

2 Corinthians 10

Sunday 4/7/2013

We have our Bibles this morning. Today we will be back in 2 Corinthians chapter 10. For those of you that are visiting today, we have been working now for the last year or so out of the book of 2 Corinthians. We have been focusing on ministry. We have made this year in our church the year of families ministering together. We have set a couple of goals, and everybody is working to get the families where everybody is serving the Lord together, and how important that is.

We have been coming through the book of 2 Corinthians because that great book really lays out the handbook of every aspect of ministry. Book by book, it deals with a different subject that we need to understand as the minister. In chapter 9 and 10, we have been looking at the heart of the minister. In chapter 10, we have been looking at the mind of the minister. I told you that in dealing with people and understanding yourself, you have to understand why people do the things that they do, why they say the things that they say, and basically why people think the way that they think.

The last time we were off last week because we got into Easter Sunday, but again, we talked about a sermon that goes right along with that, and that is the pattern that we need to have in our life to be everything that God wants us to be. We talked about that. That was a great tool that you will be able to use in dealing with people.

Last time we were in this, it was the week before. We only got through verses 6 and 7, and those verses say:

2 Corinthians 10:6-7

And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.

Let us pray. Father, help us today to glean from the Word of God all that You have for us. We love You. We ask You now to bless us as we get to all that we want to accomplish today. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. We ask it for His sake. Amen.

I. Two Great Principles: Revenge on Self and Inward Change

Last time we were here, we learned two great principles. We learned the aspect of taking revenge on yourself. You remember I told you that that is when you do something wrong with God, you disobey God, it deals with how you deal with yourself, how you view how that you have let God down. Instead of blaming others for your problem, blaming others for your circumstances, recognizing that we make our own choices. Many times we make the wrong choice, and with that comes consequences. Instead of looking for a way out of it, recognizing because we have a real relationship with God that that is the relationship that suffered.

If you are saved today, there should be nothing more devastating to you in your life than you losing your fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet we know that so very few things can make that happen. It does not take some big catastrophe. It does not take you murdering somebody. It does not take you doing something that we would look at and say, "Wow." It does not take that. It takes the most minuscule things in our lives that can break that fellowship. When that fellowship gets broken, it is our attitude about what we have lost with God. That is the key to understanding that great principle about taking revenge on yourself.

Then we looked at a great principle that I want to even develop more today. I could not do it justice in just the one week that we had there. That is the principle of not looking on the outward appearance of something, but rather looking on the inward. You remember we talked about the example of David and Saul, how that Israel wanted a king, and they wanted Saul because from the appearance, Saul looked like he was the guy for the job. But he was not, was he? God gave us that great verse that man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart. We developed that.

Yet the key to that second principle is simply understanding what happened the day that we got saved, what transpired inwardly, and how it affected our soul, which in turn changed our outward attitude and our action. The day you and I got saved, our salvation was the beginning of the original process for our teaching and a principle that we use on attitude versus action. You see, when you got saved, it was inward. It was inward.

II. The Nature of Salvation: Instantaneous and Internal

I would like to develop that concept a little farther today. So many of you want to learn, and we have talked about this, and you have come over and seen me. So many of you wanted to learn how to minister with people and how to get it down completely and understand it. Things like this will help you.

When we trusted Christ, our salvation was instantaneous. It was immediate. It was not a process to get saved. It was not something that you had to climb spiritual levels and then God said, "Okay, you are saved." No, salvation is immediate. It is instantaneous. It takes place in a quick twinkling of an eye. It is immediate in everything that we do. But also, salvation is totally internal.

The Bible talks about us getting a new heart. The Bible talks about us becoming a new nature. The Bible talks about through a new birth, we get a new family, God's family. People love our church, and I hear it all the time that when they come to things or activities that we have, they come away saying, "I love that church," simply because it is just like one family. It is. It is because we are in God's family, and that is the family that we were all born into because it is a new family because we got a new name through a new birth.

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17:

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

All of that, every one of those, is on the inside of us. We have a teaching here that once you go through Discipleship One, if you so desire, we have what I would call Discipleship Two, another level where someone will bring you through and basically show you the seven things that changed about you the day that you got saved. Every one of those seven things are things that are inside of you.

What Paul is saying here in 2 Corinthians 10:6-7, and it is very important that we get this, and I want you to completely understand this concept today as best you can. What Paul is saying here is, if you do not see the outward change, then do not buy the fact that there is an inward change just because somebody says so. Appearance in life, most things are not as they first appear, and I think you will learn that with time. Many times how people want to make themselves appear is not really how they appear.

Everybody has been on blind dates at some point in your life, and on your first date, everybody is on their best. He will open the door for you. He will do this. He will do that. Why? Because he wants to make a good impression. She will look as good as she can ever look. She will smell good. She will look good. She will be everything. Everybody is out to make a good impression. Once you have hit the relationship, oh, then it all changes. Then you are waiting an hour for him to open the door. He is gone, man. He left. Things are not always as they appear.

I remember just a couple of weeks ago, we were driving down the road, and we pulled up to a red light, and there was a car in front of us, and it was kind of twilight and dark, and you could not see, but it looked like one large person sitting in the car driving. All of a sudden, they broke apart, and it was two people. They were just snuggled up together. My wife looks over at me and she says, "We used to do that." I looked over at her and said, "I have not moved." Things change. Things change. Things are not always as they appear.

A couple of weeks ago, I gave you a great verse on our inward strength and dealing with the mind of the minister, how we think. It was in 1 Peter chapter 1 verse 13, and it said to gird up the loins of our mind. Then he also said, "as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts of your ignorance." That simply means when you really get saved inwardly, when a man or a woman truly gets born again inwardly, then there has to be a change outwardly for it to be real.

According to the Bible, what Paul is saying is this: if you do not see the outward change in their life, and they continue, and you continue to see the former lusts of the flesh, there is something wrong. He is simply saying, "Do not buy it on the appearance of what somebody displays or even what somebody says." Real salvation always starts inside and will always manifest itself outside.

III. The Laodicean Church Age and the Loss of Repentance

Now, I have stated my position on this many, many times, and do not let this scare you, but this is a thing where we live in a Laodicean church period. We know that. We know that the two premier periods of time in church history was what we call the Philadelphian church age, which ran from about 1600 up to about 1900. Then from about 1900 on up to where we are at today, we

live in what is called the Laodicean church period. You see it on our chart on there. You find that in Revelation chapter 2 and 3, the seven churches laid out very clearly.

The contrast between those two churches is immediate when you see it. The Philadelphian church was a church that was on fire for God. In fact, it is called the church of the open door. In history, it is a church that because they had the Word of God, because they believed the Word of God, because they obeyed the Word of God, that God opened the door for the great opportunities. It is a time when probably three quarters of the world had come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. But that time ended around 1900.

