

I. The Importance of Perspective on Ourselves in Christ

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want to invite you to turn for the last time to 2 Corinthians chapter 5, and we will finish up this chapter today. Next week, just so you know, I will bring you up through our fourth set of principles, and you know how we are breaking down the book of 2 Corinthians. For those of you who want to be part of the people ministry that is going to work with people and their problems, we have been cataloging the biblical principles for dealing with people every five or six weeks, and next week we will get into our fourth set of those, so you will want to plan for that.

Last week we started our study on the third perspective founded in 2 Corinthians chapter 5. This has been a great chapter. It is one of my favorite chapters in the Bible in dealing with people and ministry because it is so telling, and it really is a chapter that for my own personal life is of great value, and I think if you would understand it, it would be of value to you too. It is the great perspective on ourselves, who we are in Christ.

You remember chapter 5 breaks down around three distinct perspectives, and perspective is everything. In the Christian life, you have to have the right perspective about just about everything that you are going to deal with in life. In this particular chapter, we get what our perspective should be on the judgment seat of Christ, how important that is. Then we get our perspective on the ministry and seeing that from God's standpoint. The last thing we started to talk about last week was our perspective that we should have on ourselves, you and me.

I told you that this is a very important chapter. I told you that this third one is probably the single most important aspect of our relationship with God and its success: understanding simply who we are in Christ.

When I was in the Army many years ago, the airborne guys always held themselves as an elite unit over the regular troop. Whether they were or not is another argument, but in their minds, they thought that they were. I remember very vividly that they were up before anybody else. They were up at 0300, where everybody else got up at 0600, they were up at 0430 or 0500, and they were famous for going on these long runs early in the morning. They wanted to demonstrate to everybody that was in the sound of their voice that they were elite and who they were.

I will never forget, our first sergeant would always go out while everybody was running, doing their, and there were about 800 guys in companies of 200 all running behind each other. It was a line that went on forever. All the other guys were asleep, but these guys would be out there and they would be running through there. The first sergeant would always come out; he took particular pride in this. I think he did it because he liked to wake everybody else up that was not airborne. He would stand out there, and as the first company came by, he would stand and bellow with a voice that, no megaphone, no microphone, but you could hear him all the way to St. Louis. As these guys would come running down, running, and they were all running in formation, he would stand there and he would say, "Who are you?" Of course, 250 guys would

yell back, "Airborne!" Then he would say, "How far?" And they would yell back, "All the way!" That was kind of like their code and their creed, that they were elite and they wanted everybody to know who they were. I think part of the eliteness of that was the aspect that they knew who they were.

I heard that many, many years ago and heard it many, many times. I thought to myself over the years, that is the tragedy with God's people. You are elite this morning if you are saved. You are somebody that is absolutely above everything else in this world. You are God's child. You are the aristocracy of heaven. Every preacher worth his salt, every time he preaches, whether he preaches on this subject or not, ought to be stirring up the question in your heart of "Who are you?" and "How far are you willing to go?" Because without you understanding who you are in Christ, you are not going anywhere. You are never going to get to the place in your life where you ever fully understand what happened to you the day you got saved.

Last week, I took the time to lay out the whole process. I did it three or four times, two or three different ways. I wanted you to understand what changed about you on the inside the day you got saved. That is the beginning of understanding who you are. You have lots of people in the world today, God's people, who walk around in fear of God, thinking that God is going to do some terrible thing to them. We all struggle with things. I met Christians that because they did not have the right understanding of God in their life, they are thinking that God is standing around the corner, just waiting for them to screw up and then going to step out and give them cancer, or kill their child or kill them. That is not the way God works. The reason why that happens, the way that it happens in people's minds, is simply because they do not understand the way God looks at them. They do not understand the two vitally important concepts that we have to know:

1. How God views you.
2. In light of that, how you view yourself.

If you are a young Christian this morning, last week and this week is invaluable to you. It really sets the basis in your life of what you are going to build on the rest of your life. What you are going to learn, how you are going to apply it, all comes back to now you understand what happened the day you got saved. Because of that, you have a better understanding of how God views you.

If you are planning to work with me in the people ministry, and I hope you certainly are, you need to have this completely down. Not only for your own personal self that you understand it, but you are going to use this teaching over and over and over again in dealing with people. Because at the base of every problem in some 40 years of ministry, at the very base level of everybody's problem lies this problem.

I know there are some people who are just nasty people who just get into sin and they just do not want to do anything that God wants them to do. I know you have that element, but most of God's people, the problems they have and the struggles they have, are simply because they got saved. They never got disciplined. Nobody ever worked with them. Their parents were not doing what they needed to do. Then they grew up in an environment where they just never figured out how

God looks at them. Consequently, they never figured out how to look at themselves in Christ. That is what the problem basically, fundamentally is.

Very frankly, my suggestion to you, if you are going to be in that, is I would pair up with somebody, maybe a husband with his wife, or if you have a guy with a guy or a gal with a gal. I would really critique this lesson today. I would really get this down. If you wait to try to put it all together when we start after the first of the year, that is going to be a fatal mistake for you. There are a lot of things that I am giving you right now that if you really want to do this, you are going to have to start to work on it now. What I am going to teach you today, you have to have it down. If you are a young Christian, as I said, it is invaluable for you. It will help you tremendously. But if you are going to work with people, you are going to teach this over and over and over again in one form or the other. Some of you are already doing that or have done that, and you know what I am talking about, how important it is.

Today I want to go to the next level of all of this. We talked about, as I said, the two things that you must come to understand in your Christian life: one of them is how God views you, and the second one is how you view yourself after you are saved. I am going to give you today something that I developed many, many years ago for my own self personally, and I have used it a hundred times since then. I want to build on what we talked about last week. I want to talk to you about the seven things that changed about you the day you got saved. Last week we answered the question of what happened internally in you. We talked about what happened when you got saved, what happened inside with your body, your soul, and your spirit. Today we are going to see how that affects you on the outside. Now you can begin to see how valuable these two are in your own life as a Christian. But if you are going to work with people, you have to get them back to the basics. You have to get them to see where the problem started before you are able to fix the problem. Today we will see how that affects you on the outside based on how God now views you and the right perspective you get by viewing yourself from a Bible standpoint.

