out.

The church of Corinth, in its understanding of the issues they have, really helps us. It really helps us in our own church, but it helps us deal with people because, as I said last week, churches are made up of people, and the problems that churches have are just because the people that are in those churches have those problems.

We looked last week, and I think we got into the first two chapters. Hopefully, we will get a little farther than that today. In chapter 1, they were all messed up on the fact of who baptized whom. They were setting some kind of spiritual hierarchy based on the notoriety of the person or the fame of the person that baptized them. The list there would have Christ at the top, then Paul, and then right on down the line, Apollos and Cephas. They were saying, "Because Christ baptized me, and you are baptized by Cephas, I am more spiritual than you are." That is where this church was at.

We saw in chapter 1 also the second issue that they had is that they were putting so much emphasis on man's wisdom. We learned a great principle in 1 Samuel 16 last week where God talks to us about not looking at the outward appearance but looking at what is on the inside. He talks about how God takes the base things, the foolish things, the weak things to confound the wise. The reason why He does that, we saw last week, is that no flesh can glory in His presence.

Then we moved into chapter 2 and we talked about the aspect of man's wisdom versus God's wisdom. I told you the great story in there of Exodus 18 about Moses and Jethro. We laid that out Thursday night. Somebody asked a question, and I went through it, probably one of the greatest studies we have ever taken, and you should get that into your Bible if you do not have it. Then we talked about getting advice from God and the Word of God through biblical principles versus the advice of men who do not use biblical principles. All in all, you want to remember that the Lord Jesus Christ is portrayed as Christ our Lord. This is the problem. I gave you another great verse, Luke 6:46: "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" That is

absolutely paramount that you understand that verse defining what Lord Jesus Christ being the Lord of our life is.

II. Carnality and Spiritual Immaturity

Today, we are going to move to chapter 3, and I want to begin reading here in verses 1 through 7. We will again begin to hit some of the high points here of some of the issues that they have.

1 Corinthians 3:1-7

1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Do you know what they are doing in this chapter? In chapter 1, they were arguing about who baptized whom and tagging some kind of spirituality to that. Now, in this chapter, they are arguing about who won whom to Christ. They are saying, "Well, Paul won me to Christ," or "Well, Apollos won me to Christ." "I am more spiritual because Paul was the great apostle to the church; therefore, I got some, I guess, a lot more of the Holy Spirit from him than you got from Apollos." Of course, that is simply not true.

Clearly, in 1 Corinthians 3, in the first three verses here, we see the issue. One, he cannot speak to them as spiritual, but he can speak to them as carnal. That is not good. Carnal means worldly. Then he says he even has babes in Christ, and he talks about the fact that "I fed you with milk and not with meat." Milk in the Bible is the basic, fundamental things of the Bible. Meat in the Bible will always be the doctrinal things. You find that that is where churches are mostly at today. You find the average Christian who has been saved five, ten, fifteen, maybe twenty years, they know nothing of any kind of substance about their Bible. They know what they learned in Sunday school or what they have heard repetitively over their lifetime, but as far as opening up the Bible and really getting into it and understanding it, there is a lot of the golf ball in high weeds, man. I mean, they just cannot grasp those great concepts.

He says, "You are still carnal because you are having all these baby issues that baby Christians have. You have strife, you have envy, you have divisions." He says, "You walk as men, but in truth, you are just a bunch of spiritual, carnal babies." How does that happen? Look over at Hebrews 5:12. Remember, we have been talking about spiritual growth in every aspect of this. Here is another issue that Paul deals with in the book of Hebrews, and I think this is a great addition to what we have got here.

Hebrews 5:12-14

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Here is where he defines for you, if you do not have this in your Bible yet, milk and meat. "For everyone that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, for he is a baby." You see, it makes it very clear. "But strong meat," and this is what Paul is saying up there in 1 Corinthians 3, "I fed you with milk and not with meat." Now we are going to get a definition of meat. "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

That is a great verse. It answers a couple of things. First, it shows you what milk is versus what meat is. The next thing it does is it shows you that these people here, whoever they may be, came to a point in their life as Christians that they should be teaching somebody the Word of God. But what happens? They have to be taught again the first fundamental principles of the Word of God. I have known people that were saved five, ten, fifteen, twenty years and still struggle with their own salvation. I have known people that were saved for many, many years who still do not understand the basic fundamentals of how to make good decisions in your life without getting all kinds of problems in it. They still run on their emotions instead of what the principles of the Bible say. That is just the way it is, and this is what the writer of Hebrews talks about here.

III. The Judgment Seat of Christ

Then he says in 1 Corinthians 3:9-17, he kind of brings us back to what I think every Christian's reality should be. He tries to get this church at Corinth back to a reality. I mean, they are so carnal in the first part here of chapter 3, and they are so messed up, and he cannot deal with them on spiritual issues, so he tries to bring it back to what I think is the central theme of every child of God, or at least it should be. It is found in 1 Corinthians 3:9-17. Allow me to read that.

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He brings it back to the central thing, and that central thing for them, as it is for me and you, is the fact of the Judgment Seat of Christ. The greatest single focus that you ought to have in your life, and I certainly need to have in my life, about however we approach anything with God after we are saved, is the personal accountability of someday you are going to stand before God and you are going to give an account of what you did with your life after you got saved. This is an unknown thing today, and I feel terrible about it. Let me tell you, after the Judgment Seat of Christ, pastors today, and I know a little bit about pastors, they are going to pay the ultimate price for having churches and standing in their pulpits and talking about all this flowery, sugary stuff but never warning their people about one of the two greatest days in the Bible.

