

2 Corinthians 11

Sunday 5/12/2013

I. Introduction: The Mother's Influence and The Attack on God's Church

If you have your Bibles this morning, I want to invite you to turn to 2 Corinthians chapter 11. Last week we were off because Jim was here, and we had him preach. He did a great job. Jim is a very good preacher, and I just really enjoyed sitting back and listening to him and what he gave everybody. But today I want to get back into 2 Corinthians chapter 11.

We know now that from chapter to chapter we have been dealing with the wisdom of the minister, and in this chapter, we see the attack on God's church. Last time we were together, I gave you an intro to this great chapter, and you now have some vital information on how the devil does what he does.

I thought about this this morning: in most churches, in most surroundings, in most settings, this would probably not be considered a very good Mother's Day message. But when you think it through, it really is, because I do not know of a greater influence on preachers or young men and young ladies in the early years of their life, of instilling the Word of God into somebody's life, more than a mother.

Men get caught up in the pride of things when it comes to the Bible. That is why all the Bible revisers now are men. Have you ever noticed that there were not any women that ever did that? Men get caught up in the pride of the Word of God, wanting to know it, wanting to be this, wanting to be that. A woman does not have that problem. Now I realize, and we are going to see it this morning, that Eve was deceived, and we are going to talk about that, but she was not a mom yet.

There is something about a mother where a father or a man just gets his intellect involved, but it is the mom who prays through those kids' illnesses, and prays through those kids through school, and prays for the wayward sons or the wayward daughters to come back in a different way than a dad does. Men can be fooled with the Word of God, but moms who love the Lord and love the Word of God are not easily fooled when it comes to the Bible because they have seen it work, and they understand its principles, I think, better than a lot of men do.

I look back in my life, and my mom and dad were not perfect by any stretch of the imagination. But I look back in my life, when I was very young, and to this day I can remember my mom singing the hymns sitting out on a porch, and the things that they did and my dad did, but especially my mom. Moms have a tremendous influence on children's lives. When you watch the football games and the guy wants to say hi to somebody, it is not "Hi, Dad," it is "Hi, Mom." In the war, when a guy gets wounded beyond belief and he is suffering, it is not his dad that he cries out for, it is his mother. Mothers have an incredible, incredible impact on people's lives, children's lives.

That is why in this particular chapter today, when I talk about the wisdom of the minister, once we get past Eve, as I said, she did not have any kids. And we get into the church age where you have women who love the Lord and love the Word of God, they are pretty special. And let us face it, I think that most of the great preachers down through history were probably great preachers because the great unsung heroes behind the scenes was a praying mom. So we want to keep that in mind today as we come through this, and we will see how this thing goes.

II. The Devil's Attack on God's People

Last time, we got a lot of good information on how the devil attacks the church, and this is what we are supposed to be in tune with today. You remember I took you back to Job chapter 40 and Job chapter 41, two greatest chapters in all the Old Testament on how the devil operates in the book of Job, where Job is attacked by the devil, much like the church is today. With those two incredible chapters, we saw two great verses that I laid down as a foundation, two great concepts of how he works and how he operates.

We saw in Job 41:13 where the Bible says, "Who can discover the face of his garment?" And I showed you the garment changes and how that all fits into history. Job 41:12 talked about, "I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion." In a foundational lesson that we had, a kind of an intro, I showed you what the parts were, the power were, and his comely proportion were, and we laid it all out. All this now has been defined for us and laid out so that we can get into chapter 11 a little better today; we can better understand what is happening.

The absolute importance of this chapter, I just cannot overstate it. You have got to remember that the attack on God's church will always be an attack on God's people. We think about the devil attacking the church; we think he is going to blow the roof off or present a tornado. Now he could do that, but the real attack on the church will always be an attack on God's people because it is God's people that make up the church. So this is very vital stuff to you and for me.

III. Paul's Fear for the Church

Now I want to begin reading here, 2 Corinthians chapter 11. We are going to be kind of bouncing around here a little bit this morning, getting you some stuff to look at, but let us pick it up there, and we will pray, and then we will get into it here.

2 Corinthians 11:1-3

Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Now Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You today. Thank You, Father, for the guests that You brought here, for the children who did a great job, and for all of

the folks that are part of this work and love this work and are co-laborers in ministry with me here as we try to do what God has called us to do. We pray You will take this time today and show us, educate us, give us insight, because we are so easily deceived, and we are so easily caught up in the traps. So many times we go through life and do not even know that the devil has knocked us off the path that we need to walk on. So help us today to learn this and apply it to our hearts, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

IV. Understanding God's Consistency and Biblical Typology

Now this passage is loaded. I have told you many, many times that I think personally the whole key to the whole Bible is just understanding one word: consistency. God teaches us by being consistent. The Bible lays itself out to us by being consistent. When you find something in the Bible, God doing something or the devil doing something or whatever, it is always the consistency of it that shows you how it works.

When you want to find the true church, and let us face it, we know that there are bad churches out there today, but you want to find a true church, go to the first place that you find the church in Acts, where the first called Christians in Antioch. And you know what? From that point, there is a consistency through the rest of the Bible and then down through history right to where you and I are at today. Everything runs by that way. When God does something, He always does it the same way. That is why the number seven is such a key number in the Bible because God always does everything by seven. Why did He do that? Because He wants to show us His consistency. And this chapter is absolutely loaded because it begins to show us that with the devil also, the consistency is what you want to follow.

Now Paul is afraid for this church. He is afraid for this church, and I understand that. A good pastor is always afraid for his church. The Bible says that a pastor is like a shepherd, and the people in the church are like sheep. And you know, the analogies are endless how that sheep can be led astray. Sheep get afraid of wolves or wild beasts come in, and the shepherd there with a shepherd dog and his crook, he just beats them away, and he protects them. But Paul is afraid for this church, and every good pastor ought to be afraid for his church. He ought to be afraid that people do not get swallowed up in things and do not get caught up in stuff that hurts them. Because I told you last week, just as God has a plan for your life to do something with you, the devil has a plan for your life to take it out of your life. It is just that simple. It is not hard.

