

I. The Problem at Corinth and the Resurrection's Importance

We are in 1 Corinthians chapter 15. Last week, we got to the bottom of the problem that the church at Corinth was going through. We have seen chapter by chapter how they were completely messed up on everything. They were not growing, they were not happy in the Lord, and they were having some real issues. Paul calls them a bunch of spiritual babies. In every chapter, he has come through and talked about the issues. In chapter 15, not only did we see what the main problem was, but we got a little insight into how it got started and the heart of the problem. It took us 15 chapters to get to it, but as you put it all together, you begin to see exactly what is taking place here.

We know now that there is an underlying element of people in this church who basically stopped growing. They got cynical about what God was trying to accomplish and do. They had some issues with Paul, and they were bringing bad teaching and trying to go contrary to what the Bible says. We saw last week that this group is called the mixed multitude. They are not really doing anything for God; they are out there on the fringe. They just get caught up in all the things that seemingly make them miss what God is doing and begin to focus on all the negative things.

We showed you how those things in the Old Testament, the mixed multitude in Numbers chapter 11, were, as we came through 1 Corinthians chapter 10, Paul said that these things are for our example, our samples, and for our admonition. In other words, we are to learn from this. We are to learn how this church got in trouble. We are to learn the problems this church had and what they were going through.

We talked last week also about the art of learning not just to see but to observe. When you see something, you see it, but when you observe something, you see it in the context of what God is doing on a wider scale. We talked about the great thing that you and I needed to do was to keep that walk with God exactly where God wanted it to be.

I think the greatest thing that you should come away with from last week is the fact that nothing will expose the mixed multitude. As I thought about it all week and reflected back on it, the greatest thing that you should have learned last week is that nothing will expose the mixed multitude like a Bible preaching, on-fire, principle-foundation ministry. That will expose it all the time. Frankly, that is why the mixed multitude hate that kind of stuff, because it does expose it.

It is like going to a track meet, a 400-meter track meet, watching eight or nine, ten guys come out of the thing and run around the track. Yet, all over the track and all over the lanes, people are just standing around, kind of looking like they are at a beach someplace. The contrast between the runners and the ones that are standing is unmissable. Christianity is supposed to be a race. You are told that.

1 Corinthians 9:24

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Hebrews 12:2

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

When people run the race and then there are people who just stand and do not do anything, it is just that obvious. You should know now by this great chapter that it centers on the main issue they are struggling with, and that main issue is the concept of the resurrection. We saw that Paul really begins to deal with that, and the mixed multitude are telling them that there is no resurrection. We see it causing all kinds of problems.

What we saw in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 was a great definition of what the Gospel is. You should have that definition in your Bible now. As we start coming to these last 19 verses, he begins to lay out in detail the concept of the resurrection. In the first part of the chapter, he dealt with the need to have a resurrection. He showed us that if we do not have a resurrection, you have nothing. If there is no resurrection, then you and I, our salvation, is worthless. Everything we are doing in church this morning is worthless. It is not just the fact that Christ came and died; every religious leader came and died. It is the fact that He did not stay dead. It puts the emphasis of the resurrection as the premier thing that we have to hold onto, that everything is built around. It is one of the greatest concepts all throughout the Word of God.

Now, in the last part of the book, he begins a detailed layout. He begins almost a verse-by-verse disorientation of laying out the two aspects of the resurrection. Last week, I told you that there is a resurrection from the dead in the Bible; that is saved people. And there is a resurrection of the dead; that is unsaved people. It is one of the single greatest places in the Bible, this chapter, that you can really learn a lot of information. You will see this morning as we go through it. We are going to take our time and break it down verse by verse, and we will look at it as we come through it.

II. The Nature of Bodies and Flesh

I want to begin reading here in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, verse 39. Follow along with me in these first couple of verses here, and then we will talk about it.

1 Corinthians 15:39-44

39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Father, we do thank you and praise you today for the Lord Jesus. We love you. We thank you for the time that we have set aside to look at your Word. We pray that you will take this passage and help us to understand the great concept of the resurrection as it applies to our life. We know, Lord, that in this church there were men who were saying that there is no resurrection and that Christ did not come up from the dead. Paul dealt with that issue, and now we begin to see him explain it to us. Lord, we need this explained to us today. We need to see all the ramifications of how it really lays out and what a great series this is of showing you how the Bible is the great book and how we should study it. Lord, we will thank you today and we will praise you for all that you do for us and you give us in Jesus' name for a sake we ask it. Amen.

Verse 44 says there is a spiritual body and there is a physical body. This is what he begins to talk about coming down through here. The first thing he tells you is that all flesh is not the same. It is interesting that what he lists here, he lists men, he lists beasts, he lists fishes, and he lists birds. You will note that those four groups here exactly match up to creation in Genesis chapter 1. In Genesis 1:20, he talked about creating birds. In Genesis 1:21, he talked about creating fish. In Genesis 1:24, he talked about creating cattle. In Genesis 1:26, he talked about creating man.

This is a great verse because it is the beginning of seeing that there is a difference between men and animals. There is a difference between men and fish. There is a difference between men and birds, and this is the key to understanding and putting it all together. We have taught in our schools today, and it has been around a lot longer than most people would even imagine, but we have the concept of evolution, man evolving. We think that Charles Darwin was the first one who came up with the concept of evolution, and that is really not true. He was just a guy in the 1800s that repackaged it for the suckers in the last part of the 19th and 20th century.

The aspect of evolution was taught back with the Babylonians. It was taught with the Egyptians. You will find the Chaldeans thought about evolution, and they teach many of the same things. The problem is that people do not know anything about history. They do not know anything about the Bible, so when they hear something new, they think it is new. The book of Ecclesiastes already told you that there is nothing new under the sun. When Charles Darwin came up in the 1840s with his theory of evolution and *The Origin of the Species*, the whole world was rocked and thought, "Wow, this is a great thing!" But anybody that knew their Bible knew that it was not new, that it had been around for a long time.