We entered into the Laodicean church period, where Philadelphia means brotherly love. It was a church that was built on loving your brother and giving him the gospel. Laodicea means rights of the people. Laodicea and Philadelphia are a great contrast in the study. I have a sermon on it called "The Tale of Two Churches." It details out the difference in the contrast between the two. But when you get into the Laodicean church, they are no longer interested in other people. They are only interested in Christians now. I am not talking about the world. This is Christians. This is churches. They are only interested about themselves.

So you see Christians that want their rights, human rights, social rights, all the rights that go along with it. When in truth of the matter is, in Philadelphia, the only right they knew we had was a right to die and burn in hell for all of eternity. Where we got the idea we as God's people have rights when the Bible says we are bought with a price, and once we are saved, we do not have any rights. That is the difference between the contrast. Philadelphia is called the church of the open door. You know what he calls Laodicea? Church of the closed door. The door had been shut. That is really where our dilemma is today.

I have stated my position on this many times. I really, and I tell you, it is my own thing now. You do not hear me preach this a lot. I will say it in Bible study. I am saying it today to make my point. But I do not go around on a soapbox saying this, but I really believe this: I really do not think that most people who claim to be saved today are really truly saved. I do not. Maybe you will better understand my position and maybe even become your position by the time I am done today.

In the Bible, we have something called the witness of the spirit in Romans chapter 8. Joe asked this in Thursday night Bible study the other night. It was a great question. I told you that I would talk about it because I was going to use it again today. Now that witness of the spirit that the Bible talks about, it is not a feeling. It is not some fuzzy, warm feeling that you get or some "oochy-coochy Holy Spirit of God to tingle up my back, make my hair stand on my head" type of feeling. The witness of the spirit in the Bible are four or five clearly defined things. When you do not see those four or five things in somebody's life, then there are some problems there you must deal with.

One of them is clearly the concept of repentance. Salvation without repentance will never be true salvation. Repentance means you turn from something. Repentance means you are going in a lifestyle this way, and then you repent means that you go another direction. You cannot be truly saved and repent and go the same direction you were going. We have lost the concept of

repentance today. We really have. I think that is probably one of the biggest issues that we struggle with.

When you do not ever see those things in a person's life, it is hard to believe that they have really had an inward change according to the Bible. It is just that simple. You see wives with husbands who care nothing about the things of God. You see husbands with wives who care nothing about the things of God. You see parents with their children, and the children care nothing about the things of God. You see people who live, as Paul said, in their former lusts and yet still claim to be saved. Yet the wives with the husbands, the husbands with the wives, the parents with the children, if you asked them, "Are they saved?" they would say, "Absolutely, they were saved when they were four, saved when they were five, saved when they were 10." In most cases, not all, in most cases, in my humble opinion, based on the Bible, I do not think a lot of people that claim that they are truly saved have ever really been saved.

You see, I do not think you can get saved truly and then still live in your former lusts like it is okay. I came to Kansas City in 1975, and I was a youth pastor for six or seven years, and I have seen Christians, I have seen children of Christian men who were deacons, I have seen children of pastors, I have seen children of church leaders, prominent people in churches that were as lost as you could be if it was based on their attitude and their actions. Yet the parents would defend it to the point that they were saved.

You see in a situation like that, and I learned it, I learned most of what I learned in the ministry the hard way, by doing it wrong and then getting my tail chewed out and the feathers blasted off. I will make the same mistake once, but usually not twice, unless it is something I really like to do. I will never forget, I learned quickly that they needed their kid to be saved. How embarrassing it would be to be a pastor and your child be lost. How embarrassing it would be to be a deacon and your kid to be lost. How embarrassing it would be to be a Sunday school teacher teaching others when your own kid does not come to church and is lost. See how embarrassing that is? So in those kind of cases, it is a pattern, by the way, they have to have their children saved. Some women have to have their husbands saved. Some husbands have to have their wife saved when they are not because it is an embarrassment to them. It is an embarrassment.

I will never forget in 1976, the first youth camp we ever had. It was at Beth Eden in Lebanon, Missouri, Beth Eden Bible Camp. We had about a hundred kids go. It was the first year that I was youth pastor, and up to this point in the church, it had all been fun and games. When I stepped into the pulpit, they all thought they died and went to hell. Fun and games were over. But I will never forget those days. We had our first camp, and I felt like, "You know what? We might as well get this thing going." So my first camp speaker to a fun-and-games bunch of kids who knew nothing about the Bible, cared nothing about the Bible, that was just as bratty as you could ever want, was Mel Savaca.

Some of you were at that camp. I think Penny, you were at that camp. I know Steve Bracken at that point was only 15 years old. I know he was there. He is one that we chased around the camp with the dogs all night long trying to find him. His brother was there. His mom and dad were there. They were counselors in my high school class at that point. I am not making this up. 40

kids got saved. Along about Wednesday night, I mean, it was a battle Monday night and Tuesday night, and all day kids were fighting, and it was like there was a satanic stronghold going on in this camp. Mel and I stayed up one night, talked about it and prayed about it. Wednesday, the camp broke. People, kids were coming down. They were getting right with God, and 40 kids got saved. Some of them were kids of deacons. Some of them were kids of pastors. Some of them were kids of leaders in the church and Sunday school teachers in the church.

I was young back then. I thought I could see myself riding back in the church bus, coming into the church parking lot, and the whole church turning out that salvation, and these kids are saved. I can imagine myself like Caesar riding in a front chariot, going into Rome with everybody throwing accolades and throwing this, "You got my kids saved. You did this. What a wonderful camp. My kid was lost, but now he is found. Thank you so much. Hail Caesar." Oh no. It was one of the most greatest experiences of my life. I must have got my rear end chewed out. I had more than one lady whose husband was a deacon come up and accuse me of convincing her kid that he was lost when he was not. It was a time. I learned some things in those early years. "How dare you convince my child that he was not saved?"

Over the years, I have seen husbands with wives where the spouse cared absolutely nothing about God, the Word of God, the minister of God, or the people of God. I mean nothing about them, spareish on any form or fashion. Yet, "Oh yeah, I am saved." Based on what? That they say so? In a court of law, it is not what you think, or it is really not what you believe, or it is merely what you say. In a court of law, it is only what you can prove. You can say you are saved all you want. You can go back to some experience all you want. But what Paul is saying here is, "Do not go by appearances." If you are truly saved inwardly, then there has to be something outwardly.