II. The Ministry of Reconciliation Defined

I want to read today 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verses 17 through 21. We are going to make some comments here. I want you to get this passage down, and we will make some comments about the passage, and then we will get into those seven things. The seven things are based on verse 17. Here is what it says:

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

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

Father, we do thank You and praise You today. Lord, there are many hearts here today that have many different needs. I pray, Father, that for the ones that need to work on this particular aspect, if they are young Christians or they struggle with who they are, how God views them, or how they view God, that this will be a beginning to change that perspective of their life. I pray, Lord, that You will raise up out of this church some dedicated men and women who want to take that next step and that next level in their growth and want to become part of a ministry that works with people one on one. But Lord, to do that, to whom much is given, much is required. I pray that You will raise up out of this church the men and women who will do what needs to be done in their own life first, so they may be able to do it in the lives of others. So bless us today. We thank You, Father, for all that You have given us and for our church and for the good people in it. We pray Your blessings now in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

The first thing I want you to see here is found in verse 18. This is a key concept we talked about earlier in our study, and here it is again: the real perspective of our ministry. Look at 2 Corinthians 5:18: "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." That is the ministry defined in its bottom line. The ministry is one word: reconciliation.

Reconciliation means the opposing of two opposites. In this case, it is the opposing of somebody that is opposite of God. In this case, it is the opposing of somebody who is at odds with God and God is at odds with them, and bringing them reconciled. Verse 18 said that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Verse 19 says He has committed unto us the word of reconciliation. That would be the Bible. You have within the Word of God everything to reconcile somebody's soul to God if they are lost, and then reconcile somebody who is saved back to God through fellowship.

Our model for that is found again in 2 Corinthians 5:18. The fact that God "hath reconciled us unto himself by Jesus Christ." God was the first act of reconciliation, and by that He reconciled you and me to God because we were enmity to God. God wanted nothing to do with us because we were unholy. We talked about this last week, and when Jesus Christ died on the cross, that was God's process through His Son to reconcile man back to God. When you got saved, that process began in your life because Jesus Christ did the work on Calvary's cross.

In dealing with people, we are in the reconciliation business, plain and simple. There are two formats to that:

3. You have people who are lost. They do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior. Many times you find people that are saved but they do not know for sure they are. Last week we talked about Joe being killed down in the homeless camps. That is what the men and women did last week. They sat down with Joe and they made sure that he was

reconciled to God. They made sure that he understood it to the place where he affirmed to them, "I know without a doubt that I have been saved, and if I would die today, I would go home to be with heaven." Little did he know that it would just be three or four days later that he would be home in heaven. That is what reconciliation is with unsaved people.

4. There is a ministry of reconciliation with God's people because many of God's people many times get out of fellowship with God. Many times things get sideways between them and God, and they go on a road and a path that is not a good road and path to go on. Somebody has to get the two opposing parties together. When you open up the book of reconciliation, the Word of God, and you show them the principles and God's Holy Spirit deals in their hearts, then you bring them back to Christ and you make it work in their life.

Bible Christianity is never tearing anything up. It never is. But I say that, and there will be times when things will get torn up. Bible Christianity is never destroying anything. But I say that, there will be times when lives will get destroyed. But it will not be because the Bible destroyed them. God exists for one purpose. The Bible exists for one purpose, and that purpose is to reconcile everything in your life to a holy God so that you can have everything that God has for you. It is when we reject that. It is when we will not reconcile. It is when we will not get back to the Bible. It is when we want to do it our own way that our marriages get destroyed, our relationships get destroyed, our fellowship gets destroyed, our children get destroyed, and much of everything in our life gets destroyed. That is the way it works.

It is a tragedy. I have seen many marriages, and I always feel bad about it because I know that the ministry of reconciliation should be that everything can work together. If there are any two people who want to be able to work anything out, you would think it would be two of God's people. It only takes a short time in the ministry to see the fallacy of that statement because it does not work. It does not work because the Bible does not work. It does not work because one or two of the parties do not want to do what is right with the Word of God. The ministry of reconciliation always ought to be the driving force behind it. When marriages do not work, when situations do not work, when families have distress and problems that get all torn up, I always feel bad about it, but at the end of the day, I always know that it is because they chose not to. Just because I know that things get busted up and things do not work does not mean that the spirit by which I do what I do does not desire that they would work, because the ministry is reconciliation. I know when you deal with people, you deal with problems. It does not mean you can always reconcile something, but it does mean that your goal is, even when you cannot, you want and wish you could. That is the key to the whole thing.

III. Not Taking Things Personally in Ministry

This perspective of a ministry of reconciliation, I think, is the key to not taking things personal. You have heard me say many, many times that that is one of the things you have to learn to do if you are going to be effective in ministry. There is simply no place in ministry for emotional instability or wearing your feelings on your sleeve. There just simply is not.

Along with the seven things that changed about you the day that you got saved, which I am going to talk to you about today, all this forms for you a perspective of ministry that keeps you

from getting your feelings hurt when it does not go the way that it should go. Many times in dealing with people, and you will see this when you start working one on one with people, most of the time it does not work the way that it is intended to work. You have got to protect yourself to the place that you realize that you always have to keep your perspective. You need to take it for granted that people are going to try to hose you. People will hose you. People will use you. People will abuse you. People will accept everything you do for them and then walk out the door and never say thank you. You cannot take that personal because when you do, you lose your perspective. You just cannot. You cannot do that.