Evolutionists come to a point where they can all agree on certain things, but there is one problem that they all have, and it is called the missing link. Nobody has ever been able to talk about how animals can come to a point and, "Okay, we can say that we evolved from animals and we have

come up to this stage right here," but nobody has been able to ever put the point anywhere in history where they made that leap from an animal into the concept of a man as far as his ability to reason is concerned. It is called the missing link.

The missing link is how come birds are the greatest singers in the world, but yet you cannot get four birds to sing four-part harmony. The thing is that you can have a German Shepherd as the smartest dog in the world, and you can train him to do everything. He can be tricked to go get this, and he will go fetch this, and you can do all kinds of stuff with him, but you put him in front of a computer, and he cannot get anything done. He cannot communicate with you. An animal knows four or five sounds. If you have dogs and you are in tune with your dog, I can tell my dog when he has got to go out because he goes on the floor, and I can say, "Yeah, he had to go, did not he?" You can tell by their bark. You can tell by their whine, by their cry. You can tell when a dog is afraid. You can tell when a dog is angry. You can tell when a dog is telling another dog.

I think it is the funniest thing in the world. My big Lab is a male, and next door, they have a kind of a mixed dog, Spencer, and he is a male. I always enjoy watching when they both go out because it is so true. They have their dominance, and it is funny. My dog will run up the back, and Spencer will be out, and all of a sudden, both dogs will go into a freeze looking at each other. It is just like they are staring each other down. I just stand there and I watch that, and I think to myself, "You know what? They are declaring their turf," and he is telling him, "This is where I am at," with a mean look. All you have to do with my dog is throw him a biscuit, and he will forget about Spencer and everything else and he will eat it.

Dogs cannot communicate to us. We like to believe that dogs can reason. They cannot reason. We like to think they can, but they cannot. They do not think through problems like you and I do. I know we would like to think they would. Nobody loves dogs more than me, and I like to pretend that, but at the end of the day, I know that that is not true. The reason why is because there is something missing between man and animals. That is why he is telling you here that there are four different kinds of flesh, and it is not all the same.

The missing element, the missing link that man has that an animal does not have, is his soul. An animal does not have a soul. An animal has a body and an animal has a spirit, but even his spirit is different than ours.

Ecclesiastes 3:20-21

20 All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

God is called the Father of spirits in Hebrews 12:9. The spirit in the Bible is a picture of the breath of life that we have. But you and I have a body, soul, and a spirit. That spirit that you have is different than the spirit of an animal because the Bible says in Proverbs 20:27 that man's spirit is the candle of the Lord. That is the contact point that God began to deal with man. The difference between an animal's spirit and man's spirit is that God does not deal with animals like He does with man. The Bible tells you in Genesis that animals were made for men.

This is why, if you ever stop and think about it, you put it into a practical aspect, this is why we do not eat people. There is something sacred about it. Remember when the soccer team crashed into the Andes Mountains years ago? They were never found for months and months, and they were starving to death, so they had to go to the extreme, and they started eating their own dead as they died. There was such a psychological impact. They would not even tell anybody that for I do not know how long. Then everybody had tremendous emotional problems because of that. You know why? Because eating a human being is just not like sitting down eating a Big Mac, because there is a difference between flesh. When God created man, He created him a little lower than the angels, the Bible says, and He gave him a soul that He did not give an animal. He gave him a spirit to commune with Him that He never gave an animal. God made the animals for us.

When you go through history, you see how this thing really works. If evolution is true and we just all come from animals, then in time, you know what they will do? They will just, when somebody gets old and somebody begins to not be able to be productive anymore in society, then they will euthanize them. They will kill them. In time, people, that sounds terrible, but when you thought about it, if you are an evolutionist and there is no difference between man and animals, do you not have to put a dog down when it becomes to the point where it is not functional? Well, if evolution is true and we are just animals and we are all kin to each other, then what is wrong with putting down people? You see, the difference is that there is a difference between flesh. When he starts to lay out this aspect of the resurrection, that is the first thing he begins to tell us. There is a difference between flesh, and animals and men are different. They are different because of a man's ability to reason and communicate with God through the soul that God gave him that He did not give an animal, and through the spirit that he has that is not the same spirit as the spirit that God gave an animal or a beast. That is really the aspect, and it is a key to a lot of things in the Bible.

Your spirit is your key to worship. Your spirit is your key to your relationship with God. The soul you have is where God comes and lives once you get saved. When you got saved, the Holy Spirit of God took up a residency inside your body. You know where He took up that residency? Within your soul. God is a holy God, and God as a holy God really cannot have anything to do with you and me. So God had to create a way that a holy God could live in an unholy person. So He gave man a soul, and then at the time of salvation, God separates that soul from the flesh. Now you have an old nature and a new nature. The Holy Spirit of God indwells man's soul, seals him with that Holy Spirit of God, and now through man's spirit with Christ living in his soul, God now can fellowship with man. He does not do that with animals. These are the things you begin to see.

III. Terrestrial and Celestial Glories

In verse 40, he begins to broaden the study a little bit more.

1 Corinthians 15:40

There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

He kind of broadened it. Now he is going to talk about two kinds of bodies but also two kinds of glories, and these two kinds of bodies fall into two categories: terrestrial and celestial. Remember now, the context here is the resurrection of Christ and how you and I are to understand it. So when we talk about terrestrial bodies, that would be man, the birds, the beasts, and the fish. Celestial is on this earth. The celestial bodies would be angels, cherubim, seraphim, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Within these two bodies, you have two glories, and that is what he wants to talk about.

Now, the terrestrial glory will be human man and his glorifying man. In time, if you are ever going to really get everything down, the Bible is not complicated, as you can basically see now from our Bible Basics class of getting the basic fundamental understandings of it down. But let me tell you something, it is a lifelong process to put all the other things that go along with it. You are going to see today, maybe from a little glance, that in time, as you get the Bible down, you are going to have to learn things about astronomy, outer space, to really put it all together. In time, you are going to have to learn things about geology. I already gave you a biology class today on body, soul, and spirit, but there is much more to that, and we just made a mention of it today in a very basic way. In other words, once you get to the place where you begin to get a handle on your Bible, you begin to realize that everything out there that God created, everything out there that man looks at, that man is part of, has some relevance to what God did in the Bible and has some importance to you and I understanding it.