Based on what the Bible says, this is why I worry about people so many times. I do. I have seen them make excuses. I have seen them blame it on others. I have seen them set up two sets of rules. I have seen everybody beat around the bush instead of dealing with a real issue. But as I said a couple of weeks ago, you have to remember that when you have the witness of the spirit, this is what is missing. In a court of law, you want to prove your point, call a witness. If you want to prove you are saved, you have to have a witness that proves it. Witness of the spirit. It is just that simple.

IV. The Unchanging Book in a Changing Christian World

Now, I am going to confess some things to you today because confession is good for the soul. Not bad things. But I want to tell you what my problem is. Before some of you laugh at me, like somebody is right now, before you laugh at me, I am going to tell you something. Some of you are headed for the same problem I have got. So how do I look at that? We will all form a support group for each other down the road someplace.

I have got a major issue. My major issue simply is not only do I not get along with the world, which is a good thing, I do not get along with Christianity, which unfortunately is also a good thing. I have been in this book too long. I am as old school as you are ever going to find. I grew up in an era where people still believed the Bible was the Word of God and meant what it says. I

grew up in a time and heard some of the greatest last of the Philadelphian age preachers that are all dead now that the world has ever seen. I grew up in a ministry and a man that was as old school as you could ever.

Everybody talks about old school. Everybody who has been in the army today, when you say, "I am in the army," the guy who was in the army 20 years ago will say, "Well, the army today ain't nothing like the army back then." You will say, "Well, I am going in the Marine Corps tomorrow." "Oh, the Marine Corps that I was in 20 years ago, this is baby stuff compared to what it was." Everybody says those things, but there is a lot of truth in that. I guarantee you if you went in the Marine Corps in the 50s and the 60s, it was a lot rougher than going through now. I went through basic training in 1968. Back in 1968, they could still hit you. Now all they can do is talk loud at you. I learned cuss words in basic training I did not even know existed. But it is a benefit because I can use them today, and I have to.

I was running down the road one time, and they had rifles up high over your head, and I did not think the guy was looking, so I dropped mine because my arm was tired. Somebody came up behind me with a rifle with a drill sergeant and hit me with a vertical butt stroke in the back of my head, knocked my helmet off, knocked me down. You cannot do that today. Cannot touch them. Cannot cuss them. I am not for cussing publicly. I am not for cussing. I am not advocating cussing. But I am saying, when I was in the army, when Bill was in the Marines back there, when some of you older guys were in, I am not saying the soldiers are not great today. They are. I have all the respect for them in the world. I am just saying things change. Old school, new school.

There was a time in World War II that your strategy of winning a battle was, if you get into war, let us win it. They attacked me with a platoon. I am going to send a company. They bring a company. I am going to send a battalion. They send a battalion. I am going to send a division. You made sure you win. Now we talk. You know what I would do with North Korea? I know you are all glad I am not president. But I will tell you what, this pussyfooting around with North Korea, this little fat Pillsbury Doughboy guy over here, first I would do is send him Dennis Rodman. I said, "You can keep him. We will give you Dennis Rodman. You just disarm everything you got." He would probably do it. Dennis Rodman would probably do it.

But if I was the President of the United States and they are making all this saber rattling, "We are going to destroy this," and put it on the air and put GI pictures up on the thing, and they are shooting at him and all that stuff. No, I know it will mean nothing. But somebody has got to call their bluff. You cannot just simply say, "Let them do things and say things." This is why the other countries around the world do not respect us. We just fold up every time. "We will send them more money." We will send Hillary Clinton over to try to work the problem out. We will send somebody over to talk. Sometimes talking does not do anything anymore. Sometimes you have got to get up and say, "Ladies and gentlemen, fellow Americans, I know that there is a lot of stuff going on over there, and there are a lot of things that North Korea is trying to say and do, and they are threatening the United States. I know some of you are worried about that. But let me just assure you that if they would ever attack either South Korea or they would ever send anything, one missile, even in our direction, on Friday, there will be no North Korea on Saturday." We are not going to do that. See, that is old school.

I am not totally out of step with the world, which is a good thing. I am totally out of step with the Christian world. I am so sick of weak, baby, spoiled Christians who cannot stand for anything yet fall for everything. I am tired of it. I am. I just do not get how God's people can look at any given situation, see and understand a clear principle in the Bible that is involved, and just pretend it is not there.

When we started our church, that is why I called it Old Paths. I called it out of Jeremiah chapter 6, verse 16. I did it for two reasons, because that is where our church is at. It says:

Jeremiah 6:16

Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

Old Paths. Now I did it for another reason, because you can always tell where people know about the Bible when they ask what the church name is. I will say, "What is the name of your church?" I will say it, "Old Paths." "Old Paths?" I will get nine or seven things, and I will help them out. "It is in the Bible, the B-I-B-L-E, golden pages, black cover, Jeremiah 6:16. The Old Paths." Yeah, the Old Paths. You see, I picked that name because we are on the old path. We are not going to the new path. You say, "Well, I like the new path." Help yourself, sweetheart. I do not. I have seen some of them new paths where they lead, and you are going to see it today before we are done.

V. The Corruptible Seed and False Professions

Now let me illustrate what I am trying to say here. Hopefully you will see what Paul was talking about and what I am trying to talk about. If I brought in a group of people today, and we will say, and if you are one of these people, this is no reflection on you, and I will buy you lunch this afternoon, or you can buy me lunch this afternoon. However, we will have a good time together. Let us just say I brought in a Mormon up here, and a Jehovah's Witness over here, a Church of Christ over here, and a Seventh-day Adventist over here.

One thing about all these groups that is true, none of them believe anything remotely that the Bible teaches. Most of them believe that Jesus Christ is not God. The Bible teaches He is. Most of them believe you have got to be baptized to go to heaven. The Bible says you do not. Most of them believe you have got to do good works to earn salvation. The Bible says, "By grace are ye saved through faith, not of yourselves." Most of them believe no second coming of Christ. I expect them before the message is over. Most of them believe no tribulation period. They have obviously never been married for very long. Most of them do not believe there is ever going to be a rapture. The Bible says there is. Nothing that we teach or the Bible teaches do they believe. Every one of them will forsake the nation of Israel as God's people and believe that they now have taken the place of the nation of Israel.

If I would put them before you today, and based on the Bible that we know, ask you this question: Could these people be saved yet believe and reject truth and live a religious lifestyle

outside the Bible and still be saved? Because every one of them will stand here and defend the fact that they are a Christian. Every one of them will defend the fact that they have been saved, and every one of them will claim to be a Christian and on their way to heaven. A hundred percent of you, if you know anything about the Bible at all, would say, "Absolutely not." In spite of that, you have to remember this: most of them, being unsaved, do more work in their church than some of you do who are saved. The Jehovah's Witnesses are out every day knocking on doors. They have strict laws, but you have to understand the reason why they do that, because if they do not do that, they believe they can lose their salvation. God gave you your salvation, never take it away. So you just shaft him and say, "Well, I will do whatever I want to do." But that is the difference, basically.