I do not know if you know it, there are two fundamental days in the Bible, and the whole Bible is built around those days. The first day is the Day of the Lord. That is the Second Coming of Christ when Christ comes back for the nation of Israel. The second one is the Day of Jesus Christ, and that is the day that Jesus Christ comes back for you and for me. When God comes back in the Second Coming of Christ to deal with the nation of Israel, He deals with them as the Old Testament saints as they are to Him. When He comes back on the Day of Jesus Christ, or sometimes called the Day of Christ, it leads to you and me going to the Judgment Seat of Christ. You can look at our chart over there; somebody can point it out to you if you have been around any length of time. That is where it all finalizes.

This church has lost its way, as many churches have. They are majoring on the minors. They are dealing with issues that do not matter, and they are doctrinally messed up in just about everything. He says, "My God, don't you understand that someday you as a child of God are going to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and give an account?" Nothing, and I know that we are all desensitized to most of the things in the Bible, but nothing scares me more in my life than the thought of standing before God and having wasted my life and messed it up because I could not do what God had asked me to do. Nothing terrifies me more.

I understand we have people out there that are so lame-brained they are not afraid of anything, including a holy God. We have people out there that once they get saved, they get a little Bible under their belt, then they pretty much take back control of their life, and they just put themselves in whatever situation they want and justify it. That is what the church at Corinth has done. But you need to understand that every pastor in this city ought to be preaching, but they do not, at least two or three times a year on the great Day of Jesus Christ when we are going to stand before Him.

I am going to give you the eight or nine verses in your Bible that you need to go home or at least have them in your Bible. If you do not put them in your Bible, then I am going to give them to you purely because of the fact that in that day you will not point your finger at me and say, "You did not give them to me." I am going to show you in eight or nine verses in your Bible that absolutely nail down what we need to look at.

1. 1 Corinthians 3:9
2. 2 Corinthians 5:3 (really that whole first part of that chapter, and there he tells you that the Judgment Seat of Christ for you and for me is the terror of the Lord)
3. Romans 14:10 (another one that says we are all going to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ)
4. Revelation 3:18 (talks about the fact that "let no man take your crowns from you" because those crowns are what you are going to get at the Judgment Seat of Christ for figuring out what God wanted you to do)
5. Revelation 16:15 (talks about "let no man take your garment or hold fast your garments," and that ties into the Judgment Seat of Christ in a very unique way)
6. 2 Timothy 2:5 (tells us that if you are going to get anything at the Judgment Seat of Christ, that the Christian life is like a race, and the Bible says that everybody runs the race to win, but you only win if you run lawfully)
7. 2 Timothy 2:11 (talks about Him denying our inheritance)
8. Revelation 4:20 (talks about laying the crowns at His feet)

He brings them back to a great, great point that needs to be the thing that is central in the way you and I evaluate everything we do in the light of the Judgment Seat of Christ.

IV. Stewardship of the Mysteries of God

Then we move into chapter 4, and in chapter 4, we have got another issue, and this is a doctrinal issue. Here he says in 1 Corinthians 4:1-5:

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

This is a doctrinal issue here, and what they are not doing here is they are not being stewards of the mysteries of God. It never ceases to amaze me, and I know the farther we get away from Christianity and time goes on, or I should say the closer we get to the coming of the Lord, the more the apostasy sets in. Everybody knows that, but it never ceases to amaze me that if you went to the average pastor today in the average church, just pick one, and ask him what the mysteries of God are, he would not even know. There will be guys who will listen to what I am going to tell you in just a few moments, and they will say, "Oh, that is a bunch of hogwash." The bottom line is, if you ask them what the mysteries were, they would not have a clue.

Here is the real problem: we know that there are mysteries in the Bible because why else would he tell pastors to be stewards of those mysteries? As a pastor, I am to understand stewardship. It always bothered me that pastors wanted to, they always took the word stewardship as money, and they always used it as a good club to beat it over your head that you ought to give your money to the church because you ought to be a good steward. Well, and maybe that might be true, but the bottom line is a pastor has some things that he needs to be a steward over, and one of them, according to this passage, is the mysteries of God. Yet the average pastor has no idea what they are.

If you want to really measure a man's ability with his Bible, you can measure it on two things, and it is real simple.

9. Does he understand the mysteries that are in the Bible? You measure him with his Bible by that. If you have a pastor, or you know of a pastor, or you know of somebody that if you ask them what the mysteries are in the Bible and they cannot lay them out, explain them out, they may be the nicest guy in the world. He may be somebody you can have a great time with, play golf with, whatever. Just don't take him too seriously on the Bible. That is not coming from me; that is coming from Paul, where he said that we are to be stewards of the mystery if we account ourselves as a minister. That is just the way it is. Yet, what are those mysteries in the Bible?

10. Does he stay faithful as God's steward in teaching them to his people?

One of the first things that we did when we started our church, still online, you can get it, the date is there, it is almost at the beginning of our church, we started with the seven mysteries. We went through the whole systematic study of God's system of sevens, and exactly, we talk about it all the time. I do not know how many times somebody has asked a question or we have alluded to it, and you get it in everything that we do. Why? Because we are to be stewards of those mysteries. It is a simple fact; it is just the way God fixed it.