You are also going to find that when you talk about a terrestrial glory, that is man glorifying himself. All history, American history, world history, pick it. All history is nothing more than a record of man glorifying himself over God. In the original sin, Lucifer said, "I want to set my throne above the stars of God, I will be like the most high, I will sit on the side of the north." (Isaiah 14:12-15). He wanted to overthrow God's kingdom, which is His kingdom. You can say whether it is good or bad, I do not really care, but in the final analysis, every nation on this planet down through history, whether it is American history or European history or world history, I do not care where you go, it is nothing more than men being crowned king, women being crowned queens, people being El Presidente or president or whatever over nations. Every one of those nations is a carbon copy or a phony copy of the great nation that is going to come, the nation of Israel, with God as their king.

When history started and when God designed government, He designed it around one government that He started, and it is because He started it that everybody hates the nation of Israel today. It is because He started it that the whole world, with the devil, hates the nation that God started. But that was the model, and God's model for a government is not for a president; it is a theocracy. It is God as king, and that is how He established the nation of Israel. You do not go very far in the Bible at all that you find that all the other nations that want nothing to do with God, they are counterfeiting that. When you look at the nations of history, the nations of the world, when you look at the nations down through the record of history, you simply find men trying to glorify themselves by being over a nation that takes that nation not to God but away from God. That is why everything that God did in Europe, did in America, was turned around in

time by the leadership that took over those nations that took that nation away from God. You know why? Because they are all counterfeits of the real one.

Most people do not understand this because they do not know much about the Bible. You hear it a lot today about America being a Christian nation. America obviously is not a Christian nation today. We can go back in history where we find that America at its inception was based on the Word of God, based on the principles of God, based on the aspect of God, and most of their leaders were saved, born-again people who understood there was a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. Many of the state constitutions, you would read them, you would fall on your face. When they were putting like North Carolina and South Carolina and Virginia, no state constitution was put together that said no man could ever hold a state office who was not born-again by the blood of Christ, because that gave him the ability to have balance of understanding there was a heaven and hell and make good judgment. Boy, where did that go today?

Of course, the problem is even with that, America was not a Christian nation. There is no such thing as a Christian nation. There are nations who are run by Christians, and there are nations who maybe hold to the Bible as their guidelines, but that does not mean there is such a thing as a Christian nation. There is only one nation that was God's nation, and that is the nation of Israel. We could spend a lot of time on that this morning, but that is not our goal. We are trying to get you to see here that there is a glory of man, and man's glory is glorifying himself.

We see it in science, evolution and science and NASA and all the things in outer space and going to the moon and going to the planets and trying to put probes on Mars and going out to study this and study that. You do know the underlying reason why they are doing that with billions and billions and billions of dollars of our tax money. They are doing it for one reason: they are doing it to disprove the Bible and God and prove that evolution is right. They will come up with the Big Bang Theory, the Nebula Theory, the Encounter Theory. The theories are endless. A guy said one time, "Well, I believe the universe started with a Big Bang." That is going back to that now. In fact, NASA right now are listening up at the Antarctica down in the South Pole. They are actually listening because the atmosphere is so pure down there. They are actually listening for the sounds that happened right after the Big Bang way out there in space. I told a guy one time, "Well, it did not start with a Big Bang, but it is certainly going to end with one here any moment." But science exists for one thing, and that is to glorify man and not glorify God.

I do not care where you go in history. You will find it in religion. If there is any place that you would think that religion would be based on glorifying God, it would be religion. But frankly, most religions do not glorify God. Most religions glorify men. That is why they all have a system of works, because the works takes it off of God doing anything and puts it on you doing your own work to earn your salvation. You know what that is? That is taking glory from God and putting glory into man.

If you are a visitor here or you have been, let me tell you something. There is nothing in you, no good in me, that could ever save you from anything. The only way we get to heaven is because the Bible says that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is none that doeth good, no, not one. All of our righteousness are as filthy rags in the sight of God. Then, based on

God doing the perfect work that you and I could not do, God gives us salvation. Now, when man says, "I am going to get baptized to go to heaven," "I am going to give money to go to heaven," "I am going to get my salvation through this," then he is shunning what God did, and he is doing it himself.

You see that in Baptist circles. Around the turn of the century, what happened was that the Bible was taken out of the hand of the common man, and then education became God. Then we have men that do not, God is not the final authority anymore; they become their final authority. That is this whole thing of education today in Christianity. The whole thing of somebody getting a doctor's degree in theology, the whole thing is building this thing around to the fact that it builds man's glory instead of God's glory.

You ought to know, and you do not know this, and I only know it because I have been around it for a long time, but you ought to feel the feeling that you get when you stand up a bunch of people and you are teaching them the Bible, and they come to a word, and you have the ability to take that word and tell those people that that is really not what it means. But in the Greek or the Hebrew, this is what it really means. You know what that is? That is just flat out telling God He did not know what He was doing when He wrote a Bible, and you know more than He does, so you are going to correct the book that He wrote. What do you get at the judgment seat of Christ on that one? My position is very simple: the dumber you are, the better off you are with God. Do not ever let anybody educate you out of your intelligence, because that is what happens. That is why we have everybody in theology today, even in the Baptist crowd. They are elevated so high that they now hold on to their degree. I do not care what anybody says. I have been there. I do not care what anybody says. Once you get that degree, I do not care who you are, how humble you are, once you get that degree that sets you higher than somebody else on the playing field because of your knowledge and what you know, it is going to affect your spirit, and you are going to glorify in yourself. You cannot help it, because correcting God is what the devil did in Genesis chapter 3. Correcting God and overthrowing Him is what he did in Genesis chapter 1. Our human nature is going to fall every time to us wanting to be like God.