And Paul is afraid for this church, and when he lays this chapter out to illustrate his point to them about his fear of what the devil is going to try to do, he uses a great story out of the Old Testament in Genesis chapter 3 about the fall of Adam and Eve. And man, what a story that is.

What Paul does here, again, is a great thing, and it is a great key to us because Paul here and many other places throughout the Bible uses what we call typology or types of the Scripture. Simply a story. Sometimes it is a story about a person. Sometimes it is a story about a circumstance or a situation in the Bible. And when you read it, it will be a study that when you lay it out, will show you some New Testament principle. They are called typology in the Bible.

Now I have got to be honest with you, most preachers today, and certainly anybody who teaches the Bible in any higher academics, they do not believe in typology. But typology, along with consistency, is one of the great keys of the Bible, understanding what a type is. A type is a picture of something. And when you go through the Bible, you see all kinds of pictures of stories and people that illustrate certain things.

I have always looked at the Bible as a picture book. I remember when my kids were very little, and most of you parents do the same thing. When you want to do a Bible study with them or read the Bible to them or have them read along with you, you do not get a wide margin Bible and try to lay it out. You get one of those Bibles for kids that has the big print in it. And maybe you read two or three pages about Noah's ark or Adam and Eve, and then you turn a page, and then they were smart enough to illustrate the story by putting a picture of Adam and Eve in the garden, Noah going into the ark with the animals. And the picture illustrates to the little kids what the story is about.

Hey, come on. Do not ever get so smart and big in your britches that you think that the Bible does not deal with you and I, and Jesus does not want us to be like children. One time the apostles had gotten to the point where they are really uppity-uppity, and now they really think they have made it and arrived. And some little children wanted to come up to be with Jesus. And the apostles tried to keep them away. You know how little kids can be. They get dirty; they play in the dirt. I am sure by this time the apostles all had white robes, probably had little name tags on them. And they did not want those dirty little children coming up, putting their grimy little hands over their white robes. What did Jesus do? Jesus said, "Except you come to me as a little child, you have no part of me."

And that is one of the greatest statements in the Bible because you know why? You try to come to God with your education, you try to come to God with all your knowledge, you try to come to God with all the things that you get from the world and from even the Christian world, and come to God, you will not get anything. When it comes to that Bible and God, the dumber you are this morning, the better off you are. You really are. I mean, I am not the smartest guy in the world. I may know a few things about the Bible, but hey, when I went to school, you kids, I am glad your kids are not here today, but when I got D's and C's, man, that was a good day for me. I mean, I was in the third grade so long the kids brought me the apple. They thought I was the teacher, see?

But that is what it takes because God wants you to come just like a little child. God wants you to be, no matter how old you are, He wants you to be so dumb that you will just believe whatever He says. He wants you to be so dumb that if God tells you that the moon is made of green cheese, then that is exactly what it is.

I remember one time we were going to Ohio someplace years and years ago, and both of my kids were just little kids, and I was driving. It was an early morning, and there was not much going on. I think it was a Sunday morning, to tell you the truth. Barb was asleep over there, and the kids were in the back, and they were bored. I was bored. And so we were driving along there, and we were driving. I was in this lane, and a big old black Cadillac goes by, and it kind of paces with you for a minute, and then it just moves on. Well, the little kids looked over there and saw

the guy obviously had his seat back, and he probably had a cup of coffee, and he had his power. He just back there, but he looked like he was asleep. And my kids said, "Daddy, that guy is asleep." And now I am bored, and there is nothing to do, and so I say, "Oh, he has got one of those new cars that has all the electronics in it that you can actually sleep while you drive." And then I got into it. I said, "You see, he had those, remember those little fender rods that come out, well, I forget what you call them." And I said, "You see them?" And they say, "Yeah, Daddy, I see them." And I says, "Well, those are pneumatic sensors. You see the white lines on the road? Well, it gauges through a computer how far you get." And I said, "You see, though, he had something on the back. I do not know." I said, "You see those little sensors on the back? That tells you when somebody is getting too close, he has got them on the front and too fast, and you can just get out there, and you can just..." And they are all excited. They are going crazy. Now they are making noise. Now they wake Barb up. She asks what the deal is. They tell them. I am in trouble for lying to the kids now. You see how it goes? That is the exact kind of relationship we should have with God. Whatever He tells me, I am going to believe it. Except He is not going to fool with you like I fool with my kids. But you just have got to be dumb enough to believe that what He says is true and come to Him as a child.

Now that is why when He wrote the Bible, He put pictures in it. Typology. You read a story. You see the picture. The picture illustrates the principle. See how it works? Now modern scholarship, you go to a Bible college someplace or go to most churches, they would say that that is not true. But then they try to approach God through their academics, and that is why they do not know anything about the Bible. Now you want to come to God, you have got to come to God as a child. And that is why He wrote a simple little book. You will see it when we get through here. The Bible is filled with them. It is filled with them.

V. Typology Illustrated: The Gospel According to Exodus

I will show you a great example. Take your Bible for a minute and turn back to Exodus chapter 12. Now we know what happens in Exodus chapter 12. This is where Israel comes out of Egypt. And we know they come out of Egypt by the blood of the lamb. They are told to take a lamb, kill it, and put it on the door and all of that. And this is a great example. It is probably the best example I could ever use to show it is so easy that shows a type of our salvation.

When I first got right with God and I went to church on a Sunday night, the first night I really got plugged back in, Dr. Peter S. Ruckman was preaching. And he preached a message I will never forget. In fact, I still have it on cassette. And it was called "The Gospel According to Exodus." I sat there, I had just gotten where I wanted to be with God, and I wanted to learn the Bible. And I still say that that night was the catalyst that lit the fire in my life. I sat there, and my mouth had to be dropped open. My eyes were as big as saucers. I could not believe he was getting everything he got out of that text. And he called it "The Gospel According to Exodus." You know what he did? He took an Old Testament story, and he developed it into an absolute New Testament principle about the day I got saved. And I had never seen that. And from that point on, types were everything I wanted to learn and everything I wanted to get.

