

I. Introduction and Gratitude

If you have your Bibles today, I want you to turn to the book of Acts, Acts 13. I am going to take a break from the book of Proverbs for just a couple of weeks. I want to talk about something that the Lord kind of just really showed me some things. As you know, I had my surgery here about a month or so ago, and I have been off for a little over a month. He gave me a really good perspective. Sometimes it is good to kind of step back and get out of something and look at it and see it go by itself and see all the things that really transpire and see it from a different perspective and a different angle.

I want to say publicly, I want to thank you. Most churches, when the pastor is not there, the attendance goes in half. We stayed right where we were at and everything. I particularly want to thank a couple of guys here. First of all, I want to thank Danny for doing everything that he did and taught Sunday and taught Thursday nights. I think he is upstairs helping, but Danny, I was not one that was going to be cheering when you were not going to be here Sunday. I would listen to you anytime I can, and he is good.

Then I want to thank Bob Gregg. Bob, thank you. You are a great preacher. You really have substance every time you step into the pulpit. Not much to look at, but boy, I tell you, you know your Bible. I love you very much, and I thank you for that. You did a great job. You did. Jack, thank you. Without a doubt, I would never trade you as a youth pastor for anybody else, and you know your Bible too, and you do a great job. All three of you guys.

You know what the beauty for me is? There are 20, 30 other of you out there that could do just as good a job as they have done. We have a great host of young men and young ladies. If the Bible ever changes and we can have women preachers, we are ready. We are ready. We are ready.

II. The Importance of Leaving a Legacy

I thought about this, and I did. I thought about the importance of, as a pastor, leaving a legacy of going on a record with things. There are things that we teach, and there are things that we all believe in, all of that. I get that. Sometimes there are things that have to make a statement on it, and you have to go on record of saying it for future generations.

You know I have taught you before the three little principles that you should have in your life of looking behind, looking around you, and then looking ahead. When it comes to this church, we need to follow that same thing. We need to never forget where we come from. We need to never forget where we are at today, and we never need to forget where we are going and the future of our church and all that God is doing with us here.

To me, it is a great tragedy, and I think that many people have missed the concept of leading an understandable path for the next generation. We all knew Mel Subaca, most of us. Many of you knew him personally and had heard him preach many, many times. Not anybody here other than

myself knew Tommy Thomas or Phil Ward, who were instrumental in Mel's development in the Bible. Those men changed so many lives in their days, and they were used of God in a mighty way.

You know what the real tragedy is? There is not one scrap of their material anywhere for anybody to find to get your hands on to read. We think we find a gold nugget when we find one of Mel's old sermons. I want to say something to you. Most of the stuff that you guys have heard him do in the last 10, 15 years of his life, that is not the Mel Subaca that I knew. You should have heard him back in the day. I want to tell you something, it is all gone. We had cassettes back then, but nobody had a real tape ministry. He never wrote any books. Phil Ward never wrote any. Tommy Thomas never wrote any. They had a collection of things that God had showed them that would have been so beneficial for my generation and your generation, but it is all gone. It is all lost. It is all lost to time. And only those who maybe sat under them or knew them would glean some things from them.

And you know, I was a lot, when I was with Mel Subaca, I was a lot like Samuel. I knew the man that God put in my life, and I knew that he was there for a reason. I was not as stupid as a lot of people today to get to the fact that they think they are smarter than the guy that God puts into their life. I never made that mistake. I was like young Samuel. I let none of his words fall to the ground. I listened to everything he said. I listened to everything that he did. I watched everything he did. I learned from him and learned everything that he did.

And my goal here is not only to help you, which we are going to talk about here in a little bit, but my goal with our website and our books and our CDs is to leave a trail of Bible truth and doctrine for future generations. We have our bookstore back there. It is probably one of the finest bookstores in Kansas City. It is probably the book that runs in the red more than any other bookstore in Kansas City. We just gave everything away. I mean, it is a thing where we have visitors here, and I joke about it, but you know what? If you made an effort to get here, I want to give you something. I want you to know. I want you to leave here knowing that we are not about getting something from you. We are about giving you something for God. And that is what we need to do.

You know, you are back there, and I think there are some 40-some books back there that I have written on various subjects, and John Busquette takes those and does a phenomenal job of transcribing them. And you know what? We never talk about the gals. Kelly Crest over here, Caleb up in Lincoln, Angel. I think she is upstairs today, and Angela, I think she is upstairs today, and Laura. They do all the proofreading. It was not just where you throw them in a washing machine and the book comes out. There is a lot of labor that goes into those things, and I want to tell you, and you have to tell the other girls because they are not here. I think they are down at Quick Trip getting coffee. Oh, Angel, you are over here. Oh, this is going to pull my back. I want to tell you guys, where at the judgment seat of Christ? You think there are not rewards in the fact that you take your time to proofread some material that somebody is putting into a book that is going to go to somebody to help them learn the Bible? I want to tell you.

Building men and women who will take that truth and will pass it on. You know what? That is really what a church should be all about, passing on the material. He said in 2 Timothy 2:2, when he was talking to young Timothy, he said,

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Leaving a trail, hey, Phil, leave that door open. Leaving a trail of Bible doctrine that somebody can follow, that they have a way to get the material. Hey, we live in a world where there is no truth. You could go to the next hundred churches in this city, and you could not find the truth in any Bible anywhere. And I am telling you something. We would not have what we have if somebody did not invest in my life. And now we have to invest in the lives of future people with our children, with the people, the young couples that come in here, with the moms and dads that come in here, doing what the church is supposed to do.