Now, I will bring in another group of people. On that first group, you would say, "Absolutely not." But if I brought in another group of people who also claim to be Christian and saved, and yet they all live in the former lust that Paul talked about in 1 Peter 1:13. They will fornicate at the drop of a hat. But they have Christian morals. They will not fornicate with somebody that is not a Christian. A girl actually told me that one time. No sanctity in marriage. They will have illegitimate kids. I understand that it happens. I do not ever begrudge anybody when it happened, because there is a process that God can get the honor and glory even out of that, and many times He does. But there are some people who just, they have illegitimate kids by multiple fathers, and they think it is the greatest thing in the world. They think it is some badge of honor. I had one girl tell me, she says, "Well, I just love to have kids." Obviously, you have got four by four different fathers, and none of them are supporting any of them. But that is the world we live in today.

You see, drink, do drugs. All the former lusts that Paul talked about. Yet because they are our friends, because they are our family, because they are our husband or our wives, and yet we will think this crowd is saved, but the other group is not. Now keep in mind, both groups can live like hell, one to the world, and the other one through a false religion. We think that one is okay and the other is not, when in fact, they both do exactly the same thing. They live their life the way they want, in spite of what the Bible says. They reject the truth of the Word of God, just two different areas, one religiously and one in the world. They both reject and resent any proper biblical correction, and both claim to be truly saved and Christian.

I do not know how you feel about that, but as a Bible-believing Christian, I have a tough time with that, because I do not see any difference between the two. It may be two different areas, but the bottom line is truth is truth. If you reject truth in a false religion, or you reject truth because you want to live in your former lust, it is the same problem.

Now let me break it down for you even lower, talking about the lowest common denominators. Let me use a couple here as an example: Gene and Diane Geisiger. Gene brought up a question a couple of Thursday nights ago. After a Bible study about three weeks ago at the end, I wish he had brought it up earlier that night, because that would have loved to kick it around. It would have been fun. But we were talking about Cain and Abel, remember? We were talking about the devil's seed versus God's seed. We were going through 2 Corinthians 11, 1 John, Genesis 4, Genesis 3, kicking the word "beguiled" around, and going through all of that.

Gene came up to me after the Bible study. Let me tell you about Gene, first of all. I have got to put Gene in perspective. Gene and his wife come over about once a month in the Bible together. I have a standard thing where you can come over and study the Bible together, anybody in the church or not in the church. If you just want to get it together with me in the Bible, that is great. We have a great time in the Bible. I think I enjoy those times. I get a lot of issues I have got to deal with that are not pleasant, or they take a lot of work, or this or that. I am all for that. But the height of my week is when people come over, and we just sit down, and we have fun with the Bible. Gene and Diane have been around for a long time, and we always have fun.

I look at, we just, two of our youngest guys in our church here, Aaron and Tobin, they both have come over. I will tell you what, I could turn the lights out in my house, it would be pitch black, and they come in and open up the Bible, and the lights would come on. They are excited about the Bible. They want to know everything. They want to do whatever God wants them to do. I have fun with people like that. I think it is great.

Now, Gene, he has been around for a while, and he is a thinker. He really is. He is a computer guy, but he is not a nerd. But he is a computer guy by trade, and he has an investigative mind. He really does. He not only has a heart for God, but he has, I think, a mind for God. I have known him for 30 plus years, and I have always felt that way.

Now, Diane, what can I say? There is no sweeter woman in the world than Diane Geisiger. I am kidding you. We all love you. You guys jumped in here about five weeks ago, eight weeks ago, however long it was, 12 weeks ago, last year, I do not know, whenever you got here. Boy, I have never seen a couple just take into this thing and get into the thing going. The beauty, they balance each other out perfectly. Do you ever notice that? They really do, like so many of you do. Your spouse, God just gave you who you needed, who you wanted, and you have a big mouth, and she shuts you up. It is just beautiful. How long have you been married? Did I marry you? I stood up with it. I knew I was involved in it somehow. I do not think you ever fight, do you? Maybe so. All right, so it is not Romeo and Juliet. We will make it Beauty and the Beast then, but it works.

Now, his question was this, and it is a great question, but it is a scary question. I have pondered this question for many, many years. There are things in the Bible that I see, and I will probably never figure out. They are there, they scare me. If it is true, it really scares me. I always look for alternative ways around it. In this particular question, I told Gene, I said, "I will not fight you on this one, buddy. I have thought about this a long time, and this one really bothers me." He said, "Based on what we said tonight, the devil's seed and God's seed, what do you think about this?" That is what he always does. He always says, "What do you think about this?" I love it.

He took me over to 1 Peter chapter 1 verse 23. We have been talking about corruptible seed, incorruptible, the devil's seed, God's seed, and here is what he said:

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.

Now, his question to me was this: If the King James Bible is the uncorruptible seed, the Word of God, and it is, and all the new Bibles are corruptible seed and come through the wrong line, which they appear to, his question was, "Can a person be saved with a new Bible if it is corruptible seed versus the Word of God, which we know is incorruptible seed?" Now, that is a tough question, man. That is a tough question. I personally think it is even tougher to answer, but I will tell you what, it forces us to think some things over again, because if the verse says what it means, and it means what it says, well, that answers a lot of questions.

You say, "Well, he is not talking about the Word of God." Then what is he talking about? Look at the verse again. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible by the word of God." He is talking about the Bible. This is not some abstract concept. He is saying there that there is a corruptible word of God and there is an incorruptible word of God. Gene's question to me, I am not telling you this is true. I am making my point. Gene's question to me was, "Can you get saved with a corruptible Bible if it is corruptible seed?" Now, I will tell you what, that would explain so many of God's people or the way they are, would not it? That will answer why a man claimed to be saved and have a Bible, go to church, but never have a real inward salvation because if that verse says what it says and means what it says, it has to be born again by incorruptible seed. That is a tough one. That would be fun to kick around on a Thursday night. I may just throw that out to see what you think about it.

Now, I know the alternative to that. Some of you say, "Well, my kid grew up in a Bible-based home," right? Bible, all of it. I grew up in a Bible-based home. You know a Christian home can be a great thing or a terrible thing. We always think of a Christian home as to be a good thing. It is like the Christian school moment because the moment they put Christian on it, we thought that the devil could not get in there. So you sent your sick kid to Christian school, and you could just sleep good at night because you went to a Christian school, the devil would never dare to go into a Christian school. So therefore, your kids were assured to get a Christian education. How did that work out for you? Does not work out very well.