And you know, it is a thing where, first of all, the children of Israel were brought out of Egypt by the blood of a lamb. You see, that is a picture of you and me being delivered out of the world because in the Bible, Egypt is a type of the world by the blood of a lamb. All the elements of Christ's death and the cross in this passage way, way before Christ ever was born.

First of all, Exodus 12:3 says, up to this point, the nation of Israel kept the Feast of Tabernacles for the beginning of their year, which is in September. At this point, Exodus 12, God says, "I am changing that. Now you are going to have a new beginning as a nation of Israel, and now it is going to be April at the Passover." You know what that is a picture of?

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

You see, there was a time in your life when everything went one way, and then the day you got saved, it all changed, did it not? Now you are a new creature in Christ Jesus.

He came down through that passage, and he talked about that it was a male lamb there in Exodus 12:5, just like Christ. Exodus 12:5 says it was a male lamb without blemish, just like Christ. Exodus 12:6 says it was killed by Israel, just like Christ. Exodus 12:6 says it was killed on the 14th day of the month. Let us guess what day Christ was crucified on: the 14th day of the month, see? Exodus 12:9 says no water, roast with fire. Christ on the cross said, "I thirst."

They took that blood and they put it on the door. They did not just put a big circle on the door. They put one blood over here, one blood over there, one patch of blood over here. Why is that? Because whoever wrote that was a picture, and when the Holy Spirit of God did that, He was portraying Calvary, and when Christ died on the cross, He had one thief here, one thief here, and Him at the top. See, He is numbered with the transgressors, but He is higher than they are. You know why? Because He is deity. And it was interesting that they put the blood on the door. That is the door of a home because when a dad gets saved, the family is going to get saved. It just works that way.

You see, that is a story in the Old Testament that illustrates in typology a picture of the New Testament events of salvation. Look at Exodus 12:3-5. I remember Dr. Ruckman stopping and pausing on this. I have preached this message when I am about to give you now a hundred times over the years. You talk about the mind of the Holy Spirit of God.

Exodus 12:3-5

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

And if the household be too little for a lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

Look at Exodus 12:3. Exodus 12:3 says you need a lamb. Look at Exodus 12:4. Exodus 12:4 calls it the lamb. Look at Exodus 12:5. Exodus 12:5 says it is your lamb. See that thing? The first thing you need is a lamb. But not just any lamb will do. You need the lamb. But you can know all about the lamb, but until you make it your lamb, you are not going anywhere. See that thing? That is powerful, man. You know the only one Bible on the planet that has those three in it is the King James 1611 Authorized Version. Somebody did not want you to know that. Oh yeah, man. Oh yeah.

So in time, you come into Thursday night Bible study, through Sunday morning, and your own labors in the Word of God, one on one, when you come over and we go through the Bible together and all the things that we do, you begin to learn these. That is how I learned them. At night I did not go home by the next week, have all the types down, but I will tell you, by that time I was wanting to hunt for them, and everything I did the rest of my life, I marked them in my Bible, correlated them in my Bible, and that is what you have got to do.

The Bible is filled with them. You find stories of people in the Bible who are types of great pictures.

- You want to study salvation? Study Mephibosheth.
- You want to study salvation? Look at the book of Ruth.
- You say, I want to study Christ. There are 21 men in the Old Testament that are types of Christ.
- I want to study the Antichrist. There are 18 types of men in the Old Testament that picture him.
- You say, well, I want to type in a nation of Israel, Jacob. You know what God changed Jacob's name to? Israel. Job. Samson.
- You say, I want to study the Christian life in typing the Bible by a man that went through what I went through. Try Daniel. Try John in the New Testament. Try Abraham. Try David.

The Bible is filled with them.

VI. Genesis 3: The Type of the Church's Corruption

Now turn back to Genesis chapter 3, and I want to show you a type that Paul is using. This is where Paul uses the story about Eve and the devil and the fall of man in Genesis 3. It is a type, and Paul, when he wants to tell the New Testament church at Corinth some 4,000 years later, he goes back to the Old Testament and uses a story to illustrate the New Testament principle. You see that. I want you to start learning types.

Now look at, well, I will read it to you until you turn back there.

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

See that thing? Now look at Genesis 3:1.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.

Now that word "subtil" is a great word because the word "subtil" has a lot of different meanings. We use it today as someone who does something behind your back. Subtle about it. Does something behind your back but gives the appearance on the outside that they are not doing anything. That is subtle. Subtle is a deceitfulness. Subtle is like treachery. And when somebody is subtle about something, they are telling you one thing, but they are doing something else. They have an ulterior motive. And that is the devil here.

Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Now, that is a great story. Now, some things I want you to see here as we develop this and see how, why Paul is using this to the church at Corinth. What would something that happened to Adam and Eve back in Genesis 3 remotely have to do with the devil's attack on the church in 2 Corinthians chapter 11? I am going to show you. This is the type.

Now the first thing I want you to see about this incredible chapter is, if you do not have this already marked in your Bible, this is the first time the devil shows up in the Bible. First time. This is the first time the devil shows up in the Bible, and this is the first time the devil says anything in the Bible.

Now in type, here is what you have. I will make it easy for you, and then we will come back and put it together. But here is what you have got in type. Here is the picture:

- Adam, he is going to be a type of Christ for us.
- Eve is going to be a type of the church, you and me.
- And the serpent, well, he is going to play himself. He is going to be the devil.

And Paul recognized this type. This is the thing that is incredible. Paul knew these types. How a college professor or a pastor could say it is not real when Paul used it. If it is not real and types are not there, what is Paul doing? Paul saw and understood the validity of a story in the Old Testament typifying something. It is pretty incredible. He recognized this type as he relates his fear to the church of Corinth.