You invest hundreds of hours in somebody's life. I have watched you guys do it. You will take somebody who is struggling or somebody has a need, and you will work with them, and you will help them, and you will do this and you will do that for them. Then right in the process, someplace along the line, they will get a better deal and they will drop you like a bad habit. There have been people in this church, and our church is to help people. There have been people in this church that were down and out, and we helped them financially, and we gave them this and we gave them that, and we helped them get where they needed to be. At someplace, somebody showed me on Facebook one time when those same people were badmouthing the people in this church, and I said to them, "You know what? I saw your Facebook or your MySpace or whatever it was. I saw what you said on that deal there, and I just want to say something to you. Those same people that you were criticizing are the same people that through their tithes and their offering gave the money when you did not have it to get what you needed." That is the way it works. If you did not keep your perspective, that could irritate you. It is irritating Bob right now. I have to tell you, it irritates me, Bob. We all like to do things for people, but it is that sharp stick in the eye that really hurts. But that is the ministry. That is the ministry.

When you are feeling hurt, you simply have to stay focused on that because what happens is when you get feeling hurt and you struggle with it, then you have lost your perspective. You have lost your perspective with a view of ministry, and you lose your ministry of reconciliation. You know why? Because I took it personal. Now I feel hurt, and when you feel hurt, the next step is you get angry at that person. The next step is you take it personal because you invested so much or you gave this or you gave that; you feel betrayed. I understand. I have experienced all of them. Then you get angry. Then you get mad. When that happens, then you lose your perspective. Because the next thing that happens is you start thinking bad about them. "That worthless so-and-so." You do not remember when you and I were worthless so-and-so. You do not remember how many times that we gave God the short end of the stick. There is a tendency that when you get with God and you do well and God blesses you, there is a tendency sometimes for us to get to the place where we get impatient or intolerant with people that maybe are not where we are at, but we were exactly where we were at maybe five or six years ago in our own personal life. But we forget about those things. When you lose your perspective of ministry and you take things personal, then you are in trouble. But I have got the solution for you today.

Shane, you are on Skype and you are over there in Walter Reed Hospital. We love you and pray for you. Shane sent something to me via Darren last week. Shane, I appreciate this. I do not

know who did this, but it is one of the greatest things in the world. He is in the army. An army does a million reports in triplicate. As a joke, I assume it is a joke, Shane. As a joke, somebody in him, maybe he did it, I do not know, came up with a military report. This is FM 22-102, Hurt Feelings Report.

Hurt Feelings Report

Authority and Principal Use: Five USC 301 - Department of Regulations. Ten USC - 3013 Secretary of the Army and ETO 9397SSN to assist whiners in documenting hurt feelings and to provide leaders with a list of soldiers who require additional counseling, NCO leadership and extra duty. For subordinate leader development LAW FM-22-1. Leaders and whiners should use this form as necessary. Disclosure is voluntary but repeated disclosure may result in a DA form 771-1A report to wall-to-wall counseling.

Administrative Data:

Whiner's Name (First, Last, Middle Initial):

Rank and Grade:

Social Security Number:

Date of Report:

Organization:

Name and Title of the Person Filling Out This Form:

Incident Report:

Date Your Feelings Were Hurt:

Time of Hurtfulness:

Location of Hurtful Incident:

NCO or Officer Who Was Sympathetic to Your Whining:

Name of Real Man or Woman Who Hurt Your Sensitive Feelings:

Their Rank and Grade:

Their Organization:

Injury Report:

Which ear were the words of hurtfulness spoken into? (Left, Right, or Both?)

Is there permanent feeling damage? (Yes, No, or Maybe?)

Did you require a tissue for tears? (Yes, No, or Multiple Tissues?) If so, how many?

Has this resulted in a traumatic brain injury? (Yes, No, or Maybe?)

Reason for Filing This Report:

- > *I am thin-skinned.*
- > *I am a wimp.*
- > *I have woman/man-like hormones.*
- > *I am a crybaby.*
- > *I want my mommy.*
- > *The army needs to fix my problems.*
- > *My feelings are easily hurt.*
- > *I did not sign up for this.*
- > *I was told I am not a hero.*
- > *The weather is too cold.*
- > *Two beers is not enough.*
- > *My hands should be in my pocket.*

Narrative: Tell us in your own sissy words how your feelings were hurt.

Authentication:

Printed Name of Real Man or Woman:

Signature:

Printed Name of Whiner:

Signature:

We, the Army, take hurt feelings seriously. If you do not have someone who can give you a hug and make all things better, please let us know and we will probably dispatch a hugger to you ASAP. In the event we are unable to find a hugger, we will notify the fire department to request they send fire personnel to your location. If you are in need of supplemental support, upon written request, we will make every reasonable effort to provide you with a blankie, a binky, and/or a bottle if you so desire.

Over on the wall over there, you can look over there, everybody look over there. Underneath, right next to the thing, you see that thing? It says "Hurt Feelings Report." There are 40 of them in there. From now on, when you get your feelings hurt, you fill out one of those reports. It is just that simple. Thank you, Shane. That is one of the greatest pieces of literature that I ever got. It is probably right up there with Shafer's Systematic Theology in its content.

IV. The Cross as the Foundation of Ministry

Now that we all feel better, we can move on here. I want to show you a great verse. This is one of the greatest verses in the Bible, and it should be memorized by every Christian everywhere: 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 21. This verse is a driving force in why we minister, have a ministry of reconciliation, why we do not take things personal, and why we should always follow the principles that we have talked about today.

2 Corinthians 5:21

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

What a great verse that is. It is an incredible verse. Not only did Christ bear our sins on the cross so that we could live under righteousness, but God actually made the Lord Jesus Christ to be sin for us. So closely was Christ identified with your sin and my sin on that cross that He is likened Himself to the devil. Thursday night we talked about John 3:14. Somebody asked a question about the serpent on the pole and in Job 25:5 about Christ becoming a worm. I told you that those two verses show you that Christ became sin personified. On the cross, Christ not only suffered our humiliation and shame and agony, but God turned Him into a sin offering for you and for me. He became sin personified for us, and the wrath that God had in store for us, for you and for me, on that day God poured out on His Son. The whole human race was paid for at that time when Christ was on the cross.