III. Building a New Testament Church

And I want to talk to you this morning. I want to go on record with the concept of what a New Testament church is. It came to me as I was doing all of this and watching everybody do what they need to do. And I come to the understanding that I have done such a good job around here that you guys do not need me anymore. You guys could run just fine. Everybody can handle what needs to be done. You guys never miss a beat. And to me, that is one of the greatest blessings that I could ever have.

My philosophy has always been, and it has never been a secret, that I want to build a Philadelphia church in the Laodicean church age. That is my goal. And that is a very hard concept for people to grasp. I want you to understand that. Most people do not even know what the Philadelphia church was or the Laodicean church is. But for those of us who understand the Bible and for those of us who understand where we are at in time in church history, you grasp that concept.

Building a New Testament church is close to the patterns and the models that are found in the Bible as I can. It has always been my goal. That in itself will set us apart and obviously cause us some problems. You have heard me say it many, many times, and I make no apology for it. It is a true statement. Our church is not for everybody. It really is not. I have never pretended it was. I have never told anybody that it ever was. I am smart enough to know that the fact that the kind of church that I want to build and the day and age that I want to build it, not everybody is going to be able to handle that. And that is not a bad thing to them. That is just saying I have sights higher than most churches and most pastors because I have an agenda that I want to accomplish. It is just that simple.

I am looking for a certain kind of person. I really am. Sometimes I feel like I am a prospector looking for gold. And sometimes you have got to sift through the dirt of this old earth to find a few gold nuggets. And I want to tell you something. God has given us some gold nuggets here

today. And I also want to tell you this, and you might as well get some things down this morning because I am going on the record. Me and Greta Suster, we are going on the record. There is no accident that God brought you to this church. And if you think it is an accident, then you are out in left field someplace. And I am just telling you. There is a reason why you are here.

IV. Four Qualities I Look For

And I look for four things in people because I want to build people. I have an agenda. I want to build a certain kind of church. I want it built on the truth. I would sit down with anybody anytime, anywhere. I talk about the fact that I build my church and build this church as close to the New Testament, as biblically as I can. I will give you a free license anytime, anywhere, any place to sit down on a Thursday night and show me where I do not. I have dedicated myself to that concept because that is the only concept that there really needs to be when it comes to a church.

I look for four things in people.

1. How touchable you are. There are some of God's people that go to church every Sunday, but they will never let God touch them. And I ask you today, I look for that. I watch that in you. How touchable are you? How touchable are you that when you get a little off-kilter, a little off-center, that all it takes is a good sermon and God's Holy Spirit coming down and tapping you on the shoulder and touching you. You know David got into some terrible things in his life, but I want to tell you something. As far as he got into those things, David had one quality that never kept him from getting too far from God, and God gave him the sure mercies of David. You know what it was? Any time in David's life, all God had to do was squeeze his heart. David never lost being touchable. And today there are a lot of God's people that go to church, but you are not touchable. You will not let God touch you. You will not let the sermons touch you. You get your nose bent out of joint about something or you do not like something, and that is where you stay. And you will not let God fix it because the only way He can fix it is for God to be able to touch you. So I look for people that are touchable.
2. How teachable you are. When you are touchable, then I will look for the second thing in your life. I look for people that are teachable. There are a lot of God's people that go to church every Sunday. You could not teach them anything. You have all been in situations in discipleship, I know this is true, where you have somebody come into the church, they know nothing about the Bible, you start to disciple them, and suddenly they are going to tell you everything. That is unteachable. That is unteachable. You know what? If you know it all, then why do you need to be disciplined? And of course, the thing I look for is people who are teachable. I have met guys and women, but mostly guys, most women are teachable. But a lot of times guys will get to a place where they are not teachable, that you cannot teach them anything. They always think they know more about it, they argue about everything that you are going to talk to them about. And they argue like they know something about the Bible.
3. How trustworthy you are. I look for people who are touchable. I look for people who are teachable. Then the third thing I look for, I look for people that are trustworthy. Can God

trust you with the Word of God in the ministry? Could God give you the manna from heaven and know that you are going to pass it on to somebody else? You know, the average Christian probably has 10, 12 Bibles in his home and does not do anything with any of them. And the question is, can God trust you with the Word of God? Can He trust you with what He wants you to do with it? Or are you somebody who is just going to come to church and do whatever you want to do and just blow God off? There are God's people who always find something else to replace what God wants them to do with. And you cannot trust them. You just cannot trust them. I have had people that in my life, and they were good people, they were not bad people, but you could not trust them to do anything. I have now had people in the ministry that when I asked them to do something, I knew that they were not going to get it done. And I had 200 people backing them up because I knew I needed to get it done.

4. How thankful you are. So I look for people that are touchable. I look for people that are teachable. I look for people that are trustworthy. And then the last thing is I look for people who are thankful. Are you thankful with what God has given you here? Are you thankful for what God has given you in the Word of God? Are you thankful for the labor that men and women in this church invest in you hundreds of hours a week? I am looking for a certain kind of person. And I know it is hard to find today. But I thank God every day of my life. And it is one of the things that God showed me as I was kind of out of touch with things. I mean, the first week I got out of the hospital, I could not even focus on the Bible. I could not even remember anything. And I could not. I tried to open my Bible, and just nothing was there. And I just, I did not have any voice. I could not have preached if I had to preach. But I came to the point when I understood that that was good because it forced me to look at what you guys were doing and how you stepped up and how nothing went undone and everything got accomplished.