Thursday night, we talked about somebody asked a question out of 1 Corinthians about the deep things of God. "I have not seen, nor heard," but the deep things of God. We ran that back to

Deuteronomy 29:29 and looked at those deep things are given to you and to your children. Then we ran it over to, Dale gave us some other verses, and we ran it over to a couple of other places, and we saw how it all ties in with where it is at. Those deep things of the Word of God are the things that God reveals to men and women who are faithful in their stewardship with the Bible. You want to know the deep things of the Word of God? I will tell you something right now, those deep things of the Word of God that you want to learn, they start with you understanding the mysteries because those mysteries are key. The reason why they are called mysteries is because God just does not give them out to every bozo that says he is a Christian. You have to have some things in your life and some attitudes in the right place toward that book, and you have to see some things the way God tells you to see them, and then God reveals them to you.

You can argue all day the fact, "Well, they are not really important." Well, they are important enough that Paul said to the church at Corinth, "You need to know them, and you need to be stewards of them." Do not brush off the fact that you do not think it is important just because you did not spend the time to figure it out. Just take your lump and move on with it. That would be a good thing to do.

There are seven places in the New Testament after the four gospels where you are told that there are mysteries, and there are seven of them.

- > 1.) In 1 Timothy 3:16, it talks about the mystery of the virgin birth. When you study that out, it is more than just, "Oh, Jesus was in a manger, and He was born from a woman." Do you know how many other doctrinal things you have got to pull from throughout the Bible to understand that mystery?
- > 2.) Then there is the mystery of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God in Colossians 1:28. These seven things, he tells you, "This is a mystery." Wow. Do you know the average person today that has been, give me somebody saved 10 years that is not part of this church, and let me sit down with them and simply ask them one question: "Explain to me, give them a Bible, what happened inside you the day you got saved?" Do not give me the verbiage terminology. "Explain to me what changed about you the day you got saved." They could not even tell you. They could not even tell you. The reason why is because they do not understand the mystery. Do you realize what that entails to study that mystery?
- > 3.) Then you have the mystery of the Jew and Gentile in one body in Ephesians 5:22. Do you understand what the material you have got to get to put all that together to understand it? How and why today in the church the Jew and Gentile are in one body?
- > 4.) Then you have the fourth one in Romans 11:25, the restoration of the nation of Israel. Here is a good question for you, stump yourself with this: "Why does there have to be a resurrection of the nation of Israel if the Jew and the Gentile are all in one body?" The answer is a mystery. The answer is getting the deep things in the Bible that lays all those things out so you understand how it lays out. There is more to the Bible than just the seven spiritual laws. It is not hard; you just have to start and do it the way God tells you to do it.
- > 5.) There is the mystery, the fifth one, of the rapture of the church. How entailed is that? It is an incredible thing, and that is more than just, "No, I got a book, and it showed me how we are all going to go up." It is a lot more than that in the Bible.

- > 6.) There is the sixth one, the mystery of the Antichrist in 2 Thessalonians 2:7.
- > 7.) The last one is the mystery of Babylon the Great, Revelation 17:5.

There are seven mysteries given to the church, and then in the gospels, there are 12 mysteries given to the nation of Israel. You see, you have a set for the church, you have a set for the nation of Israel. I suggest if you do not really like this, you just go home and get a concordance and look up the word "mystery" and just get you a magic marker and mark the word out every time you find it. He tells you over and over and over about these mysteries. Then you find out there is a set of seven mysteries to the church, and there is a set of 12 mysteries to the nation of Israel. Then he told you in 1 Corinthians 4 that we as ministers of Christ are to be stewards of those mysteries, and he gets on the church because they are not teaching them.

Do you know why this church was a baby church? We will grow a church up, and we talk about growing people up, it is learning the mysteries. You cannot learn the mysteries, understand the mysteries, go into all the depth of getting them, and stay a baby Christian because it grows you up in the understanding of it all. Of course, to me, it is an incredible thing. In the gospels, you have 12 mysteries to the nation of Israel. You have seven of them in Matthew 13, and you have a break for five chapters, and then the last five are in Matthew 18 through Matthew 25. Nobody even knows why it is laid out that way.

That is why most pastors are so busy beating stewardship up over us old guys. It has been around for a while. Remember the stewardship banquets we used to have years ago? Remember how everything was built around stewardship month, and for one month on Sundays going to church, all you heard was money, give money, give the son of money, and give more money, and it was all about beating you up to death on, "You have got to be a good steward." You get these little stewardship cards, then you would have to pledge how much money you are going to give next year, and it was all set up in it. But never one time did you hear any pastor, anytime, any place, anywhere, ever get up and teach you the mysteries and be a good steward in that. It is all about what you do for the pastors; it is not today what the pastors can do for you. You are not here to do anything for me; I am here to do something for you. That is the job of a pastor.

V. Following God's Appointed Man

Then we get into the second issue, and I think this is a great one. We are going to have some fun with this one. I think it is Mother's Day, let's have some fun. In 1 Corinthians 4:15-16, he says:

1 Corinthians 4:15-16

15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

He says, "This I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you." Notice Paul, he is stern, but yet he loves them, and he equates them as a son. "For though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore, because of what he just said, I beseech you, be followers of

me. For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church."

Here is the second issue, and this happens with spiritual babies all the time. We see another issue they have: now they have taken issue with the man that God sent them. I started out this morning by saying that God never intended you just to get saved and to figure out the Bible on your own. No, the model in the Bible is that God will send you a man to teach you the Bible. The definitive passage on it is in Acts 8 with that Ethiopian eunuch out there in the backside of the desert. He is reading his Bible; he does not understand a thing that he is reading. God sends him Philip, a man. Philip goes over and says the classic question, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" And the guy gives back the standard, greatest answer that sets it right where it needs to be. He says, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" That is what God does. God will put a man in your life to teach you the Bible.