As I said, if the cross is not at the heart of everything that you and I are doing in the ministry, then we are doing it for the wrong reason. That is why we get our feelings hurt. That is why we take things personal. Remember, people will never fail you. People all the time say, "Bob, I do not want to fail." You cannot fail me. You know why you cannot fail me? Because I am as frail as you are. You cannot fail me. Now you may fail God. You may fail your family. You may fail yourself, but you are never going to fail me. I do not take things personal when people fail. You did not fail me. I do not take it personal. I am just a tool in the tool belt of God. I have a specific function as a tool for God that I do. If you have a hammer that drives nails and you decide you are going to get a screw gun and put it in with screws, does the hammer cry? Does it whine? Does it refuse to drive nails the next time you pick it up? Certainly not. It is a tool. As a Christian, we are tools. As tools, people are going to fail you. People are going to do stupid things. In reality, no stupider than some of the things that we have done, but they are going to do stupid things. It is a thing where you have got to remember that it all has to go back to the cross, what Christ did for you, who you are working for, who you are doing this for. You cannot take the things that somebody does against God and take them personal like they did them against you. You are the hammer. You are the screw. You are the pair of pliers. You are the wrench. You are whatever tool you need to be. That is simply all that we are. These things are invaluable if you are going to get to that point that you work with people.

V. The Seven Things That Changed the Day You Got Saved

With all that said, and we looked at those two verses and those two passages in this great section of verses, let us start to look today at the seven things that changed the day you got saved. It is all

built around 2 Corinthians 5:17, which says: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." I would dare to say, ladies and gentlemen, that is the greatest news that ever hit this planet: the news that God gave us a fresh start and a second chance. The truth of the matter is, it was not just a second chance. In my life, I can speak for me, I cannot speak for you, it is about the 9,443rd chance, but that is what God does. We are a new creature, new life, new hope, new everything. But here is the problem: you cannot enter into this new life with your old thinking; it just will not work.

I am going to go through these seven things that changed the day you got saved and made you a new creature in Christ Jesus. The thing I want you to know is that all the new Bibles, they take that "new creature" and they put in "creation." You are not a new creation, and you are not a new creation because back in Genesis chapter 1, the Bible says God created the heaven and the earth. Then in the next two chapters, all the way down to when He makes the animals, when He reforms everything, He never uses the word "creation" again. He just takes things that are already there. When you got saved, He did not make you a new creation. He made you a new creature based on the principle taught all the way back in Genesis chapter 1, but they cannot get it in all the new Bibles. So they want to keep up to date, so they make you a new creation. No, Frankenstein was a new creation. You are a new creature in Christ Jesus.

I am going to go through these seven things that changed the day you got saved, and I am going to show you how they work. In a general sense, and I have given you this before, there are some internal things that happened the day you got saved. This shows you that you truly are saved. These are the general concepts that take place inside you. I want to give you these before we look at the seven that took place outside because you are going to see how these things work.

Internal Changes

Your purpose changed, or it should have. That is proof that you are really saved. Repentance means that you turn going one way and start going another. You turn from going this way to the left and start going to the right because your purpose has changed.

Your passion about things changed. Before, you loved the things of the world, and now you are supposed to love the things of God.

Your patience changed. Before, you were short on patience with people, but now you realize who people are, and you see people through how you see yourself. You give patience to people because you look at yourself and you see how patient God has been with you. There are probably people in your world that you would say, "I wish God had a truck run over them." And God is thinking, "I would like to have a truck run over you. My patience with you is about over with." Patience. I never wish bad things on people. There is not a person in my world, no matter what they have done to me all my life, that I wish anything bad on today. Well, and I say to back, there are two people. And it so happens one is sitting on this side, one is sitting on that side. No, I am just kidding. I never have. I do not hate anybody. I do not know if I could hate anybody. The reason why I could not, and I do not, and I do not want to, and the reason why I do not think bad of anybody, is because I understand myself and I realize how God must have looked at me. There are people, some of you people do not go down at the homeless ministry because you look down

at those people. You look down at them, and people ask me all the time, "Do they smell bad?" No worse than you. "Do they wear clean clothes?" "Do they wear that?" What is your deal, man? Your problem is you forgot that you did not look too hot the first time God laid eyes on you. But we forget those things. When your patience changed and your passion changed and your purpose changed, you do not even think about things like that.

Your perspective changed, or it should have. The three things that happened to you when you got saved: there was a change inside, there was a change in the inner man, and there was a change in the outer man, and then there was a change to the end of man. That is a great generalization of what we are going to talk about in specifics here in just a moment. Those are the seven things that changed about you today. You have to remember now that Christianity always changes inwardly first, then it changes outwardly.

The Seven External Changes

There was a change in our soul. That would be the inner man and the end of man. We talked about this last week, so we will not spend a lot of time on it today. We now know where it all starts: the redemption of your soul, restoring and a foliage in Adam. We went through Colossians 2:11-12. We talked about the aspect of the operation of God made without hands, spiritual circumcision. We gave you the little three-point concept: saved, sealed, and sanctified. Now we know that you are a new creature in Christ Jesus. You have a new nature, you are a new man, you have a new birth. We talked about all this last week. God now has given you His righteousness.

1 Peter 1:18

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

1 Peter 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

John 1:10-13

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

There is the difference. As I said last week, you now have the ability to overcome every issue in your life where an unsaved man cannot control anything. A Christian, once he is saved, has the power of God through the new birth, the spiritual circumcision, the changing of his soul. He now has the ability to overcome everything in his life, the power of God in your life. You are now

everything that God is and have the same power that God has, and the job of the church, my job as a pastor, is to teach you once you get saved how to tap into that.

You know what you are all like. If you went home today and there were four big geological cars sitting out in front of your house, and there were a couple that said Shell Oil and Sunoco and all these things, and you are saying, "What is going on?" About nine or ten guys were waiting on your front porch, and they came there. He said, "Mr. Alexander, we did a seismograph of the area from the aerial over-thing here. We found out that right underneath your property, there are 1,600 million barrels of oil. We would like to buy your property." You were sitting on a hundred million dollars. All they have to do is tap into it. "Can we put a rig up in your yard?"