Now I want you to see this. When the devil attacks Eve here, who typifies the church, from our story, it is pretty obvious that Adam was not there. And yet when you see that aspect, that is a picture of the church age. Right now Christ is not here. He went back, and He is seated at the right hand of God the Father. We saw it last time we were together in Proverbs 7:14 when the evil woman did her best work was when the good man was on a long journey. You go to Matthew 24:43, Matthew 20:11, God the Father is always likened, or Christ is always likened to a good man, somebody on a journey, somebody here. He is gone right now. You and I are here just like Adam was not there. And you know what all Eve had? All Eve had is exactly what you and I have, what God had told her in their Bible studies together. All she had to go on was what you and I have to go on, the Word of God. Adam, the type of Christ in her life, was out someplace, whatever he was doing. My Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, is up there in heaven, and I am down here, and all I have right now is all that she had, and that is what God has given me in Bible study. It is an incredible type.

And you want to remember this, Eve is not a direct creation, is she? When God made Adam, He made him out of dust of the ground. You see, breathing into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. But that was not Eve's case, was it? Eve came out of his side with one of his ribs, you know, Adam's rib, the woman's rib, that is how it came, see? Christ died on the cross. What finally killed Him was that Roman soldier with that big old spear. He threw that spear in His side and went up into His side. That is what finally finished Him off. And when the Bible says that when He died, water and blood came out of that side, and John says it testifies of something. You know what your picture is? When Christ, when Adam, a deep sleep fell upon Adam, sleep is a type of death in the Bible, 1 Thessalonians chapter 4. A deep sleep fell upon Adam, and out of his side came the woman. On Christ, on the cross, a spear in His side, and He died, and out of His death and that spear in His side came forth the church, the woman. See it? Not hard. You have got to be stupid. And if anybody can, ought to be able to know the Bible upside down, that is me because it takes a master of stupidity. I feel like the guy sat on the plaza a couple of weeks ago; he was walking around with one of those T-shirts on that says, "I am with stupid," but he was by himself. That is me.

Adam and Eve are the only two people ever in history that when they were created, they were created with God's image and God's likeness. And I do not have time to get into all of that this morning, but the image is the spiritual side of it. The likeness is the physical side, and when they fell, they lost the image, spiritual image of Adam. Adam is a type of Christ. In fact, when Christ shows up 5,000 years later, He is called the second Adam. He is called the last Adam. 1 Corinthians 15:45, who could not put it together?

Also, she is given to him. Eve is given to Adam as a help meet. You notice it is not a mate. Animals have mates. Human beings do not have mates. They have meets, M-E-E-T. You know

why she was given to Adam? She was given to Adam because Adam was given a commission. His commission was to be fruitful, multiply, and to replenish the earth. So He gave him a help meet, not a help mate. He gave Adam a help meet, a woman who was not a direct creation, to come out a man to help Adam meet the demands of the commission that God had given him.

Ah, now take that. If Adam is a type of Christ, or Christ is, and my Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ who saved me, then, and He is my husband and I am His bride, then there it is, my job today, your job as a Christian, if you are saved, is to be a help meet to your husband, the Lord Jesus Christ. He gave the church a commission, just like He gave Adam a commission. And as Eve was there to help Adam, you and I as the bride of Christ are there to help Christ fulfill that commission. How are you doing with that? Tell the type of His works. He was given a commission, be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth. The church is given a commission, be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth in a spiritual sense, winning people to Christ, restoring the fallen image of Adam. See how it works? Hey, the Bible is a fun book. It is just like any picture book if you approach it that way. But oh, no, no, we have got to be really scholarly about it, you know, in the Bible. I mean, you cannot laugh, you cannot smile. I have known churches where they think if you laugh in church, it is a sin.

VII. The Devil's Tactic: Corrupting Simplicity

Now Paul's fear for this church, the church at Corinth, is that the devil will corrupt the church from the simplicity that is in Christ. That is what he says in 2 Corinthians 11:3. Now let us look at that a moment. I want you to understand the simplicity of Christ. In this particular case, God's simplicity for Adam and Eve was a garden. No work, no taxes, no war, no government, no laws, no hospitals, no snow, no floods, no death, no funeral homes, no natural disasters, no bugs, no mosquitoes, no funerals, no caskets. I mean, perfect. Just a simple, plain life where the creation could fellowship with the Creator. The devil changed all of that, did he not? You see, the devil will always take the most simple things that represent God and form them into complexity. You never want to forget that.

The devil changed all of that, did he not? He took the simplicity that was in Christ and turned it into the complexity of man. Now we have war. Now we have to go to work. Now we have death. Now we just do not have homicide, but we have genocide and suicide. Now we have bad weather. We have taxes. We have cancer. We have hospitals. We have funeral homes. We have divorces. We have hurricanes. We have tornadoes. And yet, now we all live in the city. No, I am not against the city, but I am going to tell you this. You do know that the first city in the Bible was started by a murderer, one of the devil's boys. And if there is anything... How many times have you heard it? "I have got to get out of the city, out of this rat race, and just get back to the country." Why? Because in the country, it is much more simple. I mean, you do not have the traffic you have got to deal with. You do not have to have this you have got to deal with. I mean, you do not have bosses or people. You get up in the morning, milk the cows, or they do not do what is right, slap them with the bucket. I mean, it is easy, see? It is much more simple.

You live in a city. Most people cannot think the thing through. You live in a city, but you still have to go to the farm to eat. There is not one thing we consume that does not come off of a

farm. And if you do not go to the farmer's market downtown, then you go to John's Apple Market, Constantino's, you go someplace where they have the market stuff that comes from a farm. You know why you do that? Because you cannot eat asphalt. It has to go back. Everything in life goes back to God's simple plan, no matter how complicated we try to make it. Just the way it is.

Now the devil, and you want to mark him now, will always be connected to making the simple things of God and making them complex. Let us see if it is true. Let us have some fun for a moment here. Let us take salvation. Is there anything that is more simple than God's simple plan of salvation?

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

How much simpler does it get than that? Oh, but when man gets it, when the devil gets into it, now you have got to be baptized to be saved. You know there are some churches that baptize you for salvation that baptize you seven times backwards, three times forward. That is complicated. They do a lot of baptism. They probably get a new pastor every four or five years because his back goes out. But no, no, salvation is not simple anymore. Now you have got to be baptized. You realize that the five major religions that are around the world today that teach you have got to be baptized to go to heaven, they teach you can only get salvation through their church. And the blood of Christ is applied to your sins through their water system and their baptismal? That is complicated. I stood there one time looking at the Church of Christ's baptistry, and I said, "What are you, I am waiting for the blood to come out." Never came out.