It is like the idea, "Well, I will go to church to find a spouse instead of going to a bar." Hey, the same people in church are the women in the bars last night. You do not find a good spouse in church. You find one in Christ. We talked about that before, did not we? In pastor circles, we have a running joke about Bible colleges. We say, now keep in mind, Bible colleges are designed by man to take a young man or a young lady in and build their relationship with God, get them ready for serve God, and send them out for the rest of their life. In pastor circles, we joke about it. Most of them have been to Bible college, even though I have not, but they said that Bible colleges, when you go there to find God and prepare yourself for God, that the Bible college is the easiest and best place to get out of fellowship with God. It is true, absolutely true.

The best place to have your kids raised up under Bible teaching and die to go to hell is in a Christian family that is as phony as the Bible colleges that you will go to. Calling your family Christian does not make it Christian anymore than spending \$100,000 buying a NASCAR race car makes you a race car driver. If you grew up in an unsaved family, which many of you have, Timothy did, he had a saved mom and an unsaved dad, it looks like. Then you have some kind of

good comparison. You have contrast, but growing up in a Christian home can get real confusing for a child if the parents are not at the top of their game.

Remember Genesis chapter 3, the first attack of the devil, he did not attack an unsaved family. He attacked the saved family. He went into two people who were made in God's image and God's likeness, a picture of two Christians, got one boy, and then got that boy to kill the other boy. He did not attack Nimrod's family. He did not attack, wait till the unsaved family came around. He attacked, his first attack was with a saved family who in an Old Testament, extra sense, was born again, just like you and me, just not the same way.

Let me ask you a question. This will prove my point. Who killed Abel? I was hoping somebody would say that. They probably always say Cain did. Well, Cain may have killed him, but Cain did not really kill him. You know who killed Abel? Adam and Eve. The moment they disobeyed God and left God's word, they set in motion a process that got their son killed. It started with them. You better see that. Just because you say, "Well, I grew up in a Christian home," that means nothing. That means nothing. The devil's first attack, he has not changed his tactics in 6,000 years. It is the same in the book of Exodus. You find a great story in chapter 8, chapter 9, and chapter 10. It shows you the three ways that the devil will weaken a Christian family and ultimately get the kids and generation after that. He got Cain, Cain killed Abel, and then study the generations of Cain. It is not very pretty.

Adam and Eve, because they disobeyed what the Word of God said, put in motion a lifestyle that killed their kid. God's people today who claim to be saved, do not follow the book, will put in motion a lifestyle that will get their kids killed, get them in hell. As sure as I am standing here. Now I know that is not popular, but I already made my excuse to you. I am old school. I can say whatever I want now. What Woody Hayes was to football, I am to the churches. So be careful. I may come up, beat on you over there.

You see, the devil's plan is simple.1.) He wants to get everybody here in hell. That was his ultimate plan. Every one of you, including me, he wanted to get you in hell. He worked at it. He put people in your life. When you finally went to church, he sent you a bunch of friends that tried to let you not go to church. He put everything in your life to get you not to go to church. So you would simply go and die and go to hell. But in many of your cases, it did not work. God overrode that, and God got you saved.2.) Once you are saved, the devil knows he cannot ever get you in hell. So you know what his next plan is? He will let you go to heaven. But he will make you ineffective in the ministry. He will make you one of these kinds of guys or gals who do not really take it seriously. Your kids look at you and see you fornicating all over the world, upstairs, downstairs, her house three days, your house two days. They see all of that and they see all the drunken and all this and all that. Yet, "I am a Christian. We are going to go to church tomorrow." He just sneaks right in under the radar. He lets you go, but he will get your family. That is how it works. When he gets your family, like Adam and Eve, now you put something in motion that will go on for generations and generations and generations. He will not miss our inconsistency. He just will not.

Now we are talking about inner salvation that produces an outer change. We are talking about not just looking at the appearance of something. We are talking about being born of God as incorruptible seed. We are talking about not going by the appearance of something, but trying the spirits like Joe asked Thursday night.

Here is my issue. Here is where I am coming from. I know I am old school. I am not old school in everything, but when it comes to the book and the Bible, my problem is this, and it is your problem too. You just are not smart enough to figure it out yet. You know what our problem is? If we are going to stand on the book and we are going to do what God says, here is our basic fundamental problem: We live in a Christian world that changes every day. Yet we have got a book that never changes. You have to make a choice. You have to either choose that you are going to change and be like the world and grow up being a Christian who can do all of the things that the world does, or you are going to realize that let Christianity go to hell in a handbag. Let it go wherever it wants to go.

We were at volleyball the other night, if I do not mind telling this story, we were at volleyball the other night, and there were some people there, and they were visiting, and they were relatives of our people here. They said, I asked them to go out to eat, and they said, "No, we have got to go." I found out later that their church sponsors a gambling ministry that you can go there. They will set up all kinds of poker tables in the gym and the church. Then you play, and then you get your winnings, and you can donate it to any ministry you want. Where have I been? Where have I been?

Now, this same church has also taken a stand that it is okay to social drink. In fact, one of the gals, they were already in an Applebee's one night, one afternoon before they were going to Bible study, and somebody says, "Oh, I see you are having a margarita." And the girl's answer was, "Yeah, I do not have to teach tonight." She probably would have taught better with a couple under her belt, but we do not know that. No, you have got a choice to make. You live in a Christian world that changes every day. It will not be long before Baptist churches embrace same-sex marriages. I guarantee you, you say it will never happen. 40 years ago, we would have said it would never happen in this country. It is happening now. Over in Europe, they are passing legislation that you can have sex with animals. It will happen here in time. Whatever happens here weaves its way into Christianity. Now today, whatever we have got going on in Christianity is okay because it is all changing. So therefore they have got to get a Bible and keep changing it.

Now my dilemma, and as I said, it is your dilemma too. You just do not know it yet. Some of you, maybe you do. That is my problem fundamentally. I live in a changing Christianity that is puke. It stinks. It is everything that is against God. My problem is I have got a book that goes exactly against what everybody thinks Christianity, that puts me in a bind. The Bible has ruined me. No, it has ruined me, man. I am not only out of touch. I grew up thinking I was supposed to be out of touch with the world. I never dreamed I would have to be out of touch with Christianity. But we are going the way of the world. You go to most churches, you do not get the hell preached out of you anymore. No, no, no. You will get smoke. You will get mirrors. You will get a pastor that will ask you what your favorite color is.