Oh, we may be humble about it. We may get up and say, "Well, I took this doctorate degree just because I got this because I want to reach people, and it gives me another avenue, and it gives me this and gives me that." Well, I just thought if you preach Christ and lifted up Christ, God would draw them into Him. I never read one thing in that book that you have got to do anything to glorify yourself to get an open door to do anything. I guess I just missed that. I just thought that it was the Holy Spirit of God, no matter what the situation was. If God wanted you in it, He would get you in it. Maybe that is just me.

When the Reformation took place in Europe with Martin Luther, the way the Reformation was countered was with something that you all learned in history, called the Renaissance. If you want to, go up here to Bonner Springs, the Renaissance Festival, which is a neat thing. The big turkey legs are great. But you know what the word Renaissance means? This history, putting it into perspective, helps you understand the resurrection, and there is a glory of the terrestrial. That is man. The Renaissance means rebirth of knowledge. When the Reformation came in and the world was shocked and getting saved, and the Word of God was going around and really just

doing everything in Europe, and all the dead religions had lost their power, and Bible Christianity was off and running in Europe. Two hundred years later, Europe was dead. Two hundred years later, there were no revivals. There was no power of God. There was no Word of God. What happened? It was called the Renaissance, and it was a rebirth of knowledge. It produced some of the greatest artists, and it produced some of the greatest sculptures, and produced some of the greatest architecture, but it was all to glorify man. It was all nude statues of David or man thinking. It was all stuff that was back to man's body, Venus with no arms. It was all stuff that man did that was focused around the paintings, the nude paintings, and man's body, and this and that, because it was all going back to glorify man, and it destroyed it because there was a glory of the terrestrial, and that is what he is talking about here, and that is sown in corruption.

You see it in music. Man's unequalled pursuit to glorify himself. As I said earlier, all these things, there is a theology in architecture. There is a reason why buildings in Europe by the centuries are built the way they are built based on the impact of the King James Bible. Most people do not even know that. You certainly see it in art. You certainly see it in the sculptures, but I will tell you where you certainly see it: it is in music. When we talk about classical music, we are stupid, and we lump all the classical musics into one little deal, but that is really not the way it works if you know your Bible. The classical period would run from 1530 to about 1700, and at that point, that was when the King James Bible was busting out Europe. So the music that was being composed during that time, the reason why that is called the Golden Age, is the reason why the King James Bible is called a literary masterpiece. It is because that Golden Age, I do not know if you know it or not, but when your King James Bible was written, the English language was at its pinnacle. It was in its purest form, and all languages go through changes, but by 1600, the English language had gotten to the classic. That is why Shakespeare, if you took the plays of Shakespeare and put them in modern language, I hope I did not even go to them. It is the purity of the language, and God waited till the English language was going to be the last universal language. God waited till that language got to the pinnacle of its purity and then wrote the final context of His book, Old Testament and New Testament, and gave it to the world.

It impacted everything. It impacted architecture. It certainly impacted music. So you will find from 1530 to 1700, which is the true classic period, you find the music glorifies God. This will be Mozart. This will be Haydn. This will be Bach. This will be Handel. All saved men who wrote because they wanted to bring glory to God. But as time went on, man wanted to take that, and as the Renaissance period took glory from God and brought glory back to man, we run into the romantic period, 1730 to around 1900. Now the music is focused no longer on the glory of God, but the glory of man. Now it is focused on man's thought, man's reason to express himself. Now it is focused on the glory to man. Now we find the aspect of the great German rationalists, Kant, Nietzsche, all coming on the scene. We find the composers now like Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, and Mendelssohn, all going toward man as the art and as everything else is.

Then we come into the modern period, man's unequalled pursuit in glorifying himself. The modern period is 1900 up to my birth in 1950 thereabouts. This period appeals completely to the flesh. It is all natural, sense of sight. This is where you have the music now is very descriptive.

Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, they even hauled in cannons to make it a visual. It is all to sense, to sight, and to sound. Chopin in his Light Cavalry Overture, you can actually see the horses. All Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries. Valkyries are demons, and you listen to that, and you can actually feel the hordes of hell in that music as it paints a picture. The William Tell Overture was famous; you know it as the Lone Ranger. Again, you can hear the picture, you can see the picture of the horses all down through it. The modern period is all about man, and it is all about sight, it is all about senses, it is all about nothing about God, nothing about glorifying God. Why? Because the glory of the terrestrial will always be about man glorifying himself.

Then we come to the natural. That starts in 1950 and runs us up where we are at today. That is aimed at the body, that is aimed at sex, that is why you have drugs coming into this one. That is where man is depicted as an animal, that is where you have the songs like the Bunny Hop, the Fox Trot. You have groups called Three Dog Night, The Beatles, The Monkees, The Animals. When you get toward the latter part of it, you have them demon, in devil concept and everything with Kiss. Now music is not enough; it is absolutely torrid and everything against God and demonic, but now it is not enough. So some of them bring in the graphics of having sex with their guitar on stage, killing chickens or animals. There was a thing back in the 60s and the 70s that came out that was really big called backmasking. It was that if you took a satanic song that was out of the natural movement and played it backwards, the words would come out. It is incredible the way it does it. The words would come out, and the idea was that it was suggestive inside there because it was all satanic. It would bring that record back by Kiss or somebody, and it would say, "Kill your mother, do this, do drugs, do that." It was incredible. I actually went to a couple seminars just to see what it was all about. It was incredible. You played it backwards, and you got a message. I tried it one time; my failure was I did it with a country western song. I played it backwards, and he got his truck back, he got his dog back, he got his woman back.

Romans 1:21-23

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

This is what man does in the glory of the terrestrial. He glorifies man.

Now, the glory of the terrestrial is man glorifying himself in a fallen condition. But then he says there is another glory, and that is the glory of the celestial. That will be the spiritual side of it all. When you come through your Bible, that will be angels that God created. The Bible tells you in Acts 7:53 that angels were used in the Old Testament for the disposition of the law, and God uses them as messengers. You are going to find in Ezekiel chapter 1 and Ezekiel chapter 10, and we studied this yesterday, if you remember it, you are going to find cherubim, and they are always connected around the throne of God. Then you find in Isaiah 6:6 another spiritual being called a seraphim, and they are connected all the time with the altar of God. Then you find Jesus Christ

who was created in the image of God for the glory of God (Hebrews 1:1-3). All of these things, all of these celestial bodies, where the terrestrial bodies glorify man, these celestial bodies that God created glorify God. He is getting ready to show you, based on that, there are two glories.