V. The Model and Pattern of the Church

So in understanding God's concept of the church, you need to see and understand two aspects to it. And I want to do this for everybody that is here, but I also want to do it because in time as we move on, and I will talk about this in a little bit, as we continue to grow. We are not there yet, but in time as we go, God is going to reach down and call some of you guys out to the ministry. It will happen. So I want you to understand that for you, and I am going on record today, to understand the concept of the church, you need to see and understand two aspects of it.

5. The Model for the Church First of all, you need to realize and understand that there is a model for the church found in the Bible. Trying to do a church any other way than that model is going to be a disaster. And I am going to make some statements down the line that getting into the ministry, being a pastor, is one of the most dangerous jobs you could ever get into because you have the potential of screwing people's lives up if you do not get it right. And the way you get it right is to follow the model. The model will always be the overall concept of the church.
6. The Pattern of the Church The second thing that you want to look at is the pattern of the church. There is a distinct pattern that you follow in building a church. And this will be the

inner structure, the inner working of how it will work, the anatomy of a church. You have to know these things before you try to build one.

The Bible itself is a book of patterns and models. We talk about getting God's mind over there in 1 Corinthians 2 where it says we have the mind of Christ, and God wants to instruct us. For me, it is simply this. The mind of Christ is you understanding in the Bible all the models, all the patterns that God has laid down because He has done it for everything. And when you see the patterns, understand the patterns, know the patterns, you have got His mind. It is just that simple. It is not about wearing a suit and tie. It is about wearing a dress instead of slacks. It is not about dressing up or anything that you do. It is about the Bible is a book from God to you. It is absolutely perfect, found in the King James Bible, that shows you God's mindset on everything by a model and by a pattern. You learn them, you have got it.

The great illustration of that is one of the most complex studies in the Bible. That will be the study of the tabernacle. It is found back there in Exodus 25 and on up to about 30, 32, somewhere in there. It is probably one of the most complex studies that you are ever going to get into in the Bible. It has got so much depth to it. There are so many parts to it. It is absolutely everything about it means something. And it is one of the most complicated things to look at. It is one of the most complicated things in your mind that you would think you would try to study, but yet in Hebrews chapter 8, we are told that when God gave Moses the commission to build that tabernacle, the Bible says that He gave him a pattern to go by.

Hebrews 8:5

Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

God gave him a pattern. Now when you want to study it and you want to break it down and you want to learn it, just follow the pattern. You do not have to sit there and try to figure, just follow the pattern. When you get the model and the pattern, whatever God is doing in the Bible, it breaks it down in the easiest way, and God will have a pattern for everything.

Many of you have children. God has got a pattern for your children. They train them up and they raise them up, and very frankly, many of God's people with their kids, they are in church every Sunday, and they are going to lose their kid just like that they were out in a bar. You know why? You do not have the right model. You do not have the right pattern. You do not have a good balance with your kids. You come to the place where you do not follow the pattern. You do not have a model, and it just causes all kinds of problems because the key to a pattern, no matter what it will be, will be the right balance.

A couple of weeks ago, I brought you through the great study. We went on a record again on wine and strong drink in the Bible, and the way I did that just shows you the pattern. It is all I did. I did not tell you to go out and march against bars or burn them down. I do not care if you do that, but I thought what I told you to do, I just showed you the pattern.

Missions. Reaching the world for Christ. There is a pattern to it. We have in this church, and I know most of some of you do not know this, we have this church in this church, God developing the most biblical missions program that you will find anywhere in this country, right under our nose. Right here with you, and it is a thing where there is a pattern to it. Missions today, for the most part, around the world, going to BMI or going to this mission school or this that has fallen on its face. There are over how witnesses are getting more done than God's people are with missions. Why? Because they do not follow the right pattern. They do not see the model, and it is a disaster.

We have camp this year. I am pure again. We have camp this year. Camp this year is about missions. They are going to take your kids and teach them the fundamentals about missions and missionaries. And if you watch the things around here, they started with the Moravians. I do not know who thought that up. I was not involved in that, but it shows me that somebody around here is understanding something because the Moravians is the greatest pattern and model for missions anywhere in history. And it shows me that I do not have to be here for you to figure that out and to do that. Somebody figured that out on their own.

Evangelism, reaching your own culture. There is a pattern to it. It is a Bible. There is a pattern to it, laying it out. Being a pastor, there is a Bible pattern to it. There are three in the New Testament. There is Timothy. There is Titus. And a few others sprinkled in there. There is a pattern to it. Salvation. There is a pattern to it. The nation of Israel. There is a pattern to it. The universe. There is a pattern to it. And when it comes to the church, understanding the concept of the church, there is a very clear pattern and a very clear model. God gave us a clear model and a clean pattern for our church. And I saw it many, many years ago. I was trained that way. And this is what I do. It is the only thing I know to do.

VI. The Antioch Church: Our Model

Now to begin this, let us start by seeing the model for the New Testament church. And I want you to, I already had you turn to Acts chapter 13. Let us have a word of prayer and then we will jump into this.

Father, we do thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. And we do love you. Thank you for the good folks here today. Pray your blessings upon all that we endeavor to do for thee. We love you. We thank you, Father, for everything that you have accomplished through our church and through the good people here. Thank you for the men and the women that hold the line on all that we endeavor to do. And we will thank you and praise in Jesus' name for a sake we ask it. Amen.