Now you have got to work your way to heaven. Well, that is complicated. Now you have got to have the second blessing. Somebody asked me one time if I got the second blessing. I said, "I have not got past the first one yet." Now you have got to be predestinated. You know, "Jesus loves me. Sorry about you. You are not one of the chosen few." You know how it works? That is complicated. You know what a Calvinist really teaches? If you have a little baby that dies, that Calvinist will tell you that that little baby has a 50-50 chance of going to hell. You know why? Because that baby, he does not know that baby was predestinated to go to heaven or go to hell. And they believe that half of us are and half of us are not, or I am not sure what the ratio is. But anyway, could you imagine preaching a funeral for a little baby? The insurance you got is the fact that that Bible says that baby is in heaven. Could you imagine a pastor getting up and saying to that family, "I do not know which way that little baby went today"? Why? They would kill the pastor. I would say I would. That is complicated, man.

Now we say, "Well, you are saved, but you can lose it." That is complicated. What do you lose it for? Why, you lose it if you murder somebody? Well, the Bible says if you hate somebody in your heart, you murdered them. That is complicated. Now you have got to come up with a whole

system where you do not lose it for little sin, but you lose it for big sin. Let me tell you something. If you can lose your salvation and you go 55 into 35, you are going to hell. That is one good thing about being saved and knowing eternal security. You can go as fast as you want. It is complicated. Man, God's simple plan of salvation was so simple, but oh, no, no, no. Man takes it, and he complicates it. What God gave us that was so simple, the devil and man make so complicated.

I see it with dealing with people with issues in their life. We have talked about it in the people ministry. We have talked about how that if an unsaved man has problems, the basic fundamental reason he has problems is because God wants him to be saved. The only happiness and completeness he can have in life is to be saved. When he rejects Christ's salvation, he tries to find happiness in everything the world has. Hey, most of us have been there. Is there any complete happiness in the world? Somebody said, "I would be happy if I won a million dollars in a lottery." No, you would not because tomorrow you would want another million. Do you not realize that when you win a lottery of \$100 million, it just moves things up? Now what you pay \$10 for and do not think about it, you will spend \$1,000 for and do not think about it. Now you have got to have a boat, a car, a train, a this, a plane, and all these stuff. It moves you up, and you just want more. There is no satisfaction in the world, but I think it is.

A saved person has problems in his life, one simple fact. God saved you to serve Him. And if you do not serve Him, I have got news for you. You are going to be the most miserable person you ever saw in your life. You are going to grieve the Holy Spirit. It is not hard. It is simple. Oh no, but man and the devil, no, no, no. We have got problems, and we have got to have psychology. We have got to have psychiatry. We have got to have mental illness. We have got to have mental breakdown, nervous breakdown. We have got to have Christian psychologists, Christian therapists. We have got to have depression, manic depression. We have got to have schizophrenia. We have got to have bipolar disorder. I like psychoceramics. That is what I specialize in. Crackpots.

The mark of the devil's handiwork will always be taking the simple things of the Bible and making them complicated. You see it in the Bible. I wrote a book back there called "How to Study the Bible." Sold well under a million copies. That book, there is no book on this planet that shows you how easy that Bible is and how it is all built around the words. The Bible is the easiest book in the world to learn. You say, "Why is it so hard for me?" Because it is the only book in the world that you have to do it God's way. Not your way. See, you can have your way in everything you want in life. But when it comes to that book, it is His way. His way or no way.

98% of the words in that Bible are one syllable and two syllable words. Les Kincaid was a corporation that did a lot of work for developing a grade level formula for reading and for public schools. Somebody took their formula one time and applied it to all the translations of the Bible. They said that the NIV was written on an eighth-grade level. The Good News for Modern Man, sometimes called Bad News for Modern Man, was written on a seventh-grade level. The ASV was written on a sixth-grade level, and the King James 1611 Authorized Version was written on a fourth-grade level. A fourth grader could get it.

William Tyndale, 1495, one of the great early translators that translated the Bible in English for a common people. He took a lot of heat for it. And all the scholarly world, they did not want the common man to have a Bible. The devil did not want the common man to have a Bible because the most powerful thing in this universe is a common man with a common Bible. The scholars wanted to keep the Bible for themselves, and they did not appreciate Tyndale, who had a burning desire to translate the Bible into English 200 years before the King James Bible came out, but off the same text, and give it to the common man. He was being hauled in by the scholarly brethren for a meeting one day, and they were just beating him up one side and down the other. He held firm to his conviction, and he looked out the window, saw a plow boy plowing the field with a mule across the road. He turned around to the scholarly brethren and he said, "Gentlemen, someday that plow boy will know more of the Bible than all the scholars in England." And he was right. I am that plow boy. That is me. When it comes down to that Bible, you want to dance with me on it, put a quarter in a jukebox, and let us do it.

Paul says the simplicity that is in Christ. That is why I have always been my beef with Bible colleges, Bible seminaries. I think God's program is a New Testament local church. I think where a young man and young lady need to be trained in the Bible is a New Testament local church. I do not know what pastors do all day long, but if they do anything else than taking people, investing their life or what they have learned, and putting them into the Word of God, you are doing the wrong thing. I have never understood sending them off, shipping them off to Bible college. You go there, and you learn a system of terms that have nothing to do with the Bible. On Thursday night, somebody wants to say, "Bob, I have got a question about angels in the Bible." Now if I was a Bible scholar, I would say, "No, that is angelology." Why would I talk about man? "No, no, no, that is anthropology." Why would I talk about salvation? "No, no, no, that is soteriology." Well, I want to talk about church. "No, no, no, that is ecclesiology." No, I want to talk about Christ. "No, no, no, that is Christology." I want to talk about the Holy Spirit. "No, that is pneumatology." I want to talk about the Bible. "No, no, no, that is apologetics." I want to talk about teaching the Bible. "No, that is exegesis." No, I want to talk about the personal application. "No, that is hermeneutics" or most commonly hemorrhoid nudics, but it is what it is. You know what you do? You spend eight years of your life and a couple hundred thousand dollars to learn to talk like nobody in the Bible ever talked. Nobody. You think when they came up to Jesus, He used angelology, humanology, and all the things? No, He talked to them as they were children. That is the problem.