Here is my problem. Here is my issue. In the New Testament, in this book that never changes, I have got to tell you something. I cannot find any Christians ever mentioned like the ones we have got running around here today. Do you ever notice that? Does that ever bother you that in the New Testament you cannot find one Christian like we have got running around today living in their old former lust of the flesh? No, 1 Corinthians. Yeah, I know. You have got a bunch of baby Christians. I understand, but that is immaturity. Peter denied Christ. Yeah, he did. But he went out and wept bitterly. You say, "Well, what about Judas?" Well, he was the devil, remember? All through the New Testament book you have weak Christians. Sure, you have struggling Christians. Absolutely. You have Christians who do things wrong and fall into sin. We all can. But absolutely in the New Testament there is no mention of a man or a woman who claims to get saved and then just lives in their former lust that God saved them from, absolutely nowhere in the Bible.

You say 1 Corinthians chapter 5, there is a man that had sex with his own mother-in-law. Yeah, and how they treat him as an unsaved man. Well, you go in 1 Corinthians chapter 7, the great chapter on marriage, divorce and remarriage, and you have got a scenario where a husband and wife and one or the other will not do right. They will not follow the Bible. The wife says, "I want to work it out." The husband says, "I do not. I am tired. I am quit." The wife says, the man says, "I want to work it out." The wife says, "No, I do not." They want to do. One of them wants to do what is right. It goes on and one of the parties will not do what is right. What does the Bible say? "Let the unbelieving depart." Let him depart. Treat him as an unsaved man.

You do not find Christians like we have got running around today in the Bible. You do not find Christians who get saved, take the blood of Christ, have a real internal change, and then just go live like hell the rest of their lives as Christians. They are not in there. They are nowhere to be found. They are just not.

Now, going back to Gene's question here a minute about corruptible seed and incorruptible seed. I will tell you for sure what all the new Bibles do. They, the new Bibles, create an atmosphere of no Bible truth and no Bible doctrine in absolute form. They put Christianity into an abstract form. They make Christianity some concept with no absolute truth. They will tell you that you cannot get a handle in our copy of the inerrant Word of God. Once they tell you that and you believe that, you are free to make up whatever you want to make up because you have got no absolute standard to be accountable to. That is what we have done. That is what we have done. It has taken all the absolute truth out of the Christian life and especially salvation and replaced a clear truth of the Word of God in its principles with a feeling. We have taken repentance out of salvation. We do not even know what repentance means. You have got a lot of people running around saying, "Yeah, I am saved. I am saved. I am born again. I am saved." When they do not even understand the key of salvation, it is turning from your sin. Now that is what you have got to deal with today. The devil has never changed tactics from Genesis chapter 3.

VI. The Witness of the Spirit and the New Birth Certificate

Now, when I say what I am about to say, I am not suggesting you are not saved. There is a tendency in preaching a message like this that everybody who cannot get it clear or you have had

some problems in your life or whatever, the first thing you go to, I am not saying that. My goal is not to. There will be no invitation today. I will not. It will be like the Red Sea flooding over an accident. Everybody who has got it. I am not about that. I am just talking to you. Listen to me.

But I will say this. If you have been saved five years or more, I always throw that out there. I throw that out there because you have to have five years just to figure things out. So if you are five years or under, listen to what I am saying, but take it to heart. Yes. But do not beat yourself up over it. I say that all the time. I will give you five years grace. Yet today, if you have been saved longer than five years and you cannot take your Bible and lay out what happened to you the day you got saved. I mean, if you cannot take the Word of God and explain to me, your kids, or somebody else what changed with your body, your soul, or your spirit, you cannot lay it out through the Bible. Now I am asking now. I am not suggesting anything. I am asking. I know some of you are young Christians, and you are working up through it. You are coming through Discipleship One, you are going through Discipleship Two, and you are getting a handle on it. You are fine. You are going to be just fine. I am not talking about you.

But let me ask you a question. You have been saved five years or more, and right now you could not explain what happened to you the day you got saved. How do you know you are saved if you do not even understand the process? Because you had some experience? Because you had some feeling? Because you went forward in some service? You said a prayer? Because you feel you are saved? Because you just feel it in your heart? Because you have got a deep little voice down inside you that says you are okay? Where is the witness of the Holy Spirit of God? Where are the things that witness to your salvation?

I will give you a great example. You are all here today. But if this was a college, and you all came here to join this college, and you say, "I want to be part of this college, and I want to join," I would say to you, "Well, I cannot let you join." And you say, "Why is that?" I said, "You are going to have to prove you were born." And you say to me, "Here I am. I am standing here." You realize you cannot prove you were really born into your family by just presenting yourself to somebody. The fact that you say you were born or you are standing here today does not necessarily mean you were ever really born. The world will not accept that by that standard in most things. You have to have proof of the fact that you were really born.

To do anything meaningful in life, you have to show proof that you were born. The fact that you are standing in front of that person does not make any difference. You have to have a record of your birth. We know it as a birth certificate. A record of the fact that you were really born into your family and that you are really who you are standing there. If you want to get a passport, they have to have a birth, and not a copy of it, the original. If you want to go into the military, you have to show your birth certificate. If you want to get, go to college, you have to show a birth certificate. If you want to get a social, everything in life that is meaningful that is going to lead you anywhere, you have got to prove that you were born, and you have to show that there someplace is a record of that birth.

Now, if that is true in the physical world about your first birth, do you not think it might also be true in the spiritual world with your second birth? I am sure it is. Take your Bible and turn it over

to 1 John chapter 5. I am going to show you one of the greatest verses in the Bible on your record. This is your Christian New Birth Certificate right here. When you have people who worry about they lose their salvation or do not know if they are saved, it is because they cannot prove they were really saved to begin with. They have no record of it. You are like somebody standing there wanting to get into a college, they want to get into the military, why do not you do this and keep turning you away because you cannot prove you were really born, and the frustration that must be with the fact that you are standing there as proof you were born. I have got a lot of people go around saying, "I am saved, I am saved, I am saved." When you ask for the proof, the witness of the Spirit, they do not have any.

1 John 5:11-13

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Now that is one of the greatest passages in the Bible on knowing for sure you are saved. It is probably one of the greatest sermons you will ever preach too. You can break that thing down very easily. First thing it simply says this is God has given you a record. You have a record of your salvation. You want a new birth certificate? You have got it. The record is simply this, that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Notice it did not say, "and this life was in the church." It did not say, "and this life was in baptism." It did not say this life was in living a good life. It says God has given us eternal life, and the record says this life is in His Son.

Now, easiest verse in the Bible, verse 12, easiest verse in the Bible, sitting here today, you either have Him or you do not. "He that hath the Son of God hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." You either have Him or you do not. There is no middle ground. If you have got Him and it is a real inward change, then there has got to be an outward change. If there is no outward change, you better check up on the inward change.