"Absolutely! Tomorrow! Today! The neighbors do not like it? Do not worry about it! Dig that sucker!" I look at every child of God out here. That is exactly what you are today. You are sitting on a hundred million dollar gold mine through the power of God that you have in your life. You just never tapped into it. My job is to help you tap into it, to help you drill, to help you get out what God has put in you. So the first thing that changed about you, there was a change in your soul that affected your inner man. It obviously affects the end of man. Now we know what the term "saved" means, "born again" means, "redeemed," "salvation," "regeneration," "washed in the blood" from last week and this week. We all now come into focus.

The second thing that changed about you is your affections. This will be your passion and your purpose. Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your affections on things above." Not on the things of the earth because something changed about you. Colossians 3:1 says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Your affections changed. It says, "Set your affections on things above."

I do not know what you know about the Bible, but in the book of Ecclesiastes, Ecclesiastes says, "There is nothing new under the sun." How many times have we quoted that? How many times have you read that? There is nothing new under the sun. Everything in this whole world is just a repeat. There is nothing under the sun that is new, but what is new, ladies and gentlemen, is that which is above the sun. That is what we need to set our affections on. The book of Ecclesiastes shows you what is under the sun on earth and shows you that it is all worthless. But the Bible gives you eight things that are new and above the sun is what you ought to set your affections on.

Eight New Things Above the Sun:

- 1.) A new birth. It comes from heaven.*
- 2.) Your new nature. It is from above.*
- 3.) The new covenant.*
- 4.) The new song you should have in your heart.*
- 5.) New Jerusalem.*
- 6.) The new heavens.*
- 7.) The new earth.*

8.) *The Bible says you have a new name.*

If you are saved this morning, these ought to be the things that you should seek. This is where your affections ought to be. You know why you have the struggles that you have. You know why I have the struggles that I have. You know why some of you are about as far away from God as Santa Claus on the North Pole is from the South Pole: because you have not set your affections on the right things. Christian life is not complicated. It is just disciplined. All these are above the sun. All these are spiritual. They are not physical, under the sun.

You are saved here this morning. You trust Christ as your own personal Savior. Amen, amen, amen. Can you show me them in the Bible? I bet you could not. I bet you could not take me over to John 3:3 and 1 Peter 1:23 and show me the new birth. I bet you could not take me to Romans chapter 7 and show me the new nature. I bet you could not find the new covenant in Hebrews 8 and 9 if your life depended on it. The new song you are searching for over the place, it will be in Psalms 40. The new Jerusalem, the new heaven, and the new earth, it will be in Revelation 21 and 22, and a new name written down in glory, Revelation 2:17. That is where our affections should be. This is why we get messed up in life. We do not ever know where they are at. Notice there are eight of them. Eight in your Bible is the number of new beginnings. When you start a new beginning, this is where your affections need to be: on these eight things. Somebody said at that time, "That which is called new is not true, but that which is true is not new." There is a lot of truth to that. Say that ten times real fast and you will win a cigar, but you better not smoke it.

The third thing: there is a change in our citizenship. This will be your perspective in the outer man. Ephesians 2:19 says, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God." Here is my dilemma, and your dilemma too. This is a struggle. I am living in America, but I am no longer an American. I am a Christian. My citizenship changed. I am not a Baptist, though I pastor a Baptist church. I am a Bible-believing Christian. Somebody says, "Are you a fundamentalist?" No, I am not a fundamentalist. They have no fun, a lot of damn, and they are all mental. I am not a fundamentalist. "Are you an independent?" Absolutely not. I am totally dependent. That is a problem with both Baptists that are independent. They are independent of everything, including God. I am not independent. I am dependent on everything the Holy Spirit of God has for me. I am not a Republican. I am not a Democrat. I am not an anarchist. I am not a revolutionist. I obey the laws of the land because Romans chapter 13 says that is what I am supposed to do in a good testimony, and the power is in me. God put them over me for some kind of order and structure, and my job is to obey it. But my real law is the Word of God. I do not burden myself with the cares of this life. I am in this world, but I am not of this world. I am part of the church militant and the church triumphant. Right now I am in a church militant, but there is a time coming that I am going to be part of the church triumphant. The tragedy is that most of God's people do not even know what I am talking about, the difference between a church militant and a church triumphant.

I understand the way things are. I understand the way the world is. I understand the way America is. I understand why Christianity is the way it is. I understand all that. I see God's hand in it. So I am not threatened by it. You know why God's people get so caught up in the wrong

thing? Because they are threatened by it. That is why I could care less who wins the upcoming election. I really could. I only care about getting people into God's election. 2 Peter 1:10 says, "Make sure your calling and election is sure." That is the one you need to focus on: getting people saved and getting a part of God's elect, not who worries about when it is in November. Some of God's people are all fired up about the one in November, and they could not even explain the election in the Bible. I would be checking my passport if I were you.

That verse says, and it is a key phrase, "if any man be in Christ." There is a key phrase that is vital in the Bible in seeing yourself as a citizen of the household of God. There are seven members of that household found in the Bible. You are just one of them. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be," here comes your key phrase, "in Christ, in Christ, in Christ."

Number three and four kind of go together hand in hand. Number three says your citizenship has changed. Number four says you have left the planet and you are now seated in heavenly places. So in Christ Jesus. So now there is a change in your seating arrangement. Not only are you now a citizen of heaven and no longer a citizen here, spiritually speaking, but now the Bible says you are seated in heavenly places. There has been a change in the seating arrangements.

Ephesians 2:6-7

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

There is our phrase again. I know that there are Baptists going to be in heaven, and you better get this little thing down here. It says in Ephesians 2:6, "and hath raised us up together, and hath made us sit together." There are some people you do not like right now that are in the body of Christ that God died for. You have an attitude toward them. So you do not like them. If they came in the same room, you would not sit with them. Well, when you get to heaven, He makes you sit with them. There are some great things in here that "in the ages that come, he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ." I could preach on that. "And the ages to come."