He says it right there, "You have ten thousand instructors in Christ." Everybody in your life is going to tell you, but God will put one central person in your life that will be the guy that God gives you to help you get the Bible down. In my life, it was Mal Sabaka. In his life, it was Peter S. Ruckman. In Ruckman's life, it was U.P. All. It goes right down the line. In the Bible, it is Paul and Timothy. The Bible says, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light, that all men through him might believe." See that thing? God is going to send you a man.

You are going to hear all the time, "Well, where do you go to church?" "When I go to Old Pat, you are just following a man. You are just following." That is what you are supposed to do. A guy said to one of my kids one time years ago, he said, "Where do you go to church?" He told him, "You and Bible Alexander's class." And he says, "Yeah." He says, "Oh, you are following a man." And he said, "Well, what do you mean I am following a man?" "Well," he says, "Bob teaches the King James Bible does not have any errors in it." He said, "Well, I believe that too." And he said, "Well, you are following a man." My boy said, "You believe the Bible has errors in it?" That kid said, "Absolutely." My boy said, "Who taught you that?" See, everybody says, "You are following a man, has fallen a man." Your job is to make sure you are following the right man.

In this case, the church at Corinth had got too spiritually big for their britches. Now they are questioning the man that God sent them, and he puts an end to the stupid remarks stupid Christians make about following a man. He said over there in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Follow me, even as I also am of Christ." People get out their nose, been another joint, and they say, "Well, you know what, somebody said to some of you a while back, it has been a couple of years ago, you know what, well, you are just following Bob. Is that God's church or is that Bob's church?" Well, that is a good question. That is a good question. Now I know it is God's church, but I guarantee if I walk out of here this afternoon and leave you by yourself, God is not going to come down and say anything to you. He is not going to become your pastor tomorrow. You see how stupid people are? People get the idea that God, yes, it is God's church, but God uses men, and He uses women, and God does it that way.

You only had one choice to make this morning when you came to church, and it was a real simple choice. When you came to church to get up this morning and cleaned your head out and got yourself all ready to go and got thinking about it and started to get yourself dressed to come here, you only had one decision. It was real simple. The only decision you had to make is, "Is God here or is He not? Do you get what God wants you to have here or do you not?" It is simple. It is real simple. If you do not, then you need to find someplace where you do get everything that God wants you to have because that is the way God does it. That is just the way He does it. Of course, they are coming down here in 2 Corinthians; they are asking him for letters of confirmation of who he is, and that is what babies do.

God sent them the man that God wanted them to have. He says up here at the beginning, "As my beloved sons I warn you, though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you have not many fathers." He is basically saying, "Hey, you have a lot of people telling you about things in the Bible, but you better dance with the one who brought you." You better get to the point where you realize that somebody fathered you spiritually, and God put somebody, in this case Paul, in your life.

Then he does one of the greatest things I think that he could have done, and I think this shows the wisdom of Paul. Look at 1 Corinthians 4:17. This is a great principle. I love this. "For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church." Now, this was a stroke of genius. This was a stroke of genius, and this is a great principle, and you want to learn this principle. This will serve you no matter where you go the rest of your life because you are always going to find people. You are always going to be associated with people. You are always going to have somebody in your life that is going to be rivaling probably to teach you the Bible, and it is a great thing. This was a stroke of genius. He says, "Wherefore, because of the problems they are having, for this cause I send to you Timotheus."

Do you know what Timothy was sent for? He tells you in 1 Corinthians 4:17, to bring them back into remembrance. Let me give you a great principle here. Paul knew what I am about to tell you is the bottom line truth because when people do not want to do what is right, people will make you out to be the worst person, bandolero, on planet Earth because they want to justify themselves. Sometimes it gets confusing, but Paul goes right to the matter. Paul did not argue with them. Do you notice that? He did not come in here and say, "Well, you know who..." He did not do that. He did the smartest thing he could have done because you can argue with what a man is, you can argue with what a man does, but you cannot argue with the fruit the man produces.

"Bob, why aren't you a terrorist? I mean, I am a heretic. I am a subversive. I am a control freak. Why aren't you a terror? Why aren't you out with David Koresh out there? He is dead, but why don't you take on after him? Zach, why weren't you part of the Oklahoma bombing? You are no fun. You are no fun at all, Zach. Zach, I am not even going to talk to you anymore today. Bob, you were in the military. How long have we been together, off and on with tapes, 18 years? You were in the Navy, weren't you? Flew rear seat in the movie Top Gun. Why didn't you ever bomb Washington? They did not ask you to. Okay, you are not any help either. Now, why aren't you

two, how long have we been together? We have been here for a long time, right? Many, many, many years. How come you guys aren't robbing banks? I mean, you got your getaway car. Why aren't you singing in a nightclub? You got a great voice. You could be out there making millions of dollars."

You see, you were there. You are following a guy who is just, you know, he is worldly, he is just a mess. Why? How does it turn out so good? My point is this: you want to find out what a guy's ministry, what he is really made of, and I am talking in the reference of Paul here, but you know it is in our practical world too. Just look at what he turns out. If the guy is such a heretic, if the guy is such a mind freak, if the guy is such a controller, then why, where is the punch bowl at today? Did I miss that, John? Why didn't you get the punch out? I mean, what is the deal?