Now, you want to see how it works? When you got saved, you are a new creature in Christ Jesus. Old things are passed away, all things become new. It is real simple. When you got saved, you now left this world, and you are seated in heavenly places. When you got saved, the rest of your life, you cease from bringing glory to yourself, because you have God living inside you, and you now are a celestial body living inside you. You cease from getting glory yourself, and now you get glory from your life, from your work, from your job, from what you do, from your body, from your actions, you get glory, and you give it to God. It just works that simple.

IV. The Resurrection and the Glory of Stars

He says in 1 Corinthians 15:41:

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption.

He just gave us two glories. The celestial belongs to God, His glory. The terrestrial, unsaved man, him glorifying himself. Then he gives us an example of the sun and the moon and the stars as an example of the glory at the resurrection. "So also is the resurrection of the dead." Now, here is where in time you are going to have to broaden your horizons when it comes to the Bible and begin to learn some other things like the music and all of those stuff.

Romans 1:19-20

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

That is the key verse in all of the Bible that you have to get down at some point to put it all together. What he does by his creation, his creation is a picture of everything that he did that when you and I study it through the Word of God, what we cannot see, we understand by the things that God made.

I told you yesterday that you have got to be careful with that because there are groups out there, there is a group called, we would call them, Pantheists. A Pantheist is someone who believes that God is in everything. An animist is another group of people in their belief. They do not believe there is any separation between the spiritual and physical, that dogs and people are all the same. The Pantheist goes so far that he thinks that it is all the same but nature. He believes that trees have souls. Man has a soul. Animal has a soul. Rocks have a soul. The water has a soul. Of course, that is why, as I said yesterday, that is where your tree huggers come from. That is where

all this "go green" stuff comes from. It all goes back to a female deity, in this case, Mother Nature. Back in the old days, in the pagan days, they worshiped all of those things, and that is why they worshiped the sun, they worshiped the moon. That is where the seasons always brought different feasts that were connected to their religion, because it goes back to the fact that they worshiped as a Pantheist. They worshiped and they thought everything that God created was God.

That is not how it works from a Bible believer. I know that everything God created shows me something about God, but I do not worship the things that He created. See the difference? I know that they are in the Bible to teach me something I cannot see by something He created, but I do not make the mistake to worship a tree. Cut it down. A dog. A rock. I do not worship the sun and the moon. I know they are up there, and they represent something, and I am going to show you some things, but I do not worship those. They are there because God, who I do worship, made them to show me something I cannot see by what He made, through what He made. That is the key.

Yesterday we talked about, and even today we talked about the birds and the fish and the animals. Job 12:7-9 is a great passage.

Job 12:7-9

7 But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:

8 Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.

9 Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?

You know what he just said? He says, when you study all those things, you see God. You see God in His creation. I have never met in all of my years going out on an incredible starry night and looking up into heaven for the first time. I have never met anybody in my life that ever walked out on a just gorgeous night and looked up at the millions and millions of stars up there and said to themselves, "Oh yeah, that got here by evolution." When you stand in the presence of God's creation in its purest form, you are overwhelmed by the fact that somebody a lot bigger than you and me made that. You have to be educated out of that, and you have to bring your glory and give it to man instead of the glory to God.

He says there, the beasts teach you, the animals. Then he says that God's people are like stars in the resurrection. They are going to shine in the brightness of the firmament or hardly be seen at all. It is going to be one or the other. He says in Daniel 12:2-3:

Daniel 12:2-3

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

He is telling us about the resurrection, and now he comes down to show us, "You really want to understand the resurrection? Go look at the stars at night." Because you stand out there, and you see a bright star and a dim star. That is the way it is going to be at the resurrection. People are going to shine so bright, it is unbelievable. Others, you are going to be hard to see them. Just like going out, you will see all kinds of different brightness of stars. That is how you and I are going to be in the resurrection according to what he said. He says you learn from the animals, you learn from the earth, you learn from the firmament. That is exactly what you have. He says those that be wise, you go into the book of Proverbs, you know what you find? You find nine things that a wise man is. You want to get wise? I told you last week, he that is wise walks with the wise. You know why wise people are wise? Because they go to the book of Proverbs and they find out the nine things that make somebody wise, and they become wise. It also gives you eight things that a fool is. That is how you use it. That is how you take it. That is how you do something with it.

In all my years of studying the stars, and I have been into astronomy all my life. God knew, I guess, by the time I was nine years old, I got my first telescope, and those pictures over there on the wall that we put up with the heavens declared to God, I took all of those through my years of astrophotography being captivated. But once I got into the Bible, and everything started to come into play for me, I began to realize how important it was. In all my years of studying stars, I have found seven pictures of stars up there in outer space that match up to the people I have met in my life that are Christians. So I know what he says when he says that the resurrection is going to be a thing where some shine brightly and some do not, and there is one star different from another star in glory. So is our resurrection by the glory, whether you gave it to God or you kept it for yourself. It is quite incredible.

I do not know if you know it or not, but stars are graded in brightness by what they call magnitude. Most people do not even understand today that when you go out there and look at the stars, stars are just like our sun, except we are just a longer way away from them. Our sun would be just an average star. There are some stars out there. They are called red giants. You could put a million of our suns, and you can put a million of our Earths, which is about what, 10, 12,000 miles in diameter. You could take a million of our Earths and put it inside the sun. The sun is 186,000 miles around. It is incredible. But you could find some suns out there that are called red giants that are so much bigger. You could take a million of our suns and put them inside. That is how big they are. Our sun is just an average sun. We look at it as really bright for us, but it is just an average sized star from what they say.