Now, when you turn to Acts chapter 13, you are going to find that the model church for you and for me will be the church at Antioch. And I understand most of you know that. That is not something new to you. You might also know that scholarship and 99% of Bible teachers and probably just about every church in this city today will teach you that the model church is the church of Jerusalem, found in Acts chapter 1 and 2. Of course, that is not true. That heresy comes because the failure to rightly divide the book of Acts. Acts has a pattern to it. Every book in the Bible has a pattern to it. You want to learn the book? Learn the pattern. In Institute yesterday, I

am showing you patterns. I am trying to get you to learn the patterns. I broke the Bible down in 17 patterns for you yesterday, models.

Now, I do not know how you miss this and see the model church is at Antioch. I do not get it. I mean, I do not. I mean, in Acts chapter 11:26, the Bible says they were first called Christians at Antioch. You would think anybody paying attention that where God told you that they were first called Christians and that started the pattern of Christianity, that that would be the model church, would not you? How hard is that?

Now Antioch is in what we know as modern-day Syria today. And that is a hotbed of world news today. You have Assad over there, President Assad, you know, gassing his own people. They are in the middle of a civil war. It is the hotbed of the Middle East. I have always thought it was interesting knowing my Bible and knowing the way things break down, you know, that everything is ending there in Syria. And yet when you know your Bible, New Testament Christianity started there. It has come full circle.

In the Bible times and up into church history, Syria was the hotbed of Bible Christianity. You have the Byzantine Empire. That runs all the way up to around 1100 with the Ottoman Turks coming in. The first church is right there. The first ministry is right there. The first mission program is right there. The first Bible teachers are right there. Your text of the King James Bible that you are holding your hand came out of the old Syriac and the old Latin right there. And as I said up to 1100, it was the base for New Testament modern Christianity. And in the Tribulation period, Revelation Chapter 1 and 2, you have seven churches in the Tribulation, and they are right in where Antioch of Syria is, the Middle East. The Church of Antioch is our model for what the New Testament church should be.

Now let us read Acts Chapter 13 with that little introduction. Let us read Acts Chapter 13. Pick it up in verses 1 through 3, and it says this.

Acts 13:1-3

Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

So they being sent forth by the Holy Ghost departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

VII. Components of the New Testament Church

Now there are a number of things I want to see here, a couple of things that I think if we are going to go on the record, you need to see. And the first thing I want you to see is the components of this New Testament church, the people that are in it. And the key word here is

going to be diversity. And the key word for any church is diversity. Everybody in this room today and all the people upstairs, which is about half of what we have got down here, bring something special to the party. Not any one of you is like the person sitting next to you, in front of you, behind you. That is a good thing. That is a good thing.

Now first of all, you have Paul. And after his three and a half years with God up there in Arabia, the first thing he does is he gets into a New Testament local church. And I think this is very instructive. You do not want to miss this. Paul is going to establish and start every New Testament church in the book of Acts. He is. He is the apostle to the Gentile. It is his job alone. God gave it to him and nobody else. But I want you to notice he follows the biblical pattern and model that he knows to be true because here is a guy who is going to start every church. He is going to go out there and do everything, and every church, including this one, that is a Bible-believing church, can trace this lineage back to the church of Antioch and what Paul did in his missionary trip.

But you know what he does? He did not walk out and say, God called me. I am the guy. I am going to go out and do this. You know what he did? He joined a New Testament local church. He submitted himself to that New Testament local church, and he waited for the Holy Spirit of God to work through that church to send him out, even though he knew he was the guy. You need to write that down. He does not think of himself as some exception to the rules. And I want to tell some of you young guys and some of you gals something that is going to get you into trouble when you think when it comes to the ministry or churches, you think you are the exception to the principles in the Bible. You say, well, I do not like that. You are going to like it less before I get through, so just hang on.

God called him to start Gentile churches all over the world. He called it gospel that God gave him. He called it my gospel. When he got talking to people, he said, when I got, I got straight from God, no man gave it to me. And here is the guy who has every right to just bypass Antioch, go do his thing, but he follows the principles and the models, and he says, I cannot go do what God has called me to do unless I am sent out of a New Testament local church by the body. Now, that is a model for you young people.

Then he had Barnabas. Barnabas was a Jew out of the tribe of Levi. He is Paul's mentor. He actually introduces Paul to the New Testament Christianity. And later on, Paul and Barnabas, they go out on the first missionary trip, and he is a very strong leader in the church.

Then you have Simon who was called Niger. Now, Niger is Latin for black. If you would go down into Guatemala or Salvador and you would go into a store and you would want to buy a black shirt or you want to buy a black dress or you want to buy a black pair of shoes, the color on the box would be Niger. It is Latin for black, Spanish and Latin are very close together. Now there is a good chance that this is the Simon of the New Testament that actually carries the cross with Christ to the crucifixion, and there is a good chance that he is.

Then you had Lucius of Cyrene. That is another black man out of Africa. And then you had a guy named Manaen who was the foster brother of Herod the Great. That is the guy that killed John the Baptist. And I look at that and I think to myself, what a great cross section of the anatomy of

a church with the people in it. You have got a Jew who killed Christians before he got saved, Paul, and now he is going to save them. You have got a Jew who just got saved coming out of the Old Testament, Barnabas, and now he is going to take it to the New Testament. You had a black guy who saw the crucifixion like nobody else saw it, Simon, and then you have got another black guy out of Africa. And then you have got a Gentile guy who was connected with Rome and all the filth of Rome, and now he is serving God. What a picture of the people in my church that come from different walks of life that fit into that same category. Some of you blasphemed God in your life before you got saved, now you praise God in everything that you do. Some of you were part of the filth of this world, now you are part of the aristocracy of heaven. What a great picture. You have got one guy here who his brother killed Christians, then he has got his brother, half brother, foster brother, who is going to bring Christianity to everybody. We all come from different walks of life and different backgrounds, some good, not so good. But at the end of the day, we are all in this body together. 1 Corinthians 12 says that we are to operate as a body, and we work together and we pull together.