But you see, when people like the church at Corinth, baby Christians, do not want to do what is right, they point their fingers at other people who are doing what is right to make themselves look better. I mean, do you remember if, when people go out of here, and probably nobody ever has, but when people come out of here and tear this church up and badmouths this church and says what, what does that say about you who stay here? That would infuriate me because if you are still here and you stay here, then you must be what I am. Otherwise, you would be smart as they are and leave. Does not that bother you? I would punch somebody's lights out just on the aspect of, well, in Jesus' name, but just on the aspect of, you are accusing him. I go there. That means John 1:2. Of course, it is always that way. It was that way with Paul. It would be that way no matter where you are at in whatever church.

But you have got to see Paul is a genius because Timothy went in and he says, "What is your guys' deal?" "Well, he is this, and he is that." He said, "Hey, look at me. I listened to him better than anybody. I went with him on missionary trips. If he is what you say he is, and he is not God's man the way you say he says he is, how did I turn out the way that I am? You are telling me that I am that way too?" "Oh, no, no, no, Timothy, you are okay." "How am I okay if he is not okay when he has been the one that taught me everything I know?" See where it goes? Paul is a genius, and look what he says. He says, "I sent," he says, "he said, 'For this cause I send to you Timotheus, Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.'" Hey, solve the problem. What do you say to that? Of course, it is the great principle that you can say whatever you want to say about whoever you want to say, but the real proof of he is what he is or what he is not is in the final element that he puts out, the fruit that he produces. It is just that simple. It is just that simple. It is just that simple. We hope at some point Zach does get born so he has his chance to prove to the world that he is not a terrorist.

VI. Dealing with Sin in the Church

Now let's go to chapter 5. Here is another issue: this church is allowing sin to run rampant in the church. He says 1 Corinthians 5:1-8:

1 Corinthians 5:1-8

1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

This is a really good chapter full of great principles. The first thing we see here is that they are not dealing with sin the way that they should in the accountability structure of it. Do not misunderstand me, I think the number one aspect of the church needs to be reconciliation, and I do not know of any problem anybody ever gets into that cannot be reconciled and worked through. It is just the way it is. But in this particular case, a man has gotten into fornication with his father's wife. That is a pretty sticky thing that is going to cause a lot of issues because, obviously, there are family members in this church, and everybody is going to take sides. But they are not willing to deal with it biblically, and it looks like they are not willing to deal with it at all. It also looked like the man who did this deed, he is not ready to repent from it, and he is not willing to get right.

The bottom line of any church or ministry dealing with Christians, obviously, should be restoration, restoring people that when they fall, they seem to be happy about the fact that he fell here. But yet the great principle is this, and this is what comes out of these. You have a problem, and he shows him how to address the problem, but in doing that, he will give you and us a great, great principle in dealing with people. It is found in 1 Corinthians 5:5. It is the great aspect of "delivering such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

Let me explain what that is. In dealing with people, many times you see it with parents with their children. Most parents are not willing, cannot, do not have the wherewithal to be able to do it, but it is probably in many cases the only thing that will work. I know it is true in it. It basically is the concept that you can all understand letting somebody get so far down that all they can look is up, and we all understand that. Now notice he is saying here to turn somebody over to Satan for,

"How can you turn a Christian over to Satan?" Well, look at the passage, "Turn him over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh." God does not run your flesh.

Here is what you get: you get a Christian that will not do what is right. Let's put it into an easy context. Let's say you get a rebellious teenager, and maybe they are 18 or 19 years old, maybe they are 20 years old, and they are still living at home. They live out of home pretty much on their own, but they are living in your home, and they just simply will not do what is right, and they cause all kinds of problems. You have tried to reason with them, tried to work it out, tried to help them, tried to do everything in the world, come to no avail. They will not respond to the Bible, or they do for a while, and it goes back. Whatever. You know the scenario.

The bottom line is there comes a point where if you really want to reach that person, you have got to do the radical thing that is probably the most radical thing within the Bible, and that is what he is talking about here. I had a man one time whose boy was a drunk, and the man had never got into drinking, and he tried to work with this kid. He tried to work with his boy, and the kid was on drugs, he was doing alcohol, just a mess, bringing it home. He had younger kids. Finally, the dad, he got enough moxie to be able to do this, and he said, he said, "You know what, son," he sat him down lovingly, he said, "You know what, see this house? God gave us this house. You know my job that buys the food that we have? God gave me that job. Everything here God has provided for us. And son, I love you to death, but the bottom line is this: this house belongs to the Lord. We are going to live our life for the Lord, and I just cannot any longer take the things that God has given me and blessed me with to feed you and take care of you so you can run out and serve the devil." He said, "Now son, I love you, but I want to tell you something, here it is, and this is what it is: if the devil and his crowd are such fun to run with, if the devil and his crowd is where it is at for you, if that is where you are at, that is where we are at, but you let the devil take care of you. Don't go out and live with the devil's crowd and then come back and ask God to feed you. If the devil is a great guy to hang out with, let him feed you. If he is a great guy to hang out with, let him give you a place to stay. If he is a great guy to hang out, let him take care of you."