Bible colleges, 98% of them, I will leave 2% for some good ones out there someplace. Never found one, but there probably are. I mean, even a broken clock is right twice a day, you have got to find them someplace. But they get a system of terms, not found in the Bible anywhere. They want to take the place of the Holy Spirit of God and the teaching from you and take from you the simplicity of the Word of God in Christ and replace it with something that is complex. Now, that is the devil at work. That is the devil at work through saved, born-again, blood-washed Christians who have lost the vision of 2 Corinthians 11 and have lost the simplicity of Christ.

VIII. The Devil's Consistent Attack on God's Word

Now, I want to show the attack here. Turn back to Genesis 3. Now, here is the attack that Paul is so worried about. And as I said, the Bible is consistent. And the first time the devil shows up in the Bible, he is setting the standard for his attack on the church, and Paul knows this. He understands this, and this is why 4,000 or 5,000 years later he is running back to here to make a point to the church in the New Testament. It is a type.

Now, look at Genesis 3:1. Look what the devil says.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Now, that is an incredible statement. The first words out of his mouth was something that God said. You know, if you are an atheist, that really makes you look like an idiot. I am going to give you my T-shirt. I mean, an atheist says, "I do not believe in God." The devil believes in God. How foolish that makes you look. If I was an atheist, I would not tell anybody. How ridiculously it makes you look. The devil knows there is a God, and the first words out of his mouth when he wanted to corrupt man and corrupt everything in God's plan and take the simplicity and make it complex. And he wanted to follow up. He did not ask Eve out on a date. He did not want to get her drugs. He did not want to get her booze. He did not want to get her all of those things. He simply came and said, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" That is what he said.

Now, look at that. Look at Genesis 2:16. That is not what God said.

Genesis 2:16

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Now, there it is. There is the first attack of the devil, and that is going to run consistent through all history and all the Bible. And that is why Paul used it back then in 2 Corinthians chapter 11, and I will use it today. The first attack of the devil in the Bible on a type of Christ is simply, "Yea, hath God said?" And then he changed what God said. See that thing? And it is not a statement. It is a question mark. He did not say, "Yea, hath God said." He said, "Yea, hath God said?" He laid the premise in her life that God did not know for sure what He was saying. He put it in a form of a question, not a statement, and then he altered and revised and changed what God said.

Now, watch this. And nature at its finest. When he re-quoted it, he did not quote the whole verse, and he took out the word "freely." Right there starts the fact that your salvation is not free. Right there in Genesis 3:1 starts the beginning of the teaching that is going to formulate down the line that it is not free from God. It is not God's free salvation. When he took the word "freely" out, now he implies that you have got to do something to get it.

And once the devil makes the first move, watch the old Evie baby jump into this thing. Here is our first Bible reviser in history.

Genesis 3:2-3

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Now, there it is. The devil subtracted from the Word of God and put a question mark on it. That old Evie shows up, and she adds to the Word of God. He said absolutely nothing about touching it. And if that was not all, he told her specifically what tree it was. Look what she says. What tree was it? She says, "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden." What tree is that, Eve? God was specific and told you which tree that was. See, here is the start of the devil and man taking the simple things and trying to make it complex. And boy, did he get complex from here.

You know how it ends. It ends in complexity. It ends in the first deviation from what God said in the simplest form in the scriptures that to the fall of man and the complexity of life on planet earth and for an eternity, billions of people stepping out without God all because now we believe that God did not know what He was talking about. And the devil has never changed his tactics. And today when a devil wants to destroy the commission that God has given to the church, be fruitful, multiply, and replenish earth in a spiritual sense, the great commission, preach the gospel to all nations, he does the exact same thing. He comes to you and pretends to be spiritual and says like we saw in Job 41, soft words as an angel of light.

And today across this world, pastors are standing in a pulpit and saying, "Yea, hath God said?" A thousand pulpits, Bible colleges across this world, "Yea, hath God said?" And in every Bible study you will find throughout the week, "Yea, hath God said?" In every case after they say that, you know what they do? They just change what He said. They say, "Well, that is not a very good reading." "Well, you know a better translation of that should be this." This place is what I will tell you in your Bible in Mark, in Mark chapter 16. There are people that will tell you that the last 12 verses should not even be in there. This place is in 1 John chapter 5 where the greatest, greatest verse on the Trinity is, and everybody takes it out. You know why? Because they want to revise what God said. Hey, you know what? I am just dumb enough to believe that that is what He gave me, that is what it is, and that is what I am staying with.

God came to me one time, and he says, "Oh, you are a Bible Alexander, are you?" And I said, "I do not know, are you getting money?" I said, "Yes, I am." He says, "Well, you believe the King James Bible is without error?" And I said, "That is correct." He says, "I believe it has errors." I said, "Okay." I said, "How did you get those errors? How did you find them?" He says, "Well," he says, "I said, give me one error that God showed you that was in that Bible." Just one. I will show you 100,000 things God showed me about the Bible. Show me one error that the Holy Spirit of God knew, found it was wrong in that Bible. Everything he had some man told him. You idiot. I am going to give you my T-shirt. I am going to buy a lot of T-shirts. They say, "Yea, hath God said?" that it simply revises what God says and then tells you something that He never said.

I told you this Thursday night, we got into this, and I told you it was a great precursor to get into this. But the difference between a King James Bible and an NIV is 60,000 changes between the two. 60,000 places where some man did not think God knew what He was talking about and changed it. There is an attack today. Somebody said, "Well, I got a New King James Bible." That is 40,000 changes. That is 60,000 places that somebody thought God did not know what He was talking about and either changed it or took it out completely. You will want a list of them. See John Biscuit. He puts them out all the time. Our famous French evangelist. And better look out, Pam qualified yesterday for her concealed carry permit. Did good. Did good. Shot three bystanders and an instructor. Did good. No, she got a man on the target. Did great. Said she scored right up there with the police officers. Oh boy.