You gauge the brightness of stars by magnitudes. With the average night, you go out at a nice dark place. You can see about 5,000 stars with your eyes. Your eyes with just general good eyesight can probably see fifth magnitude. One magnitude is the brightest, two is next to the brightest, three, four, five, and six, seven, eight, nine, ten. If you have really good eyes, you might be able to see seventh magnitude. The 200-inch Mount Palomar telescope, the 200-inch one, it can actually visually see stars that are 22nd magnitude. I cannot even tell you how faint that is. The Hubble telescope can see stars that are two million times fainter than your eye and my eye can see. It is incredible. Yet that Bible says that every one of those stars out there represents a Christian. At the judgment, at the resurrection, some people are going to stand there,

and they are going to be as bright as you could ever see in your life. Other ones are going to be so faint, hardly able to see.

The reason why he does that is because every time you go out at night and look up at the stars, he does not want you to think about who you are in love with or think about this or thinking about that. He wants you to think about Him and realize that someday you are going to stand there, and there is one glory of the sun, one glory of the moon, one glory of the stars. And one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. He is teaching them about the resurrection.

Now, the first type of stars that you have are what I call the really bright ones, first and second magnitude. These stars are like a lot of God's people that I have met in my life.

- These stars are always there.
- They are always bright.
- They never change.
- You can navigate by them.
- You can set your course in life by them.

I do not care if you are in the northern hemisphere, the southern hemisphere, north, south, east, or west. God has put enough first and second magnitude stars that if somebody, before we had compasses and before we had all the stars, all of the things, the measuring, the plotting, of course, you plotted by the stars. There are some stars that were absolutely so bright. Once you knew where they were, they were always there. You could always count on them. You could always navigate by them. It never became an issue that you did not know where you were.

I have met a lot of God's people like that. The people that you want to hang out with in your Christian life are those kind of stars. You want to hang out with people that you can set your course by. You want to hang out with people that you know that are always going to be consistent, that you are going to be there. Wherever you are going in life, you can always look back, and you can hitchhike. I have had people in my life that do not even know that they did for me what they did just by their lives and what they had done and their consistency and their love for God, and their never wavering was more of an example and helped me through life more than ever before. They will never figure it out or never know about it until they get home to the resurrection. That is what Christians are supposed to be.

In Philippians 2:25, you have a great guy there. I have never, I have got a message on this I have never preached. But this is the, that guy back here, his name is Epaphroditus. I do not know if you ever looked at it or not, but it says, verse 25:

Philippians 2:25

Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

He lists six things about this guy, and these six things are what I look for in a Christian to get the job done and get the work done for the Lord. We talk about it all the time. We are here today

because God has a job for us to do. It is just that simple. When God brought you to this church, it was no accident. God brought you here because God felt that He wanted you to get a dose and a taste of what we have here. Maybe for you, He gave you the choice: yes or no, I am going to serve Him or no, I am not. But at the end of the day, God has something He wants you to do. If you are in this church, He wants you to do it in this church. Now some of you will and some of you will not. That is just life on planet Earth. That does not change the fact that that is what He wants us to do.

God will give a church a pastor or give in a man's heart to start a church as we did. People in that church will come, and they will say, they will listen to the guy. They will say, "That is just what I am looking for." No, thanks. But through that process, God builds around the man that God brought to that church. The people that are going to get his heart, get his mind, get his spirit, get his ideas, and then through that process, are going to get the job done. That is how it works.

When I come over here about Epaphroditus, I find six things. I was talking to Cheryl this morning. Here are the six things I was talking about now.

1. My brother. If you run that through the Bible, you will find that a brother is born for adversity. So it is somebody that is going to stick with you through the tough times.
2. And companion. That is somebody that is going to be your friend. Somebody you can count on. Somebody is going to be there.
3. In labor. He was a companion in labor. He is going to get your mind, and he is going to get in the work with you.
4. Fellow soldier. You share a foxhole together. You take the incoming, the outgoing, and when they come over to North Wire together, that is what you do.
5. A messenger. Got a message.
6. He ministered to my wants. He is a minister.

Those are the first magnitude Christians that you find in Christianity.

Then you have some that are medium brightness. That will be magnitude three to five. On a bad night, they are hard to see. They are nowhere as prominent as the first and second magnitude stars, and you never want to set your course by these stars. Just a little bit of haze in the sky, and you cannot see them. The bright ones, I have seen some of the bright ones just stand out there. You probably do not know where the Dog Star is in Canis Major, but it is Sirius. Sirius is the brightest star in all of the sky. It is so bright that if you see it on a dark night, it is a winter constellation. It is right on Orion. If you would come up and see that thing in a dark night, it looks like somebody has got a searchlight on in the sky. Then right next to it, a little dim star you can hardly see. You have medium brightness stars. You do not want to set your course by those stars. You cannot really depend on them in all kinds of weather.

Then you have your really dim stars, and that will be sixth and seventh magnitude. I do not want to tell you, you do not even know they exist without a star chart. They are worthless for navigation. They are worthless for finding your way around the sky, at least with so many other stars. If you want to get somewhere, most people do not know this, but you find things in the heavens like you find an address. The constellation would be the city. The star in the

constellation would be the address in the city. Then you get directions from there, and you can find just about whatever galaxy you want. That is the way it works. But with these kinds of stars, you cannot find your way anywhere. I have met God's people like all three of these.

When I look at stars, and he says, "There is one star differeth from another star in glory." I compare my Bible and the resurrection of you and me to what God made up there in the stars. Now that I know that some are going to shine with brightness, and some are going to shine with not being so bright. When I start studying it, I find some other stars, and I think it is incredible. They match up to God's people I met in my life.