VIII. The Definition of Ministry

Now the second thing I want you to see here will be the definition of ministry. This is a great misunderstood concept today. What is ministry? Somebody asked, should I be involved in ministry? Somebody says, what ministry should I get involved in? Somebody says, how much ministry should I involve my life in? And those are all great questions.

Now the passage here in Acts chapter 13 will answer that question because it is the definitive passage in the Bible on ministry. Is not that a strange thing that the church of Antioch is the model church that begins ministry? Why would you not find the definition of ministry there? And it says in verse 2 that real Bible ministry is then ministering to the Lord first. You see, many of God's people will minister to other people, but they will never bother to find out how they minister to the Lord. It says they ministered to the Lord first. Ministry number one is not you giving something to others. Ministry number one is giving you something to God. And you know, it is not a hard concept. Once you put it in a definitive context, you begin to see it.

Now let me ask you a question. When you minister to somebody, and many of you do, what do you do, bottom line? I mean, take discipleship one and discipleship two. You sit down with somebody and you give them what they need. You minister to them. You take somebody who does not understand what you do, these things in the Bible, and you give it to them. When counseling, when you have problems with your kids, you have problems in your marriage, you have problems, what do we do? We sit down and we give you what you need to fix your problem and to get you where you need to be. Sometimes you have personal issues. We give you what you need to get past them, help you. Ministry is simply giving somebody the word of God, what they need or what they want, and you minister to them.

Now that is what ministry under the Lord is. I get it. What could God want from me? What do I have that I could give to God that would minister to Him? Stop and think about it for a minute. Why did God save you? What was God's obvious purpose? For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever should believe in Him should not perish, but have

everlasting life. God's original goal was to reach the world with the gospel. But come on, you are all smart kids. Christ came down, He lived here for three and a half years. Just as He was getting His ministry going, He got crucified, and God took Him back to heaven, and then He started the church. What did He start the church for? The church is to finish the work that Christ started, and when you do the work that God saved you to do, you minister to Him. It is not about ministering to somebody else. It is. It is about ministering to Him for it. And if you are doing ministry by any other reason than you are doing it through Him, for Him, because that is what He saved you to do, you are wasting your time. You are wasting your time.

My job in building this church is to finish the work by taking young men and young ladies and understanding that first and foremost, I minister to the Lord by finishing the work that He started by training you and sending you out, and we give back to God what He wants, and we minister to Him. He gets ministered to that. I mean, it is found over there in 2 Corinthians 2:14-16.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?

When you minister to Christ, you talk about Him to other people. When you talk about Christ to other people, it brings up a sweet savor in the nostrils of God, and it ministers to Him. It ministers to Him that His Son dying on the cross did not die in vain. It ministers to Him because somebody figured it out, and now somebody is going to pick up the mantle and finish what God started, and when you say the name of Christ, and He says to a saved person or a lost person. You see, we get the idea that God gets happy when somebody gets saved, and He does. There is rejoicing in heaven over one sinner that repents. I want to tell you something, God gets ministered to whether the guy gets saved or the guy stays lost, as long as you raise up the name of Christ, it is a sweet savor in His nostrils, and you minister to Him.

And if you do not have that concept down, join a bowling league. Get in a shuffleboard game. Play soccer for the rest of your life. Get out of the ministry. You are going to be a disaster with the judgment seat of Christ. You have got to minister to Him first, and the church of Antioch, the church of Antioch ministered to the Lord. And when they ministered to the Lord, they were taking the concept of the New Testament church, and they understood that God had brought that church into existence to carry on the work that Christ has started. We lose that today, do not we? Oh, we have got volleyball, we have got softball, we are going to well up and eat hamburgers here in a little bit. We have got everything going on. We have got weddings, we have got funerals, we have got all kinds of things happening in our world. We get so busy that we actually forget that the model church teaches us the greatest aspect of ministry. Ministry is not what you do for somebody else. Real ministry first is what you do for God.

Do you understand what you are doing? And I will tell you something. When you understand and you realize that ministering to Him first is key, you will be very careful about how you teach and what you teach to somebody else. You will be very careful how you criticize somebody else. You will be very careful how that you just blatantly say, oh yeah, I have seen people do discipleship with somebody that there was their turn, and I was over an earshot, and I thought to myself, why did not he just put on a tape, a Dr. Ruckman tape or something. I mean, it was terrible. You know why? No preparation. A lot of people like to fly by the seat of their pants when it comes to the ministry. When you understand that you are ministering to Him first, you will never fly by the seat of your pants. You will do it right. You will do it exact. It will be a manifestation of truth. It will be every time you get into the pulpit, every time you sit down at somebody's coffee table, every time you sit down in some Starbucks or wherever and you are going to teach somebody the Bible. You take it seriously because you are not just ministering to them. You are becoming a sweet savor in the nostrils of God, and you are ministering to Him. Half of God's people never even do it. Well, I do not have time to get in ministry. I have got my career. I am too busy. Well, boy, we would be in great shape if God with a son would have said, I do not have time to go to the cross today. I have got a polo match going to be at it.