Anyway, so that is why we are who we are. I make no apologies for it. That is why we do not send our people off to Bible college. I believe the New Testament local church is a job. I, me, myself, one on one, teaches you the Bible. That is why we take the position that William Tyndale took in 1495. That is where we are at. And you know all of you can have and will know the Bible as good as any scholar in this country if you just do what the Bible tells you to do. That is why we teach the warnings in the Bible in 2 Corinthians chapter 11. And yeah, that is why I will make a big deal about it. I will tell you why, because that book is all we have got. And if the devil ever gets this book out of your hand, out of the hand of this church, we are done. We are finished. Bring in a big screen. Bring in the smoke. Bring in the lights. Bring in the stages. That is where we will be at.

A while back I preached a message a couple of years ago about "Be Not Deceived," "Be Not Disarmed," and "Be Not Discouraged." And that is what the devil will do. He will deceive you first, and then he will disarm you, and then you talk about what Christianity is today. It is a discouragement. I have never seen Christians so discouraged today when they are living in the greatest time in probably the history of the world.

IX. The Historical Consequences of Deviating from God's Word

And the devil will do it two ways, folks. He always will. The first thing he will do is he will take the Word of God out of your heart first. You see, when you stop loving a book, then you will leave the book. When the book ceases to be the number one thing in your life, then something else becomes number one, and the book becomes number two, and that is the way it works. And once he takes it out of your heart, it is only a matter of time he will take it out of your hand. That is the way it works.

You know, the book of Revelation, chapter two and three, talks about church history. And it shows you that there are seven periods of church history. And it shows you that what happened in Genesis went all the way through the Bible, went all the way through the New Testament, and it is alive through church history. It is alive today. The first church we have is the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:4. And that church is the first church. It lines up to Paul in the book of Acts in Acts chapter 20, the church at Ephesus. And the word Ephesus means "fully-purposed."

Here was the church that had everything that it needed. The apostles, some of them had just died off. Some of them are still around. The ones that they won to Christ are still around. The vision of Christ and the knowledge of Christ and who He was is firmly in everybody's mind. Everybody knows what the New Testament is now. They have got it. The Old Testament, they have got it. If there was ever a church that was fully-purposed to do the work of God, it was this one. But you know what he says in Revelation 2:4? He says about this great church that was fully-purposed,

Revelation 2:4

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

You know what the first love was they left? The Word of God. All the way back there. The devil never misses it. You find that this early church with good, godly-saved men who loved the Lord, and many of them died in the arena, the first deviation from what the Word of God said. Oh, yeah. If you know anything about church history, the first deviation from the Bible starts right here, and then it carries on, the devil all the way through.

We have in church history what we call the church fathers, not in a spiritual sense, the fathers in the sense that they were leaders in the church. They fall into three categories. You have what they call the apostolic church fathers that were around right after the apostles. You have the Nicene church fathers which bring you up around 300, and then you have what they call the post-Nicene fathers which bring you up after the Council of Nicaea. But it is the early church father, the apostolic one, where you see it happening.

- You have a guy by the name of Papias. And he is a good man, but you know what? He starts the idea in teaching in his messages that Christ was born in a cave. And you know when you are a hymnal right there on page 88 about Christ's birth, somehow, somehow, some shape, some form, there is a song in there about the birth of Christ in a cave. He was not born in a cave; He was born in a stable. See, how do you know that? Because my mother all the time for the last 40 years of my life before I came to Kansas City and everything that I have ever done and everything I have ever heard, when somebody leaves the door open, they always say the same thing, "Close the door, were you born in a barn?" Where do you think that saying comes from? He was born in a stable. My mom never said, "Close the door, were you born in a cave?" Told you, mothers really are smart.
- You have Clement of Rome, and he lives around 30 AD, and he lives on up through there. Maybe the Clement talked about in the Bible, you do not know for sure. But you know what he does later on in life? He starts to embrace the idea of the Nicolaitans that there ought to be a priest class over the common people.
- You take Irenaeus, 120, another good man, same man. You know what he says in one of his letters that he writes? He says that water makes you clean. Now that boy did not believe in baptismal regeneration any more than I do, but he got creative. He got out of the Bible, and he said something that 2,000 years later when somebody wants to prove that baptism saves you, guess where they go? To his writings.
- You have Irenaeus, 50 AD, same man. Same man, loved the Lord, but he gets creative. And when one of his letters that he writes, he gets out of the Koine Greek, and he gets into the

classical Greek. And when he wants to talk about the universal concept of the church, he borrows a word from the Greek pagan philosophers, and it is the word Catholic. And he called the church Catholic. He had no mention at all in any reference did he ever think of the Catholic church as we do. He was using it in a term that was a classical Greek of the day, which he never should have done. He should have stuck with the Bible. But 2,000 years later when somebody wants to prove the Catholic church or the oldest church, they will go right back to his writings. See, he believed it.

- Polycarp. Polycarp was burned at the stake. And before he died, he says 80 or some years, when he asked him to betray him and turn Christ away, he said, "80 some years I have followed Him. I will not follow Him today," and he burned him at the stake. Great man, same man. But in one of his writings, you know what he said? He called the church the mother of us all. It is not in the Bible anywhere. You see, if you do not stick with the Bible and you start making things up, you will see where it ends. Somebody wants to prove the concept of the Roman Catholic church being the mother of the church, they go right back to Polycarp.
- He had Basilides, he is 138. Well, at this point, he gets to the point where he says it was Peter that died on the cross, not Christ. That is good.
- Justin the Martyr, 100, he says that Christ was just a philosopher.