The key phrase here is the word "in Christ." In other words, your salvation is so complete and perfect that when God looks over in heaven, He sees you and me sitting there. Now, before you go where most Baptists go and you start looking for the big bleachers up in heaven where you are sitting there, that is not what I am talking about. We know that Christ is seated at the right hand of God, and you and I are in Him, and He is in you. So when He sees Christ sitting at the right hand, He sees you and me in Christ. That is a tremendous thought. That phrase "in Christ" is so important in the Bible that when God began to define the church in the book of Ephesians in the first two chapters, He used it 20 times to show you how God views us. When you want to know how God looks at you and He sees you right now, He does not see you in your ballgame. He does not see you in your job. He does not see you in your struggles. He does not see you in your failures. He does not see you on your vacation. He sees you in Christ. That is what He sees. He is sitting down there, looks down at the right hand, Christ sitting there, sees you and me

sitting there with Him. When you get that in your brain, you begin to realize you are something special to God. When you realize you are something special to God, that ought to lead you to do what? Let God be something special to you. It is a two-way street.

Ephesians 1:1-3

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

That verse says that God took everything that was spiritual. In the book of Ephesians, there are seven spiritual blessings that are in that book. God took everything that was spiritual and put it in His Son. If you want to get them, the only way to get them is to get saved and get in Christ. Calvin could never get that. Calvin could never figure out, nor could all the Calvinists ever figure out, that predestination is one of the spiritual blessings, seven found in that book. That was put in Christ. Predestination never had anything to do with getting saved; it had to do with what happened to you after you got saved as a spiritual blessing that was in Christ that you had to get in Christ first to get. But you cannot deal with those people.

I must have got, we talked about this Thursday night a little bit, I must have got 40 emails after the Democratic convention that night when they tried to put God back in the platform after they threw God out of the platform. It was the most hilarious thing I ever saw in my life. The Democrats hate God, do not want anything to do with God. So they took Him out of the platform. It was not going to mention God. Also took Israel out, was not going to mention them. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. They took those two things out. Evidently somebody along the line said, "Oh, you cannot do that. Why? It is going to send people over the top, man. There are a lot of people out there that are swing voters that we might be able to get, but you tell them we do not want anything to do with God. We do not want anything to do with Israel. We are going to lose every one of them." So the guy got back up on national TV in front of about a hundred million people and said, "Okay, we are going to vote to put God back into the platform. All those that say, 'Put Him back in,' say yes." And a bunch of people said yes. "All those that do not want Him back in, say no." And a lot more people said no. Then he was so shook. He says, "Well, let us try it one more time." It was louder to say no that time than it was the first time. He is looking around, trying to scratch his head. He is looking down and going, "What am I going to do? Call Barack, find out what we need to do next." And he said, "All right, one more time." This third time, the loud "no's" were considerably louder than the "yeas." Despite of that, because the prompter told him what he needed to do, he went ahead and said, "Well, as the leader of this pack of guys, I suggest we have a two-thirds majority," and the place booded up one side and down the other. They did not want God in it.

I must have got a thousand emails. Well, not a thousand. Every time something like that happens, I get emails from people all over the country: "Vote Republican! Vote Republican! Vote

Republican! Vote Republican!" Let me show you how stupid God's people are. I know I said this Thursday night, but there are a lot more over here today, and you need to know this. Everybody said, "Well, you Republicans, they put God in the platform, and they like Israel and all that stuff." You are out of your mind. It is not about whether you accept God or not. It is about whether you have God in your terminology. It is not about that. The truth of the matter is the Republicans are no different than the Democrats when it comes to God. Just because you have the name God in your platform does not mean anything. The bottom line is it is not God; it never was God. The Bible says, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." You cannot get to God without Jesus Christ, and you will never find anywhere on this planet where any politician, any president, any Congress, any Senate, in fact, when they open up their Senate hearings, they always have prayer. The guy who is going to pray, whoever they have, he has to submit his prayer two weeks before he prays it. It has to make sure there is no mention of Jesus Christ in it. You have nothing, friend. You say, "Well, we do not have God. We have God." You have squat if Jesus Christ is not in the middle of it. That is the way it works. I do not get caught up in those things. My citizenship, my passport, is someplace else. It is just that simple. You take the person of Christ out, you do not have anything.

The fifth one, and this one is a tough one: there was a change in our attitude of heart. This will be your purpose, passion, perspective, inner man, outer man, and certainly your patience.

Matthew 22:37

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

Luke 10:27

And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

That is an understatement. Without a doubt, that is the hardest thing for a child of God to do. If you ever get to the place in your life where you love God with all your heart and all your mind and all your soul, you are on top of the planet. That is without a doubt the hardest thing to do. Our attitude of heart toward God is the basis for which our success or failure in everything we do as a Christian. It is the determining factor whether you get saved or you stay lost. It is the determining factor after you did get saved if you grow or you do not. Our attitude of heart has to go back to the cross, and our motivation has to be what Christ did for me, and that forms my attitude of heart of what I do for Him. It is just that simple.

Let me tell you something. The greatest test that men face in all of the Bible was the test that "you love Me more than something else." Adam and Eve had a relationship with God. They had each other. They had everything that they could ever want. The test was, "Do you love Me or that guy over there by that tree?" With Abraham, the friend of God, what made him the friend of God? The day he passed the test when God took the son, which he loved, and said, "Kill that son." "Find out right now, Abraham, do you love that boy more than you love Me?" David, one of the greatest kings that Israel ever had, his test: "What do you love Me more than you love