What it was, that kid, he put him out. Sounds like a terrible thing to do, but when they get to that point, parents, you have got to sell your helicopter. You have got to quit throwing them the care packages. You have got to quit, as they say in the law enforcement terminology, aiding and abetting them, giving them a comfortable life, but they do not want anything to do with God. You can kid yourself, "Well, we are trying to do it the way." Hey, after 10, 15, 20 years, I would say you have overspent your account there. At some point, you have got to clear off a spot and you say, "I love you, but this is the way it is." That is what it means turning them over. Let the devil, you know what, if you have got a kid who is a wimpy kid anyhow, he thinks he is a man, but you know he is 18 or 19 years old, knows nothing about life, or a gal, you know, and I will tell you what, they live two or three nights under I-435 bridge in a cardboard box, you will be amazed what that would do for them. You would be amazed how quickly. Where do you get that? It is called the prodigal son in the Bible. You see, the pigs look good till you get up close, and then you see how dirty they really are, and then you see what they eat. Now you sit at home, and you could go to that pantry and pull whatever you want, and mom cooks great meals and great

dinners, and when they are all gone, boy, and you have got to eat rocks, you have got to go behind McDonald's and go through the trash dumpsters. I mean, I am telling you, sometimes you have got to put them down so far that all they can look is up. When they look up, you do not want to see you hovering over. Here it comes. No, you want to see God. But you know why they cannot see God? Because you get in the way, and all they see is you. That is their biggest problem.

I told a parent a couple of times years ago, they had, I said, "You know what, the biggest problem of your kid is not your kid. The biggest problem of your kid is you because you will not deal with it the way it needs to be dealt with." It is always an excuse. I understand that, but there comes a time when 1 Corinthians 5:5 is a viable, workable tool in your spiritual toolbox to get somebody's attention. You turn them over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh. What does that mean? It means that their flesh gets cold, their flesh gets hungry, their flesh does not get what it wants. In some cases, their flesh gets a black eye, their flesh gets shot, their flesh gets stabbed. Their flesh finally, you come to the place where that kid says, "My God, this hurts. This is not what I thought it was, man. I thought it was all party and fun and run around. It is cold tonight." That is what you have got to be able to do. Of course, in this case, the scenario, sometimes you have to do that in churches. Sometimes you have to cut them off. Of course, as I said, it is a point of getting so far down that all you can look is up.

Then in 1 Corinthians 5:6, another issue, they are glorying about it. He says, "Your glorying is not good." They are not dealing with it right. They are not following the biblical principles. They are not holding this guy accountable. It is just like, "Oh, what is the big deal?" And some are happy because he fell. Then he makes another great statement. He says that their glory is not good, and then he says, "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" You do not want the spirit of unforgiveness to come into your church. You do not want that spirit to come into your church. You are better off to lose whoever you have got to lose that has an unforgiving spirit than keep them around because that thing, it says leaven, and "a little leaven," the Bible says, "leaveneth the whole lump." There are some great verses in the Bible on leaven: Matthew 13:33, Galatians 5:9, and Matthew 16:6-8. Of course, we know that leaven is always bad teaching or bad doctrine, in this case, a bad attitude based on bad teaching. So we see that when somebody falls, no matter what it is, somebody has an issue in their life, you do not go around high-fiving everybody and glad about it. You grieve that they are a brother and sister in Christ because that is exactly what we need to do because that is the only way that God can do. God has to come down and do it through the Spirit of God in you, in me, and in the church at Corinth, which it is not there because of an improper reading in God's wisdom.

VII. Lawsuits Among Believers and Justification

All right, let's look at chapter 6. Here in chapter 6, there are a couple of great principles that are being misused by the church in Corinth. I am going to open it up by reading the first seven verses here, and you want to mark this because this is very crucial. This is some good stuff here.

1 Corinthians 6:1-7

1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

5 I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?

6 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers.

7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

Here is what is happening: obviously, we know there are divisions and there is strife in this church. The church is designed to take care of everything in-house. It is like the old saying, "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas." Well, what happens in the church should stay within the church, and the church has its means wherewith to be able to solve problems that come up between brothers and sisters in Christ. Now, somebody is in another church, that is another deal, but it is not as easy to work out, but it should be able to work out. But the bottom line, here is what they are doing: they are in a situation here where they are taking each other to court over issues that should be solved by the church.

Two great statements he makes in 1 Corinthians 6:2 and 6:3, which are great doctrinal statements, and we talked about this a couple of Thursday nights ago. He is basically saying that these saints, the church, is going to judge the world someday. We know that to be the Great White Throne Judgment. We talked about that. Then he says in 1 Corinthians 6:3 that we are going to judge angels. Those are the fallen angels that left with Satan that also are going to show up at the Great White Throne Judgment. The point is this: he is saying that someday you and I are going to judge the unsaved world with Christ. If that is the case, why can't you solve these little matters now within your church? Of course, the answer is they are spiritual babies. They have not been in the Bible. He says in 1 Corinthians 6:5, "You ought to be ashamed of yourself if no one is wise enough to help solve these problems." You know, and many times in situations, the church has to go in and mediate, and I have dealt with this all of my life, and it is something that is always going to be there. He says down here in 1 Corinthians 6:6-7, "It is wrong to take God's people's issues before the unsaved world," and it is. It is just not the thing to do because the church has the wherewithal to fix it.

Over my years, I have seen all kinds of problems that I have had to either get into or mediate, which is part of the job, part of what you do. One time, a group of people in Kansas City, really a re-town, they were putting together what they called a Christian phone book. It was a thing that everybody in it was Christian, and the idea was that, "You know what, we ought to just take care

of Christians, and they got jobs, let's give our business to Christians." They brought him in at the church I was at at the time, and I was the guy that kind of took care of those things, and I refused them, and they were quite upset. The guy, the little gal, could not understand why we as Christians in a church that claimed to be Christians would not want to accept Christian phone books that would give our congregation access to all kinds of Christians that were in business that we did not have to deal with the unsaved world. My answer to her was simply, "The biggest hosings I ever got in my life, I got from Christians. Christians have treated me a lot worse than the world ever has." She did not understand that, and I think she was from the church of Corinth too, I am not sure.