You know, after 60 some years of living my life and being in the Bible for almost 50, I have learned one thing. There is nothing wrong with God. The problem is us. When Christ went back to heaven, He replaced Himself with three things. The first thing He replaced Himself with was the Holy Spirit of God. Second thing He replaced Himself with was the Word of God. And the third thing He replaced Himself with was the New Testament local church in Antioch. The Holy Spirit of God is your guide. The Word of God is your road map, and the local church is the vehicle by which you get where God wants you to go.

IX. The Church's Role in Sending Out Ministers

Look at verse 2 and 3. The natural process of God putting you, me into the ministry. Look at verse 2. And they ministered to the Lord, and as they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me, Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. You notice that it was not Barnabas and Saul that said, God has called me, I am going. You did see that, did not you? That is a question. You did see that, did you not? It was not Paul and Barnabas standing up and announcing, I am going out to start a church. One more time. You did see that, did you not? The Holy Ghost told the church.

Now that is not popular today, I get that. I get it. The local church is not a very popular concept biblically. It just is not. It just is not. But I am going to tell you something. The local church is the central program of God in your life. And there are so many other para-church organizations out there that are trying to pretend they are like the church, and God's people are so inept when it comes to the Bible that they think they are on even par with the church. I want to tell you something. There is only one institution that God works through in your life, and it is a New Testament local church and the model and the pattern found in Antioch.

One day some of you may be called out of here. We are not at this point ready yet, and there is a reason for that, but sooner or later, what is going to happen. And based on the model of Acts

chapter 11, where they are first called Christian in Acts chapter 13, you want to remember five things. And we are going on a record today.

7. Barnabas and Paul, he is not called Paul yet. And I will tell you, his name is Saul, but he gets his name changed to Paul after he wins his first guy to Christ, and that guy who wins to Christ's name is Paul. She went out for about 30 years. Would not it be great if you never won a soul to Christ, and when you got a new name written down in glory, but that new name is based on the person you won to Christ the first time, and you and I get to heaven, and we do not have a new name in glory because we never won anybody to Christ? There are a lot of weird things in that Bible because you have been sitting on your couch Saturday morning watching your funnies and sitting on your fudge sickle you have never seen.
8. These two guys were first, they were trained by the church, not a Bible college.
9. They were trained by the church. When it was time for them to go, the Holy Spirit of God called them through the church, not through themselves.
10. When it was time for them to go, they did not say, I am out of here, the church said, time for you to go. When I started this church, I had been out of the ministry for three or four years and a number of years ago, and we were going to a church, and a pastor over there was Pastor Whelan, which some of you know, and we were going right there, and he was a good friend to me, and I had got to get to the point in my life where God began to really give me a burden about starting my own church. I really began to get a bug on the thing, and I knew that God wanted me to, and I would have had every right just to go out and start one, but I followed the principles that I preach you, and I did not say a word to anybody. I kept it in my heart, I kept it in my life, I never told anybody in my family, I never did anything. I just pondered like Mary all these things in my heart. One day Pastor Whelan came over to me and put his arm around me and said, you know what, I think it is time for you to go start a church. That is when I went. When you are a pastor, you cannot do your own thing and forsake the principles that you want and then start a church and hold other people accountable to the principles that you will not keep yourself accountable to. And I told him, I will go if this church will send us out. If it will not send us out, I am not going because I know the principles that churches have to be started by another New Testament local church. You do not go out and say I am going to start a church. Where is the model? Where is the pattern? We do what we want to do, and we like to pick and choose out of the Bible what fits what we want to do. Do not you tell me. Say, how do you know that? I do it all the time. I did not need that from you guys this morning. I am terrible. I just got out of surgery. I am very fragile.
11. The Holy Ghost said. I will tell you something else. Verse two says the Holy Ghost said, Paul did not say I am going. Barnabas did not say, I think it is time for us to head out of here. We have been here long enough now. No, no, no. The Holy Ghost said. The Holy Ghost worked through the body. He will always work through the body. Verse two. See, I do not have a problem with that because I will tell you what. I trained all you people. You are part of my church. You know what? I will say this to you. I trust you. I trust you. I trust you to get a message. I trust you, the bulk of this body. I trust you. I trust Zach with my pulpit. I trust Bob with my pulpit. I trust Danny with my pulpit. There are 30 or 40 out there I would trust with my pulpit. I will take it to the next level. I trust you enough to think that 95% of you actually do. God's Holy Spirit could speak through His body and say, do this. I believe it. I trust you.

When the Holy Spirit of God was ready, He told him when it was time to go. And He told him when it was time to go, who it was to go. And the last thing I already told you is God will only start churches through other New Testament local churches. That is the model, Acts 13.

X. Leadership and Responsibility

I said this earlier, and I told you I would say it again, getting into the ministry is one of the most dangerous things a person will ever do. You have the potential of messing up people. You have the potential of giving people wrong advice. You have the potential of making some disastrous decisions, mistakes, because you are not following the principles and doing what you need to do. Had to be 100% on track, an individual. One of you young guys think you are going to call it a ministry. The best way you know it is of God is to stay out of it. Stay out of it.

When I came to Kansas City back in 1976, Mel Shabaka, my father in the Lord, had went to New York, and I was left there all by myself. I was the most miserable person in all my life. I wanted to go to New York to be with him, and God had fixed it, so I could not do that without causing some problem. So I believed what the Bible said, and I stayed put. I believed what the Bible said, so I did not do anything on my own. It was the hardest thing in my life. Then one night, about six months later, I got a phone call from Mel Shabaka, and he says, hey, how spiritual do you feel? And I said, well, not very spiritual right now. He says, well, Truman Dollar is going to call you. I think you are going to go to Kansas City to get in the ministry to be his youth pastor. If I had done my own thing, listen to me. Listen, listen, listen to me. If I had done my own thing, I would have been up in New York, and I never would have been here. No, amen. Just thank you for that.