Bathsheba?" Job was tested: "Do you love Me over all that I have given you?" Solomon was tested: "Do you love Me over all the wives that you have?" Israel as a nation: "Do you love Me or all these other gods that are out here?" Peter went through his denial of the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember that back in John chapter 21 when he comes face to face with the Lord, that was his test. The Lord asked him three times, "Peter, do you love Me? Peter, do you love Me? Peter, do you love Me?" You know what the test of every one of us in here in this room is today? When it comes to that, "What do you love more than God?" That is what it comes down to. That is the basic fundamental problem that every man or woman who is a child of God faces. They do not love the Lord their God with all of their heart, with all their mind, and all their soul, and they do not do that thing. They do not work on that. They do not stay with that. What happens is they love their house more than God. Some of you take better care of your swimming pool than you do the things of God. Some of you have a better house that you have than the house that God lives in. Some of you love your dog better than you love God. Some of you love your wife or your husband or your kids or your possessions. Some of you love your car. Some of you love your life. Some of you love the world. Some of you love your boyfriend. Some of you love your girlfriend. God will always test a man with the things that he loved more than Him. I am telling you. When we come down through church history, there are seven periods of church history. He tested every period of church history with, "Do you love My book or do you love something else more?" He tested all the disciples. Every one of them took off and fled except one. That one, John, forms the perfect model for what our relationship should be. He was the only apostle of the twelve that Jesus said that He loved.

The sixth one: there was a change in your job description. This will be your perspective, your passion, your inner man, your outer man, and in your patience. There was a change in our job description. Now I am an ambassador for Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

What is He saying in that verse? He is saying this to the church at Corinth: "You are supposed to represent Christ in this life, and you are not. God called you through this church and saved you through this church for that purpose, and you are not fulfilling it. We pray that you will get right with God, reconciled, and it will be about your Father's business." That is what He is saying.

If there is any place in the Bible that once we get saved, our job is defined in a general sense, clearly it is here: our ambassadorship. The job of an ambassador is to live in a foreign country, even though he is a citizen of another country. We already saw where the Bible says that our citizenship has changed. Now we are seeing our job, and the job that you and I have based on our citizenship being changed the day we got saved is now we are an ambassador. The job of an ambassador is to live in a foreign country, even though his citizenship is of another country. His primary job as ambassador is to represent his own country's interests in the country he now resides in. You better let that sink in for a while, because that is your job. Your citizenship is up there. Your passport now is up there. God sends you back to this planet as an ambassador, but

you are not here to represent yourself. You are not here to represent the things in this whole world. You are here to represent the country you are from.

An ambassador does not involve himself in that country's politics or social issues. He is not concerned about the policies that country makes or the laws it passes. He is neutral. The only thing that concerns him is fulfilling his role as an ambassador from his own government to the government he resides in.

Matthew 22:21

They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

John 18:36

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

2 Timothy 2:4

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

There is the problem. That is always the problem. We lose our perspective, and we begin to entangle ourselves in the affairs of this life. We lose the fact that we are an ambassador. We are not able to get to the place where now the difference between you now than before is you represent God in everything that He is.

I have to be honest with you. People get it all screwed up. Going back to the book of Ecclesiastes, we all think that our form of government that we have, which is a democracy, sometimes called capitalism, we all think that it is the best way. The goal of America, and I am not saying they should not do it, I am just telling you, this is their goal, I am just not criticizing. The goal in America is to always be the beacon for democracy. You hear that all the time through the politicians. They go over to Afghanistan. You know why we want to get in Afghanistan? Because we want to make them into a democracy like ours. We get into this country. We got into Vietnam. You know why? Because we wanted them to be a democracy like us. You know what the saying was during the Vietnam War? "In every Vietnamese there was an American trying to break out." That was a popular term. They actually thought that. Nothing could be farther from the truth. But America has got this grandiose idea in a political realm that our goal in the world is to set all the other nations free from the oppression of their governments. The truth of the matter is what America ought to be setting people free from is the sin that is going to send them to hell through the freedom that you find in Christ Jesus. I thought I would get at least one or two Amens on that one, but I will Amen myself. Amen, Brother Bob. Amen, Amen, Amen. Preach it, Brother. Preach it. Thank you. I will.

The book of Ecclesiastes shows you 34 governmental systems, which are called the philosophies of man. That is all the governmental systems are. Solomon in 1000 BC went through and

digressed through and laid out every form of government that there was going to be. He does fascism. He does communism. He does socialism. He does liberalism. He does capitalism. He does fundamentalism. He does them all. At the end of the book, he says they are all vanity.

Now we live in America. I am setting you up for what I want to show you here. We think that socialism and capitalism, that capitalism is the great way to go. We believe in free democracy. We disdain the totalitarian system of communism. Making a point here, the truth of the matter is all forms of government are corrupt. We like the free system of democracy because it gives us our freedom. We like that. It allows us to have whatever cars we want, as big houses as we want, as much money as we want. We do not live in a communist country where they come in and they say, "Your house is too big for just two people. We are moving in 50 other people with you." We do not like that. We like that we can have our big houses and our big cars and make all our money without somebody coming down and saying, "You make too much money. We need to take part of that because we are all one here. We are socialists, we are Marxists, we are Leninists, we are communists. We have got to spread the wealth." We do not want that.

It does not make any difference to you and to me as Americans that when communist China was in power in its heyday, when communist Russia was in power in its heyday, there were more Bible-believing, born-again, blood-washed Christians in those countries that stood for what they believed than you could all put together in America, and you could blow them to hell in a handbag. You know why? Because the persecution of that country forged men and women who believed what the Bible says, and their life depended on it. When they went to church, there was a 99% chance that they would never come back home. They would be killed or put in prison. You get to get up in the morning and decide if you want to go or not. See the difference? But we like that. None of us would choose that. But that is the problem. We fall into that trap.

Most people like to see Barack Obama get beat in November. But your motive is not pure. It really is not. I would like to see him get beat, but my motive is not pure. To tell you the truth, I just like to see his Babylonian butt kicked back to Baghdad where it belongs. But my motive is not pure in the thing. That is not right. So my motive is not pure. Your motive is not pure either. You want to protect your 401ks. You do not want Obamacare. You do not want somebody messing up your Medicare. You do not want somebody taking your social security. You like the freedoms that you have right now. You do not want Obama again because it is going to make your life miserable. We care nothing about the things of God in this. That is my point. The truth of the matter is it does not matter whether it is Obama or Romney. Either one is a disaster. When you take a country like America, who had the blessings of God for 200 years, who was founded on the book, who loved the book, who honored the book, and then she dumps God and turns her back on God and the Word of God, it does not matter who you put in the White House. This country is going down. It does not matter. We want to hope that it matters so we can protect what we have. I have some news for you folks. You are an ambassador. God's people never learn from history. It is clear from the Bible and history what we are going through, but nobody can see that. You could not apply the Bible to current events if somebody put a gun to your head.