You know what the next kind of star is? It is called a supernova star. You know what a supernova star is? For some reason, and I do not know why nobody ever really does, but you will see this star out here that maybe is, I do not know, maybe sixth or seventh magnitude. It starts to explode. It starts to explode to some place where it gets so huge and so large and so bright. Back in China in the 12th century, there was one in the constellation Taurus that exploded and got so bright, they could see it in the daytime. It gets brighter and brighter and brighter and brighter and brighter and brighter. Suddenly, what was a seventh magnitude star is now first magnitude. I have seen pictures of them that they are absolutely unbelievable. They just get so bright, and they get to the point where they overshadow everything around them. Then, just as they got bright, they start to go dimmer and dimmer and dimmer and dimmer as all the energy dies out. Pretty soon, there is nothing left of it. I have seen a lot of Christians like that. I have seen a lot of Christians that come to church, and boy, they are on fire for God. They want to do something for God. Boy, they are ready to go. They will buy a wide margin Bible. They get all the pencils, got every color in a rainbow. They get all the books they can get their hands on. They are just fired up. They are ready to go. They are ready to go to work. "Boy, put me someplace. Use me. Boy, I am going to do this. I am going to do that." Six weeks later, you do not even find them anymore. Supernova Christians. A lot of Christians like that in my life. A lot of them.

There is another type of star called a variable star. In astronomy, they are really rough because variable stars, for whatever reason, they change in brightness. You go out tonight, and you look up in the sky, and you are trying to find something in the sky, and you are going to key off of this star. You look at it tonight, and there it is. "I can see it. It is a second magnitude. Wow, there it is. Now I can just hip hop over here to get where I want to go." Then three weeks later, a month later, you come out and do the same thing. You try to find that star. You cannot find it. It is a variable star. It varies in brightness. Science does not know why. I know why. Because God made stars like Christians. Because some of you, some of God's people do the same thing. You are up one day, down the next. You are shining today. You are down tomorrow. You are on top of the world this week, down next week. You are a variable star Christian. He said that the stars are going to be like Christians in the resurrection. It is one star different from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. Just as you find Christians who are bright one day and then dim the next. Their whole world depends on their circumstances. They have never learned to live above the circumstances. They have never learned to deal and have the victory when the day is bad. It all depends on the day it is going. You are like those little stars up there. Today you are just walking down there with your Bible under your arm. "I got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in

my heart." Two days later, variable. Just like I cannot count on those stars to find my way around the sky, you cannot count on those kind of Christians for anything. You may catch them on a bad day. You may have something to do, and it is something you need them to do, and you just call them on that bad day, and it all falls to pieces. Variable star Christians, up one month, down the next. Cannot depend on them. No consistency.

Then the next kind of star is my favorite. We all love these. These are shooting stars. We all like shooting stars. I have seen them in the daytime. They call them bolides when they shriek down through the sky, and many times they explode. There was one here in Kansas City not too long ago, and I did not see it, but I saw the trail. It leaves a dark smoke trail. I have seen them at night where they just, oh, just come down, and I mean they are absolutely, there is something eerie about them because they are so, it is so quiet, and all of a sudden you see this light streaking down through the sky. Then it is gone. The thing about falling stars is they are not really stars. They are not a sun. If a sun fell through our atmosphere, we would all be better get sunblock about 9 million. They are not real stars. They are pieces of dead rock.

When you see a meteor shower, do you know how a meteor shower happens? What happens is comets come through our orbit, Comet Hale-Bopp, Halley's Comet, Shoemaker, and they will pass through. When the comet passes through, it leaves a debris trail, and that debris trail just stays out in space. When our Earth orbits around the sun, three or four times, five, six times a year, it will pass through those debris trails that those comets left. When it goes through, the debris of the comets come into our atmosphere, produce a meteor shower. Do you just think that meteors are running through space looking for a place atmosphere to burn up in? No, it is all of these comet trails that have been left over the hundreds and hundreds of years, and our planet keeps rolling out in there and running through them. When it is through, all those particles start falling in our atmosphere. They are beautiful, but they are not real stars.

I have seen a lot of people like that. I think most Christians, we live in a world today that they do not really, they do not really get saved. They are just like shooting stars. They are just passing through. You will see them one week, and they are gone the next. You are sitting out there, and they are just, they are gone. People come to churches today, just passing through some other atmosphere. He says that we are going to be like the stars. So you will find shooting stars, which are not real. They are fake. I think a lot of people today that pretend they are Christians are really just like the shooting stars. They are just a hunk of dead rock. There has been no real regeneration in their life that makes the difference. Let me tell you something. That Bible says when you got saved, things change. I am sorry. That Bible says when you get saved, it is a new world. Things change. Old things are passed away. Oh, you may struggle with some things, and that is a good sign because before you got saved, you did not struggle. The fact that you still struggle now that you are saved is a good sign you are saved. But these people that just keep on living their lives after they claim to be saved, drinking and drugs and everything else, and it just never bothers them. That is their lifestyle. Then they actually think that they really had a day in their life where they have ever really trusted Christ. Not according to the star chart you have. You are just passing through. You are just a piece of dead rock that flames up for a little bit, and then you are gone.

Then the last one you look at is this is another good one. This is black hole stars. Science just found black hole stars about 30, 40 years ago. I say they found them. They have never really seen one. They are still theoretically out there. Nobody has ever seen one. Nobody has ever photographed one. Certainly nobody has ever went in one. But black hole stars are stars that do not put out light. They suck in light. Black hole stars are anti-gravitational fields that instead of light going out, light gets sucked in. Because light gets sucked in, there is tremendous heat, but there is no light. Hence, black hole stars. They think that many galaxies have black hole stars at the center. Maybe, maybe not. But certainly black hole stars are found in the Bible.

When you know your Bible and you see how Romans 1:19-20, all of these things out here He created show you something. This is what Paul is getting to when he talked about the resurrection. Remember I told you there was resurrection of the dead and from the dead? We have looked at the resurrection of people that were types of stars. Saved people. The ones that are going to go to righteousness. Now there are some who are going to go to everlasting contempt. That is the black hole stars. You know what a black hole star is a picture of? In every shape of the word. Scientists do not even figure it out. A picture of hell. Absolutely torn and completely. Outer darkness. There is no light in the black hole star. There is no light in the black hole star. Somebody asked me a question a couple weeks ago, called me on the phone, and they said, "Can you explain outer darkness in the Bible? What is outer darkness?" Of course, you only find it in the Gospels in a couple of places. What is outer darkness? If hell is fire and hell is heat and hell is flames, how can it be outer darkness? Because it could not be darkness if there are flames, because flames equal light. The thing they never figured out is the fact that there is a black heat. There is a black light. There is a black light that has flames that does not give off any light. It is an outer darkness, and it is absolutely completely without any light coming out at all because everything is sucked in. It is the opposite of light going out. There is your black hole star.