All my ministry, all my ministry, 40-some, almost 50 years, I have seen guys get into the ministry the wrong way. They just throw the principle. They are like charismatic. Charismatic, many of them are saved. They want to believe in speaking in tongues so bad, they will throw it every verse. It clearly is against it. And when a guy wants to start a church so bad, and he does not want to let God do it in God's timing, he will throw everything out of his nose because he wants to do it, and he will both get in the same mess. And over the years, people have gotten upset with me over that stand. Hey, I do not care. I am a Bible believer. If I am going to stand in this pulpit, I am going to teach you all the Bible, and I am going to teach you even the stuff you do not want to hear. But if I do not do that, then you need to get somebody else that will.

We talk about it. I saw it on the, I got a flyer, leadership conference. Christian leadership, building leaders, building leaders, come and let us discern your ability to be a great leader. We have got Mr. So-and-so and Dr. Fine, Dr. Howard, Dr. Fine, and they are going to, they are going to, you are going to come out of here understanding. We are going to look and critique all your abilities to be a great leader. I want to tell you something, leadership, being a good leader has absolutely nothing to do with ability. Leadership has absolutely, being a good leader, has absolutely nothing to do with ability. Being a good leader has everything to do with responsibility. You are not a good leader because you make good decisions. You are a good leader because you make the hard decisions. You make the decisions that are not popular, but they are right. People do not like them, but they are biblical. You are a good leader because you

stand in a pulpit and you are responsible for truth, whether the people like it or not. You are a good leader because you can take responsibility for the really hard, unpopular decisions that you have got to make in the ministry.

Too many pastors today want to be popular. So they will not preach hard sermons because they do not want to lose you. I already told you, I am looking for a certain kind of person. I am looking for somebody that is tough. I met Barry Sadler one time back in, oh, it must have been in the, oh, I do not know, late 70s. Barry Sadler wrote the Battle of the Green Berets. He was a Green Beret, fought in Vietnam. He was killed in Guatemala in 85. He wrote the Battle of the Green Berets. The theme in that is, say, 100 men will test a day, but only three win the Green Berets. People come through this door, they come through this door, bring them into this church for God to give you a chance to do what you want to do right and biblically. My job is to be here to help you do that. But the decision of whether you are going to do it or not going to do it lies with you. 100 men, I will test a day, but only three win the Green Berets. I am looking for a special kind of person. I am looking for somebody that will endure hardness as the good soldier, Jesus Christ. I am looking for somebody that will not put their tail between their legs and run the other way when tough times come. I am looking for somebody that will not get personalities involved, they will stay with the truth in the Bible, and they stand for truth, not personal preferences. In short, a real leader, pastor, will have to be responsible for the truth, the Word of God, in every aspect of his ministry.

I am open. You can get my tapes, John has got them, Bob probably has got them. You can get my stuff back from 1988. I am preaching the same thing now that I preached back then. I have not changed a thing. I am not going to change a thing. I may have forgot some things, I am not changing anything. And I am an open guy, I will sit down anytime, any place with anybody. Show me where I am wrong in the ministry. Show me where I am wrong in biblical principles. Show me where I am wrong by following a model of pattern. You have got a better model of pattern that is not in here? I do not want to hear it. You have got one better in here? I will see it. Whatever starts wrong usually winds up ending wrong, unless something changes.

Churches are a body, they are a team. This church, any church will only be held together by the principles of the Word of God that we all believe. And when you have God's people who only believe some of them, you are going to have problems. It is not a hard concept. It is not a hard concept at all. But it is a concept that based on what I saw, what I was out, what you are doing. Wow, somebody is figuring it out.

Now listen to me very carefully. Just listen to me. Without me, you are nothing. Let me explain that, cause that sounds very arrogant. I am your pastor. Ephesians 4 says, I am God's gift to you. Some of you have returned that to the store. My job is to teach you. My job is to nurture you. My job is to love you. My job is to protect you. My job is to put up with you. My job is to rebuke you. My job is to admonish you. My job is to build you. My job is to keep you accountable. And my job is to get you where you understand and know and begin to minister unto the Lord. That is the job. That is the model. That is the pattern for a pastor. Look at the model. First Timothy, look at Timothy and Titus and Philemon. My job is to try to make you better than when you first walked through that door. And sometimes you have to deal with some hard things. And where

most guys will not do it, I am sorry. I will do it. You know why? Truth is truth. I am not afraid to make the hard decisions. One of my favorite characters in the Bible is Noah. Noah stood for 120 years all by himself against all the world. Incredible. God designed it that way. That is why a pastor and all he does have to do it by the book, not by the same standard.

Without you, I am nothing. You are the body of Christ. You are the body of this church, a body of believers made up of saved men and women who have been called into the ministry to minister to the Lord. And God by His design has put you here. And I have said it before, this is not a perfect church. You will never find a perfect church, but it is a biblical church. It is based on the principles. A principle of ministering the Lord first to finish the work. Now, when I do my job and you do your job, then we make a New Testament church, a team, and we get the work done, just like Antioch. All walks of life, all different races, all different creeds, all different backgrounds, all come together and are held together for the ministry through the principles of the word of God that God has done. And that is the word of God that everybody believed. And when you find somebody in the church that does not want to follow all of the Bible, you are going to have problems. How can two walk together except they be agreed?