Now look what he says, verse 13: "These things," what things? The things in the record, the Bible, the Word of God, the record God has given you, the record you should have. "And these things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may hope you have eternal life." Is that what it says? "You may think you have eternal life." Is that what it says? It says, "you may know you have eternal life." Do you know that today? That is the question. If you say yes, you better have a witness that witnesses to that. Just that simple. You have a record, you have a new birth certificate.

And 1 John 5:14 says:

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

This is why most of God's people who claim to be saved never do anything. You do not have any confidence to do anything. You know where you get your confidence from? The record. The record. Knowing that record.

Now I must tell you right now, if I had to produce my first birth certificate to prove I was born, I would not even know where to begin. I do not know where it is at. Hope you do. I do not know where it is at. You ask me to prove my second one, I will be over you like ugly on an ape. I have got the second one down. That is why I do not care about the first one. See that? You have a record. Everything in life, you have a record of it. You have a birth certificate. The cop pulls you over and says, "Are you allowed to drive this car?" You are showing the record of your driver's license. You have a record that you paid your taxes when the IRS says you did not. It will not make any difference, but you have got one. You go to the store and you buy clothes. You get a receipt. That is a record. You have a dog. You have got a dog license. That is a record. Everything. You go to Starbucks and get your latte. You have got a record, a receipt that you got a latte. You can prove the car is yours because you have got a title. You can prove you paid the tax bill because you have got a receipt, the phone bill, the water bill, the cable bill, the trash bill. The bills are all receipted. There is a record of your payment. But when it comes to our salvation, we do not have a record and cannot prove anything. Just got a warm fuzzy feeling. Something fundamentally wrong with that. But then I am old school.

VII. The Erosion of Truth and the Old Paths

The New Testament was black and white. If the new Bibles do anything at a minimum, they produce an atmosphere of instability, a Christian world and lifestyle based on feeling and emotion, our senses instead of Bible truth, doctrine, a milk toast baby formula Christianity that has no power in it because it has no meat in it, no doctrine. Remember, 2 Timothy chapter 3 verse 16 says the Bible is valuable for four things. And the first thing is doctrine, telling you what is right and then showing you what is wrong.

When Bible Christianity from 1888 to 2013 went without the true incorruptible Word of God now for a long time and operated out of a corruptible world, the generation after generation was eroded and went into apostasy. You know what happened? I will give you just a quick bit of history here. We have plenty of time. In 1888, Westcott and Hort had just put out the new translation over the King James Bible. It started the flood of new translations that were supposed to replace that old blackback 66, the incorruptible Word of God. They came out with the RSV of 1888. In Sarasota, Florida, that same year, maybe the year after, the whole Southern Baptist Convention. Now keep in mind, the Southern Baptist Convention was at that time the biggest contention of Baptist people on the planet. At their Sarasota convention, they adopted and officially adopted the RSV and dumped the King James Bible. That was in 1888.

By 1920, just two or three generations later, the Southern Baptist Church Convention was in a mess. In all of their seminaries, the biggest one being in Louisville, now the college professors were teaching that the story of Adam and Eve was a fable. They were teaching evolution in their Bible colleges. They were telling you the story of Noah's Ark was not true. It was just a legend handed down. They were now teaching that Jesus Christ is not the Son of God. This absolutely

destroyed the Southern Baptist Convention. It was not until the 1940s that men that were in it got fed up with it, and a guy by the name of J. Frank Norris broke out of the Southern Baptist Convention and started the fundamentalist movement.

Now I know the word fundamentalist is a bad word today, and it really is in many cases, but in its original form, it is simply that men and a bunch of guys were brushing out of an apostate church and going back to that Bible, and they were going to build their churches on the fundamentals that they had lost. This church is a great-grandchild of that. My pastor in Ohio, Dr. Harold Henniger, was one of J. Frank Norris's boys that left with him out of the Southern Baptist Convention, built a Canton Baptist Temple, produced me, brought me to Kansas City. I built this church based on what they got back there. He would not compromise. I will not compromise because I know where my roots go back. That is my problem today. It is your problem too. You just have not figured it out yet.

As this church, generation after generation only got worse. Generation after generation of people have gotten weaker. They have less understanding than the last generation before them because each generation as we go down through time is farther removed from the truth of the Word of God that they once had and rejected. Back in the, I have said it many, many times, back in the 1600s, 1700s, even the early part of the 1800s, you went into a Christian bookstore and say, "I want a Bible." The guy would say, "Well, what do you want? I have got two. I have got the King James 1611, or I have got the Douay-Rheims of the Roman Catholic Church. Which one do you want?" You only had two to pick from. Only two. Today it is all changed. You go into your Christian bookstore today, and you will walk you around the corner, and there will be 500 translations of the Bible. You will be hard pressed to find the King James Bible today, but you will find everything else. People think, "Wow, what a decision." It is not a decision. Nothing has changed at all. You still only have two Bibles to pick from. The King James Bible, still the incorruptible Word of God. Every new translation on the market comes from the Douay-Rheims and is corrupted someplace along the line. I do not care if there are 500. You only have got two to pick from, God's or the other guys.

That is why it is so different from Paul's time today. Real Bible, New Testament, Christianity does not even exist anymore. You have to know this to work with people. That is why just like the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons and the Church of Christ and all the rest who think they are God's people and saved, when in Paul's time they did not exist either. All those churches do not even start till the 1800s. So you have a bunch of God's people today. I mean a bunch of people who claim to be saved and live in their former lust of their flesh. In both cases, they are both as lost as can be. Neither one of them existed in the New Testament. Talk about deceiving yourself. You see, there is a witness of the Spirit that has to be in our lives. If not, you better look at some things.

VIII. The Tragedy of Modern Christianity

Now in closing here, here is the other problem we have today. Here is really the real issue. There is no way we are going to fix this. When Christianity was at its greatest, the persecution of Christians was at its highest. This is extremely important. Today we are a bunch of baby, weak

Christians who cannot stand for anything, as I said. One good thing about persecution is when it tends to weed out the non-hackers, the middle-world Christians. When they try to kill you, when they rack you, when they burn you with a stake, when they poke your eyes out with hot irons or take your little babies and throw them to hungry pigs and watch you, watch to eat them and try to get you to deny Christ, it tends to weed out the crowd. It really is not serious. The fire of persecution always purges the true church.

But the devil never makes the same mistake twice. What he could not accomplish with the rack and the inquisition and the burning and the hot irons and the tongues being cut out, he simply accomplished by giving us everything we could ever want as Christians. Making us comfortable, spoiling us, making us effeminate and weak, losing our sense of battle and standing for the Lord. He gave us churches that conform to the world. He gave us Bibles that take out the blood. He gave us pastors who instead of preaching, as I said, the Word of God to you, they apply to your senses and your feelings. They put in light, smoke, music, all the effects of a 3D movie except the Bible, no truth.