I am in this world, but I am not of this world anymore. I am in this world, I am not concerned what happens. Somebody says, "Gas is going to go to \$6 a gallon. There is going to be a food

shortage. We are going to lose your job. They are going to take away all the guns. You are going to lose your rights." Somebody says, "Buy gold, buy silver, stock up on food, put water in jugs." I do not care about any of that. My sustaining income does not come from this world. Do you not get that? I still believe Philippians 4:19, no matter how bad it gets, no matter what takes place. I am an ambassador. This old world is not my home.

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

I do not care. My paycheck does not come from this old world. It comes from the country that I serve. My well-being and my comfort and all that I have come from the country I represent, not the one I reside in. I am an ambassador. I am going to tell you something, with what is coming, you would do well to learn that lesson. We are so concerned about our rights. We do not want Obama back in because it is going to take away my rights. I am going to lose this. I am going to lose that. Never one time do we think of where God is at in all this. Never one time do we think about God's rights. But then the word Laodicea means "rights of the people."

The seventh one, the last one. This will be the outer man, your passion, your perspective, and your patience. Our conversation has changed.

Philippians 3:20

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Where is your conversation today? You can always tell where a person is at by what they talk about. Our Savior is in heaven. Our affections are supposed to be in heaven. Our home is in heaven. Our treasures are in heaven, and many of your loved ones are in heaven. Why should not heaven be the center of our conversation? In the context of this verse, our conversation is in heaven, from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. We are at the context of that, the rapture of the church. I hear God's people all the time talk about everything except things in the Bible. You talk about this game or that game. I am not against that stuff. It is part of life. I am not saying you should walk around and not enjoy life and go to ball games and do this and do that. I am just saying your conversation is totally, completely dominated by the things in this world that you could not talk about, never talk about the Lord coming back, you never talk about the things of God. There is nothing that permeates your conversation except things you want to do. The greatest art in dealing with people is just sitting back and saying nothing and listening to what they talk about, where the conversation lies, because Matthew 12:34 says:

Matthew 12:34

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

I have to tell you this, that says, "for our conversation." All the new Bibles take that word out and change it to "citizenship." By doing that, they destroy one of the greatest principles in the Bible of teaching you about how to deal with people. The Bible teaches and takes for granted, as

it says over and over again, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks," and "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." The Bible tells you over and over again that what we talk about outwardly is what we are inwardly. So to mask that, they change the word "conversation" and put in "citizenship," thereby destroying one of the greatest cross-references that you are going to have of teaching you biblical principle in dealing with people. "Conversation" in old English, which was found in the Bible, means "lifestyle." The reason why "conversation" in old English means "lifestyle" is because the people back then who believed the Bible knew that your life was what you talked about. They believed those biblical principles: "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." "Conversation" means "lifestyle" based on the Bible because the things that we talk about are what we really are and what we do. So it is the right word, "conversation," to link up with the chain of Bible principles that gives you the insight into dealing with people because people are simply what they talk about.

VI. Conclusion and Call to Action

These seven things that I have given you this morning, they are absolutely vital. If you are a young Christian here, these are things that you need to understand about yourself. You need to quit being down on yourself. You need to quit being intimidated by people who want to tell you something differently about yourself. You never worry about what other people say about you. You only worry what the Word of God says about you because that is all that really matters. When you realize what the seven things that changed about you were, and you make a complete study of what happened the day you got saved and what changed about you now, now you have the ability to see how God sees you, how He looks at you. He does not look at you as a sinner anymore. He looks at you now as an ambassador. He does not look at you residing in A308 Woods and Drive. He looks at you as seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. He looks at you as your citizenship, not as an American, but you are up there, and now He lends you back to this country. It puts everything in perspective. This is why you will not get sidetracked with all the things that do not matter. You will not get caught up in all the issues of life that want to suck you away from being the one thing that God left you here to do, because that is exactly what they will do. And now you have it.

In dealing with people, you will use this over and over and over again. I suggest that if you are going to get into the people ministry, out of these seven things, you make up your own lessons because you are going to use them. Do not wait until we get out here; get it now. Get with somebody else who is going to do it, or maybe somebody that is just a young Christian that you can teach it to. Find somebody to buddy up with, whether they are going to be part of it or not, and once you get it done, say, "Can I run this by you? Give me feedback on this." Spend some time. In one way, it is a blessing that the ladies' meetings got pushed back another week or two weeks simply because this is going to become the focus of the prayer groups this next time. These seven things that changed about you for God's sake, so it is all kind of starting the way it needs to.

If you just got saved or maybe you are somebody just getting plugged into the Bible, you need to get this down. Let me help you. Let me put somebody in your world that will sit down with you

that will walk you through these. If you need to be disciplined, then let me get somebody that will disciple you. If you need to come over and sit down with me and let me walk you through these and break these down for you even in a better format, I will be glad to do that in a heartbeat. That is what I do. But either way, whatever situation you are in, these are the things that you have got to get down if you are going to continue to grow to the place that you become profitable for God, or if you are already to that point that you are going to continue to go on that you would be used in other people's lives, because this is the fundamental problem. The fundamental problem is they do not see how God sees them, and they do not understand how to view themselves within their own Christian relationship with God. When you get that straight and you get the right perspective and you see the seven things that changed about you the day you got saved, what else do you more need? You take those seven things, put them into your life, and you are on your way. You are on your way.

Next week we are going to hold up a week, and I will bring you through the fourth set of principles that you will want to get down.