And the church is just based on one concept, 2 Corinthians chapter 4:1-2.

2 Corinthians 4:1-2

Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

My responsibility to you is to manifest truth to you. Sometimes you will like it, sometimes you will not. Sometimes it will go with your grain, sometimes it will go against your grain. My job is to commend myself to your conscience. You know what that means? That no matter what I say to you, deep down inside, you know I am saying it because I love you. And I am saying it because it is true. But I am saying it because I have no ulterior motive against you. I do not think I have ever hated anybody in my life. I can forget what anybody does to me faster than it takes for somebody to open up a bottle of soda pop. I do not carry grudges, I do not hold grudges. I do not carry things around. It is too much weight for me, I do not need it. I can forgive, and I will tell you. Some people say, well, I do not know how God can forgive and forget. Well, I do not know where you are at, but I will tell you something. Not only can I forgive, I can forget. You say you never think about it, I did not say I did not think about it anymore. I just said I forgot. Well, how do you forget something and still think about it? You forget it in the aspect that I look at all the stupid things I have done against God, and He forgot me, I will give you passes on yours. You make it right with me, we are good to go. You do not make it right with me, I am good to go. You know why? Nothing is going to take this away from me. Nothing is going to take what I have with this from me.

We are a team. We are a New Testament Bible believing team. Pulled together. My responsibility to you is to manifest truth to you, whether you like it or not. Commending myself to you, to your

conscience. I have a responsibility to give you the truth in everything I say. I have a responsibility as pastor to give you the truth about everything I say. You have a responsibility to take that truth and let it do what the truth does in your life. As long as we do that, we will get along fine. And the church moves forward. What happens is, is when we want to start taking some truth and not the other truth. Well, we want to do this but not this. Oh, I believe all of this, but when it comes to what I want to do, forget this. That is where we get into trouble.

And let me be clear about this. God's program is a New Testament local church. Everything here is everything that you need. I was talking to Sean last night, and Sean has always had a heart for people that they work with on the street. And they do a great job. And he has tried in the past to get a home for you to bring these guys in. But it has never worked out for him. And Sean is one of the best guys. There is nobody that has got a better heart than Sean, and I love him very much. And I thank you for what you have done with him and for what the Viscato was Chris had. But you have done with him, you guys have just, you have done just a great job with these guys. But you know I told him last night, he is like Paul talks about, he has got a zeal but not according to knowledge. And he come to me and he said, you know what, I want to bring this to the church. What do you think? He is going to buy a home right here, not too far from the church. And he wants to open it up where he can bring some guys in. And I said, I said, I think that is a wonderful idea. But here is the difference this time. Here is why it did not work before and now it will work now. You are going to bring it into the church. We are going to set down the ground rules of anybody that comes in. They are going to sign a contract, they are going to understand what our parameters are that this is a ministry of this church. You will not have to tell them they can come in. We will have a board of guys who help you. You will not have to tell them when it is time to go. We will tell them. You will be free to teach them the Bible and give them what they want. The church now will take care of what that is. It will free you up if you do not have to worry about a thing, and you can do what God has called you to do. Reach out to these guys. We will have you guys go over and teach the Bible to them. We will have everything that we need to do. We will be right there. We will have everything that needs to be done right there. That is the beauty of bringing it under the New Testament local church. That is God's program. There is no other program. And any other program is out there. I am not saying it is not a good program. I am just saying it is not a New Testament Bible-based biblical program. There is only one. The church.

They were trained by the church. They were sent out by the church. That body of believers in Acts chapter 13 had their arms around the Holy Spirit of God. They were ministering unto the Lord, and it was time for Paul and Barnabas to go out. It was not Paul and Barnabas that said, we are going. Holy Spirit of God came down and talked through the body. And I want to tell you something. If there is anybody of believers anywhere in this country that God could speak through through the Holy Spirit of God and get the message to somebody, it would be this group right here. It would be this group right here.

XI. Conclusion

Well, that is the first lesson. Now next week, I am going to start talking about the pattern. I am going to walk you through and show the inner structure of a church. Because I saw what you guys did. You guys were incredible. You guys really, really, really, really, really did a great job. This church is right on track where it needs to be. I am not saying we do not have things we have got to work on. We do not have things we have got to get to. We do, but we will get there. You know why we will get there? Because of your love for the book. And your attitude. And I have watched over the last couple of years real leadership come up in this church. Where I had to fight all the battles at one time and take all the cheap shots. Now you guys are taking them. It is a good feeling, is not it? Good to go home with your tail feathers blasted off, knowing that, you know what? When I used to be unsaved, I used to go out and get beat up and clobbered all the time. It is good to go home and be beat up and clobbered for something God does for you. Instead of something stupid, we get ourselves. Well, we will hold up there. Next week, we will get back into it. We will go back into the Old Testament next week. We will talk about where the church started, talk about the concept. I am going to show you seven different churches in the Bible. You think this is the only one, I mean, church age. I am going to show you, there are seven of them in the Bible.

Just have a word of prayer. We will be dismissed, and we will get ready for our little deal. Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. We do love you. Thank you for all you do for us. Thank you for today. Thank you for the good folks that are here. Pray your blessings upon all that we endeavor to do for you. Thank you for our visitors. We pray, Father, that you get a blessing out of it today. We do love you. Thank you in Jesus' name, and I think we ask it. Amen. God bless you, you are dismissed.