See, I could go on and on and on. The first deviation from what God said did not start with the unsaved crowd. It started with the saved crowd. It started with saved men who got out of the Bible, who started using terms and getting phrases and getting out of the clear doctrine of the Word of God, and then it went right to the whole concept of revising what God said. They fell for it, the devil laid it out for them. They fell for it, they bought it, and they brought a disaster in New Testament Christianity. And that is the line of theology that continues right down to today. It is the line of theology that produced the line of the Bible that changes the Word of God that the devil has attacked that killed Christianity today.

You know, we talk about, I will be the first one to tell you, our country has got a lot of issues. Our country is about as shocked as it could ever be. Even the unsaved world now looks at America, and you hear it on the news all the time, they say that America has entered into the post-Christian era. I believe that, I believe that. And I know, I hear the Christian talk show guys, and I hear all this and all the books that come out and all that stuff, but I want to tell you something, the problem in this country is not Barack Obama, though I would not give you two cents for him. The problem in this country is not Hillary Clinton, I would not give you a penny for her. The problem in this country is not the Supreme Court, I cannot give you anything for them because I am out of money. It is not the Democrats, it is not the liberals, it is not even the Republicans, and it is not even the Muslims. No, no, the problem today is three things. It is preachers, Christians, and Christianity. It is people who get into that pulpit every Sunday, will not preach the Bible, will not preach the paint off the wall, will not preach the hell out of people, and will not do what needs to be done.

Billy Sunday in the 1920s, one man single-handedly by preaching the hell out of every place he went and the paint off the wall, one man turned a whole country from bruised and brought in prohibition. One guy with that book, what could a hundred thousand men standing in pulpits

across this country laying the Word of God out, putting it out, do? Back in the 1800s and the 1900s, it was where the revivals were across this country. Gypsy Smith, Mordecai Ham, Kansas City, who remembers, saw back in the early 1900s one of the greatest revivals in this city, by Gypsy Smith. We watched the Grand Ole Opry, we watched all the little people on there and all the thing, and it is all fun. And nobody understands that down in Ryman Auditorium, nobody knows that in May the 10th, 1885, Sam Jones preached in that city, and it was such a revival, and one of the biggest gamblers and one of the biggest crooks in that city got saved, and he wanted to have a place for Gypsy Smith to preach the Word of God, and his name was Thomas Ryman, and he built that tabernacle called the Union Gospel Tabernacle, which now is called Ryman Auditorium, but it was a place back then where hundreds and hundreds of thousands of men and women heard the gospel, who knows that today. Now it is little Jimmy Dickens, Charlie Pride. Now it is all this stuff that we have lost the whole concept, and all across the devil has done his attack. I am not responsible for Ryman Auditorium, I am not responsible for all the other churches, I am not responsible for all those things, but I am responsible for what I have right here.

X. Holding the Line: The Devil's Two-Fold Attack

So Paul's fear was real, and my fear is real. Fear that the Church of Jesus Christ would be beguiled, and we are going to talk about the word beguiled next week. Beguiled from the simplicity that is in Christ and in time corrupted and destroyed by the complexity, and that is exactly what happened. In the course of history, there is a lesson that everyone had to learn for the history of the world. Every country that once at one time had the Word of God has lost it and has been lost to the ashes and the dust of history.

- England, 1600 to 1900, she was the greatest nation on this planet. There were more souls won through her missionaries and the Bible societies and the great preachers during that time than probably any other time that we know of. Where is she at today? She got educated and dumped the book in 1900.
- Czechoslovakia does not even exist anymore. In 1400, everybody in that country was a saved, born-again believer by one man, Jan Hus. Today the country does not even exist anymore.
- Germany, boy how we got from Martin Luther to Adolf Hitler. How we got from Martin Luther to Kaiser Wilhelm. How we got from one place to the other is one of the greatest studies that we have no time today to lay out, but it all goes back to Martin Luther translating this Bible into the German people, Martin Luther's translation, and the revival God brought that no longer today. Today you go to Germany, there are no churches, there are no morals, there is no nothing.
- Holland. The most corrupt city, well, I should not say that, they are all ripe for each other, but Amsterdam is probably one of the most pagan godless cities on the planet, running up with New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro down there, but it is a mess. It is a mess, and yet there was one time when the Dutch Baptists, the William of Orange, was one of the greatest Bible believing places that you could ever find. Incredible, but it is all gone.

- Africa. Boy, when the British went into Africa, when I went to Africa back in the 80s, they still believed the Bible, they loved the Bible, they loved the Word of God, they spoke English because they were trained in English by British missionaries years ago. It was incredible what God had done. Now it is all Muslim, and it is gone.
- Korea is the same way, and yet the United States is the same way.

The old boys used to tell me something when I was younger. Of course, I accepted what they told me because I trusted them, but I never fully understood what they told me till now some 45 years later. And I see it now because a lot of water is under the bridge, and I had a chance to look at a lot of things and go through a lot of things. But they used to say that in history no nation that ever had the Word of God after getting rid of the Word of God, not one nation in history ever survived 200 years. And at the time I did not know a lot. I marked it in my Bible, but boy, 45 years later, with being through church history and world history now 100 times and coming through that thing and laying that out and standing my life going through it, boy, they had it on the money. I can strongly tell you today that no nation that had the Word of God that rejected the Word of God ever survived 200 years, and America rejected the Word of God in 1881. And from that point there to where we are at now, look where we are at. And for you to throw a fear until Jesus comes back, look where we are going. Who would have thought 20 years ago same-sex marriages would be so accepted as the way they are? The states now are accepting them. Who would have thought 30 years ago, 20 years ago, that somebody coming out of the closet and saying, "I am gay," and all the world applauds? It will not be long that they will applaud you and me for coming out of the closet and saying, "I am straight."

This is Paul's concern. And as we move into these last days, however long we have before the Lord comes back, we have got to hold the line. We have got to continue to let God do what He does here and bringing people in and bringing people out and doing all that He does to take the cream of the crop and build you an ad book for what we have got to do in these last days. I give you the warning as Paul gave the warning to the church of Corinth that I have had the warning for my fathers in the Lord many, many years for many, many times. That that is exactly what he does. He will take it out of your heart first, and then he will take it out of your hand.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You today for the Lord...