Bible studies are now where you go and share your opinion, your experience with God. Where you sit around a little room, you read a passage of scripture, and everybody takes their turn. The leader says, "What do you think it means? What do you think it means? What do you think it means? What do you think it means? Here is what I think it means." "Oh, thank you for sharing. We had a wonderful time today sharing the Word of God." It does not really mean anything except if it means something to you. So let us all go out now with a nice warm feeling and enjoy our experience with God. That is where you are at, kids. Plastic preachers, plastic churches, plastic Christians, plastic salvation.

Phil told me a couple of weeks ago, I said, "Hey, I have not seen so and so for a while. You know what happened to him?" And he says, "Yeah, I think they are mad at me." And then I tell them back. I am thinking, "What did you do? Killed her dog, Phil? You beat their kids? I mean, did you insult them? Did you say to the lady, 'Nice dress'? Too bad they did not have it on your size." What did you do, Phil? He says, "Well, they wanted to sit one place, and we were trying to save it for somebody, set another situation. I asked them to sit over here instead, and they got mad, and they left." That is Christianity today.

You know what I say to something like that? If that is what gets you mad and that is where you are, if that ticks you off that you are going to leave the church or with the fact that you cannot sit in your seat, what? Has it got your imprint on it or what? Maybe. See you later, man. There are worse things in life that you are going to have to deal with than this Christianity. That is the tragedy today. "Oh, I am being persecuted. I am suffering." What is to happen? "Well, they took my chair." Well, back then they took your head. They took your tongue. They took your husband. They took your wife. They took your kids. But now on the same par, "They took my chair." There is a song. I am not very good at singing, but it kind of goes like this: "So long. It is so nice to know you."

Now you have it all laid out why we as God's people are the way we are. Why man does what he does, says what he says, and thinks the way he thinks. Now some of you will get this, and it will

change your whole perspective. Others, nothing will change about you. You are just going to go on the way you go. You see, we have created and installed a Christianity that absolutely has nothing to do with the Bible and never existed down through the history of the church. We now have a Christianity that we have to deal with today that you never find in the New Testament, and you have people who claim to be Christians who you cannot find one person in the New Testament who got saved, really got saved, and then lived their life in the former lust, the same lust that God was supposed to save you from.

Now we have churches, church services that never existed in the New Testament. We now have a Bible that never existed. We have pastors who completely lost their way and music that has never existed. It all produces a Christianity that never existed. Men and women who claim to be saved but have absolutely no understanding of what it means. We develop a Christian mindset and a Christian lifestyle that you can truly be saved and totally live your life in the old flesh and the very things that God saved you from. That is the problem today. This is why we are Old Paths Baptist Church. This is why we will stay Old Paths Baptist Church. This is my battle. This is your battle.

We look at our former way of life and what it was and how it was against the Word of God. How do we think we can actually truly be saved and still live the old former way? You cannot, only in this fairy tale Christianity that we have today. Our job is the, our problem is the fact that we are, the battle is living in a decaying Christian era with all the phoniness that has absolutely rotted away and has nothing to do with anything remotely connected to the Bible in most cases. Walking and existing in a changing Christian world as if it leaves, as it leaves the very truth that put it in motion back in the book of Acts.

There I say it again, our problem, living in a changing world with an unchanging book of absolute principles. You know as well as I do Amos 3:3:

Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

My Bible says Hebrews 13:8:

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Someone asked me last week, one of our young men, "Where do I start in my life to get the right mindset? I have heard what you said in 1 Corinthians 9, 1 Corinthians 10. I really want that in my life. What is the process? How do I begin to get the right mindset and get everything going in my life the right way?" Well, again, I will tell you just what the wisest man who ever lived said. In Proverbs 16 verse 3, Solomon said this, and my suggestion to you, if you want to get where God wants you to be, and you want to be everything that God wants you to do, you start, we have already learned, with a willing heart and a willing mind.

Proverbs 16:3

Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

Start doing what God saved you for, and you will never get the wrong mindset about what God wants you to do. In Vietnam, we followed a principle that was a failed principle, it never worked,

but they thought it would. It was called winning hearts and minds. It was a process that we as Americans would go into Vietnam, and we would win the hearts of the people. By winning the hearts of the people, we changed the minds of the people toward Americans. Never worked, never had a chance in a political scene, but that is a biblical concept. What God changes your heart the day you get saved, if you start doing for Him, your mind will follow. That is the process. Get involved, learn the Bible, get disciplined, get everything that you need. If there is any doubt in your mind and your heart or where you are at, come and talk to me.

I do not want to say this to scare you today, it was never my intent to scare anybody. I have been accused all my life about preaching and fear mongering and people to be afraid when I can say that it is better to be hell scared than hell scorched. You saw it last week in our message on the pattern. A pattern of good works will always produce a pattern of sound speech.

I know the ultimate goal, we talked about this, for all of us is everybody, we all want to be happy. We want to be content in life. We want to be as happy as we can. I wash my own dogs, they are not anywhere human, but they follow the same basic pattern. When they are downstairs, they are going to take a nap, they will look for the most comfortable spot they can find. That is human nature. We want to be happy, we want to be comfortable. Yet, we go about it the wrong way.

I heard a guy say one time and it is so true. He says, "If you want to be happy and content for an hour, take a nap. If you want to be happy and content for a day, then go fishing. If you want to be happy and content for a week, go buy a new car. If you want to be happy for a month, get married." His saying, not mine. "If you want to be happy and content for a year, win the lottery. But if you want to be happy and content for the rest of your life, do what God has saved you to do." Because there is no greater contentment and no greater happiness for a child of God than knowing that you are doing what God saved you for. I will preach that message from behind this pulpit until either I die or Jesus comes back. That the only way for you to be happy in life once you are a new creature in Christ Jesus is to literally be a new creature in Christ Jesus. Old things are passed away, and when you do not see them, then you know what you are dealing with.

Do not judge by appearance. Do not judge by the appearance. Things are not always the way they appear. Look for what the Word of God tells you to look for and look to the Word of God and its principles, and there alone is the answer to every problem we have got. Now, you know where we are at today. This is a great message for you to use in your own personal life, but it helps you in choosing your friends and situations and everything that you have got to look at in life. It is all there. It shows you what we are really up against, why we struggle, why our church is going to be different. If you are looking for a church and you want one to fit in with all the other churches, you are honestly, I love you, but you are in the wrong place. We are not going to fit in with them. We are old school. We are old paths. We will stay on the right path. We will stay with the old book, and we will preach the old truth. We will sing the old songs. We will not get into a coffee shop mentality where we just all go to la-la land. We will stick with the truths that God has saved and that will carry us through. Every head bowed, every eye closed.