Look at Jude 13. Jude only has one chapter.

Jude 13

Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

There is so much here that I cannot even get into today. But the bottom line is simply this. You now know that when He starts to talk about the resurrection, He likens it to stars. He said back there that it is one star different from another star in glory, so also the resurrection is dead. Now you and I are one of those kinds of stars and one of those kinds of types today. It is just that simple. It is not up for me to tell you which one you are. But the Holy Spirit of God will tell you which one you are. That black hole star is for unsaved people. That is a type of hell. In the context there, if you go back and look at it, it is just talking about the fallen angels in Genesis 6. But that verse is showing you right there that everything that God created is a picture of something that God made down through here. When you look at it and you see it and you understand it.

V. The Sun, Moon, and Church

He said there is one glory of the sun, one glory of the moon, one glory of the stars. So we find the glory of the sun. The sun is a type of Jesus Christ. The sun has three types of rays that match up to the Trinity.

- X-rays, invisible, you cannot see them. God is a spirit.
- Light rays, light rays are what you see, Jesus Christ.
- Heat rays, which are a type of the Holy Spirit of God. You do not see them, but you feel them.

Psalm 19:1-6

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

That is a verse that tells you that the sun, when God created it, shows you a picture of God. Three types of rays which come from it.

Then you have the moon. One glory of the sun, one glory of the moon, one glory of the stars. Then you have the moon. The moon has its glory but not as bright as the sun. In fact, Job 25:5 says:

Job 25:5

Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight.

The moon does not shine by its own light. The moon reflects the light of the sun. So you have the sun is the type of God, the moon is the type of the church. You and I do not shine by our own glory, or we should not. The terrestrial, we shine by the celestial. That is why the moon reflects the light of the sun. The sun lights the day, the moon lights the night. Picture the church age. You are going to let your light shine. So when you put all that together, you see the sun is the type of Christ or God. The moon is the type of the church, and the stars are a picture of individual Christians. There is one glory of the sun, one glory of the moon, and one glory of the stars. If one star differs from another star in glory, so also is the resurrection of the dead.

I have seen that moon when it is a full moon out there. I have seen, and I do not know if you know this or not, but it takes 28 days for the moon to go around its orbit. The moon in its orbit and its rotation is the same. That is why you always see the same side of it. 28 days. In the book of Ecclesiastes, there are 28 concepts of life, time of existence. You are going to be born, time to

be dead, and you match up to the 28 days that the moon runs around the sun. It never stops in everything that you do. The moon reflects the light of the sun. You and I today are to glorify ourselves. We are to reflect the light of the sun, and we glorify God.

But what happens? Cheyenne says, "Oh, there is a great eclipse coming." What is an eclipse? An eclipse is a period of time when the Earth, the world, comes in between the sun and the moon, and the moon goes dark because the world blocks out the light from the sun. That is the nature of you and me when we are out of fellowship with God. Anytime the world comes in between you and the sun, your light is going out, folks. Then there are times you are out there on a clear night. That moon is so bright it puts a shadow on the ground. You and I are the light tonight. We are the lesser light. The light is the night. But I have seen out there where you go out, and the moon is so full, but you cannot see it. You know why? Because the clouds of this world are blocking out the light of the moon. When the clouds of this world get in between you and your world and blocks out the light, in my world and blocks out the light, it is a picture of you and I being out of fellowship with God. You see, everything in there.

So when he starts to talk about the resurrection and get into the details so we can understand it, he talks about the bodies, terrestrial and celestial. He talks about the two glories, man glorifying himself and the things that God made glorifying God. When you and I get saved, we are no longer part of the terrestrial. Now part of the celestial. It is inside us. So we are to take what we have, and we are to glorify God. As we do that, there is one glory of the sun, that is God, one glory of the moon, that is the church. One glory of the stars, that is you and me. As one star differs from another star in glory, so also is the resurrection of the dead. There is a day we are going to stand at the judgment seat of Christ, and what you did with God is going to shine, just like you going out tonight. You will never go out tonight if you have got any brain cells left at all. From this day forward, you will never go out on a dark starry night when you are getting in your car, walking your dog, or whatever you are doing, and look up in that sky, and the Holy Spirit of God will not tell you, "That is what you are going to be like when you stand before Me. Are you going to be this star or are you going to be that star?" It is just that simple.

VI. Conclusion and Application

Every head bowed, every eye closed. Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. What a great chapter this is, and how it just never ceases to amaze us what the Bible has. How we are to learn. Paul took this chapter, and he starts to deal with why there has to be a resurrection. Now we see that all the pictures of it, that we now better understand what it is like, that it is likened to the stars. By the things that God made, we understand the things that we cannot see. Now we have a better understanding. It is just going to be like looking into the sky. Some of these dear folks tonight are going to shine with the brightness of the firmament. Some are not going to be so bright. Some are going to hardly shine at all. Lord, let it be an admonition to our hearts and our lives to realize that Father, when we got saved, we are to cease glorifying ourselves. We are to take our time, our talents, our job, our money, and all of our energy and everything that we do, and give it to glorifying you that in that day we might shine as the brightness of the firmament. Thank you, Father. Thank you for this book. Thank you for all it is.

Lord, every time I stand up to teach it, I feel so inept. There is so much in there that we could have talked about today. So much there that just goes beyond all that we do. But help us to grasp as these little finite minds can. Help us to grasp the basic fundamental things that help us love you, be with you, want a desire to walk with you, and to be used of you in these last days. Take this church, raise up the men and the women that will stand and be taught and learn and grow and observe and then take the Word of God and take it out to others. We will thank you and praise you. In Jesus' name, for a sake we ask it. Amen.