Let me give you some examples here and explain the format, and personally, let me give you a couple of pointers here.

11. If you enter into any kind of situation with anybody, I would tell you that don't assume that just because you two are Christians that it is all going to be on the up and up. I think that is the number one mistake that people make. They think, "Well, because they are Christian, you are a Christian, I am a Christian, you know, it won't go wrong." Oh, the devil will never miss that detail, I guarantee you. Don't assume that because they are Christian, you won't have issues with them because that is the fundamental, the fatal flaw that you are going to get into in dealing with it.
12. If you do decide to get into some kind of agreement, whatever, we will talk about some of the scenarios here, I would get it in writing. Don't be afraid, don't be ashamed, don't think that somebody, because I am going to show you some principles in the Bible here that tells you that is exactly what you should do. Get it in writing because we already know that the devil is going to get into the details. You already know what happened to the church at Corinth.

I have had people come to me and somebody said, "Well, I gave so and so this, and I, and so and so said they were going to do this," or "So and so gave me this, and so and so said they were going to do this for so much money." The first thing I asked, "Did you get it in writing?" "No." I do not know what you want me to do. Unless it is in writing, you do not have any kind of proof of anything, and you know it is your word against theirs, and it is a thing where if you are going to enter into that, know that there is always a potential for problems there, and you just make sure you get everything in writing. If you have to take it to the church, and hopefully you won't, but I mean, getting it in writing would be a good alternative if somebody would not want to go to church because you have got to document it.

You are going to find, you know, in business deals, work disputes. I have had people go to work for people over the years, and it does not usually work out very well. Something happens, either the amount of money is not right, or they did not do it. People get the idea, they think that because, you know, I have seen people go to work for a Christian, and when they get into work for a Christian, they think, "Well, because he is a Christian, I am a Christian, I don't have to work as hard as everybody else." You ought to work harder. You think that, "Well, because we are going to the same church together, he is going to cut me some slack," or "She is going to come and say." No, no, you do not expect that, but we do.

It is like, how about it when you think that you have somebody do something for you, maybe they are a carpenter, maybe they do this or maybe they do that, and they are going to build something for you? You automatically think that what do you think? You think that they are going to get golden spiritual two-by-fours that do not rot? You think that they have got any other tools or way to do it? You know what they do what they do, and some of them do it really well, some of them do it not so well, and you fall victim to that, and you just have got to get that kind of stuff in writing.

I have known guys that were builders years ago that built people's houses, and all the Christians wanted them to build their house, and they built the worst houses on planet Earth, and every person had a problem with them. That is just the way it is. But when you do not get that thing down, then you have a problem, and you know it is just where you go. I will tell you something else, you know, co-signing for people's loans is always a big problem. Some Christians have a sad sob story, you know, and they look like they are a really okay person, and you know what, and you say, they say, "Well, you know, I have got to do the car, I can't go to work," and you look at your wife, and I can't, I want to got a car I can buy, but they won't give me the car without a co-signer. You look at your wife, she looks at you, you look at God, you look at each other, and you want to do the right thing, so you say, "Well, you know what, this is what the Christian thing ought to be, we will co-sign for you." You know what? You are going to lose your car. You are going to lose your money.

The rule of thumb is, here it is, I will just tell you, this is from 40 years of experience: don't ever lend anybody any money that you are not willing to lose. That is a good piece of advice because you are going to lose it. You are going to lose it probably. Don't ever lend anybody any money that you are not, you cannot just write off and say it is no big deal. In fact, if I were you, I would just set it up to the place where you did not even require it back if you could, but maybe you cannot. But I am just telling you, it just does not work. It just does not work.

You get people, you know, I had a guy one time that I had a motorcycle. I used to ride a motorcycle with a bunch of people years and years and years ago, and I got past it. There was a kid in my church years ago, and he was a good kid. He was not a bum; he was a good kid, good kid. He got married and did not have a car, and he needed some cheap transportation, and he asked me if I wanted to sell my motorcycle, and I said, "Yeah, I will sell it to you." It was probably a \$3,500 bike, and it was only like four or five years old. I said, "You can have it for \$600." That is a pretty good deal. I mean, it was immaculate. I did not keep it immaculate, and a friend of mine just kept it, kept it in his garage. It was immaculate. It was a 600 Kawasaki, if that makes any difference to you, and it was a screamer. So he got the bike. You know what? I just said, "You know what, tell you what, just pay me, you know, pay me \$50 a month." No big deal, just whatever. You know what? Two months went by, not a thing. Three months went by, not a thing. A year went by, not a thing. I mean, I stand up a church for Bible study, he would be riding in my motorcycle, parking it down there, and the thing coming up and hugging me and then going down that thing. I said, "That is a nice bike I got there," or "I had there." You know what? I never said a thing. Never said a thing. Did he ever pay me? Not a dime. Not a dime. I wonder, you know, and I wonder if I have done what people think like that, you know, and I do. I do the

good side. I just figured that he, you know, when he was born, he had lack of oxygen for an hour or so, and that side of his brain died, you know, that he just forgets that you owe somebody \$600, even the fact that you are riding the bike right up to where you are standing there, and you are looking at it, and you do not want to ask for the money, but you just say some simple things, "Where is my money?" You just say some simple things, "How is it working for you?" You know, jog your memory a little bit, or, "You know, I don't have my wallet with you," or, "You know what, is this your wallet?" You know, that is a, or, "You know, if you really want to get provocative, you know, boy, I will tell you what, that is the best \$600 you ever spent." Not a thing, man. Not a thing. I will tell you what, it was one of those deals where that is just where it goes.

I am telling him, you have got an issue with somebody, you do not, you do not take it to the, you take it to the church if it is a big enough deal that it gets out of control, and it is a thing where then you so you do not have any problems between the two because they fester, they have problems. You have got to be pretty spiritual just to walk away from it because most people cannot because they feel like they got hosed. Hey, I get up every morning knowing I am going to get hosed. I mean, your favorite verse is, "This is the day the Lord hath made," but it is, "Be glad and rejoice." My favorite verse is, "This is the day the Lord hath made, you are going to get it in the neck." That is how you look at life, and that is what you have got. I mean, that is just what you have got.

Then he gets up here in another great principle, and all this kind of goes to go there. 1 Corinthians 6:8-11. Now he lays out a great doctrinal thing.

1 Corinthians 6:8-11

8 Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

"Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren. Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind," those are all unsaved people, "nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." All unsaved people. Now watch this, now here is a great doctrine we talked about in Romans, defined for you. Watch 1 Corinthians 6:11: "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

You see, you are not that anymore once you get saved. You are now God's child. Old things are passed away; all things become new. This is the great doctrine. This is the great doctrine laid out here of justification. You once were a thief, covetous, a drunkard, a reviler, an extortioner. You once were a fornicator, an idolater, an adulterer, an effeminate. You were all of those things, but the day you got saved, you are no longer these things. Now you are washed in the blood of Christ. You are a new creature in Christ Jesus. So this is a great, this is a great concept and a great passage on the doctrine of justification. He says that you are now, "you are washed," that would be by the blood of Christ. "You have been sanctified," that means you have been set apart from the crowd up there in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. Then he says, "but you are justified," and justified in the Bible is defined as God declaring me righteous when I am really not righteous and do not deserve it. God imputing His righteousness to me when I do not deserve it, separating me, washing me from what the world was.

Now let me give you these verses here, and then we are going to be finished. In Proverbs, these are great principles about dealing with people and jobs, money situations, or whatever, and I will give you these, and then we will be done today. All right, and you can take your mother out to lunch, and if she does not pay for it, you know, she does not pay for it, she is going to be after me, and I will have to mediate between it. Here we go.

- > Proverbs 17:18
- A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend.

"Strike of hands" means you shake on the deals. You see, now you find people do it all the time. They get into, they get into getting apartments together or get into getting the car together or something, and it is not detailed out, and so they all have an issue. "Well, later on, 'Well, you didn't say that.' 'No, I said this.'" Detail it out. He said, "A man void of understanding striketh hands."

- > Proverbs 6:1-3
- 1 My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,
- 2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.
- 3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.

See, documented. He says the bottom line is if you are surety, that means you co-sign for somebody, or you are going to be sure for somebody in some deal, and you have stricken your hand, you shook hands on a deal, that you as a Christian are snared with the words of your mouth. So you better make sure the guy you are doing it with is going to be up and up on his end.

- > Proverbs 11:15
- He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretiship is sure.

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsels there is safety." "He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: for he that hateth suretiship is sure." That is a good one. I like the word that you are going to smart for it. That is an old English term. The old English

terms, the words themselves, when they use them, they had a further meaning, and it says back, we do not use that word anymore. You say, "Oh, that smarts." You know why you say that? Because you are supposed to be smarter after you just did that. You say, "Oh, that smarts." You could say it in the world today, "Oh, I got smarter. I am not going to touch that again. It is hot." What happens is when you get into these deals, you are going to smart for it, but hopefully, you will learn from it, and you will not get, you will not get taken in a situation twice. You will be smarter.

You know, and this goes back to what I am saying, you have to have a biblical principle behind everything that you do, and when you do that, and you operate, no matter what, this is what the church of Corinth has failed on. They are not, they are not, Jesus Christ is really not Lord in this church because they have got the Bible, they have got everything that God gave them through Paul, they are even rejecting him, yet they are not doing it and being Christ being the Lord of your life. I am not much on this lordship style of ministry. I think it goes too far, but I understand what it means that Christ being the Lord of your life, and simply defined in the Bible, it means, it does not mean that you are sinless by any stretch of the imagination. It simply means that you have a biblical principle behind everything you do. That is, he says in Luke 6:46, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" If He is Lord of your life, then follow the principles, but you have got to have the principles to follow the principles.

All right, we are going to hold up there now. Next week, let me tell you something here, we are probably going to devote all of next week to chapter 7 because chapter 7 is the passage in the Bible that talks about marriage, divorce, and remarriage in the Bible, and it is the doctrine to the New Testament church. We are going to debunk a lot of the old stuff that is hanging around today that messes things up, and I am going to walk you, especially for you folks that want to learn how to work with people, there are 20 principles in chapter 7. We have never went through those in Sunday morning, or I think going through them in the marriage enrichment class years ago, but we are going to start, take that chapter, we are going to go through that so you understand what you are dealing with and get a concept about it. But most of all, realize that this is the doctrine, and the church at Corinth has messed up on this, so Paul takes the time to straighten it up. It will be one of the greatest things if you are interested in knowing the Bible and working with people. It will be one of the greatest things you have because we will be able to put a lot of insight into it. I use a lot of good examples. So let's hold up there. Take care of your mother today. Don't forget to sign up for the Memorial Day picnic. Don't forget Bob Greg, help us with the cutting the grass for our little gal. Let's have a word of prayer, and we will be dismissed, and I will see you all Thursday night, Lord willing. Father, we do thank.