

Proverbs 22:28; 23:10

Sunday 4/1/2018

The last couple of weeks, we have been in Proverbs chapter 22 and 23, talking about the landmarks, the ancient landmark and the old landmark. I sat down this last Monday and just thought some things through, and I thought it would be totally incomplete if I didn't finish this up the way it should be finished.

I know that today is Easter, and you are all here with your Easter bonnets on, and you probably have Easter money waiting for you at home or something like that. We don't put a lot of emphasis on Easter, and fortunately, this is going to kind of be an Easter message. I guess it just depends on your perspective on it.

We thank God for the resurrection every day of our lives. I don't like a lot about Christianity that just wants to designate one day about something in the Bible. I know we set aside Christmas for the birth of Christ. I thank God every day that God was manifested in the flesh. It is one of the mysteries in the Bible, and the Bible says that we are to be stewards of the mystery.

I think too many of God's people get hung up on just putting Christ out of their life 364 days a year and then picking one day to do it. A child of God needs to thank God for the things of God every day. I know what Christianity has become; I understand and I know how most Christians are. They get to the point where they like the idea of being traditionalized, that we just set one day aside to think about Christ and one day aside to think about His resurrection, and then we put it out of our minds the rest of the day.

How do I know that? Because churches today will be filled with people, and next week they won't be there. As I said, this is going to be kind of an Easter message. You can take it or leave it however you want to. I look at it as probably the best Easter message you are going to get, so take it for that.

We looked at two of the most important verses for Christians throughout the whole Bible. If you want to get to the point in your life as a child of God where the Bible says that we should look to get a full reward, if you want that full reward, and as Paul says, if you want to run the race and finish the course, then these two verses we have been talking about in the message today will probably really help you.

A lady one time talked to me, and she was having some issues in life. I was trying to get her to come to church, and she said, "I'm just trying to find myself." I am telling you, if you want to really find yourself, this is the place to find yourself. You won't find yourself at home. You won't find yourself wallowing in your problems. If you want to find out who you really are and what you are dealing with, here is the place to find out who you are. Today will be a great time if you are looking for yourself.

The lady said to me one time, "I just don't feel myself." I said, "Well, how do you feel when you feel like yourself?" She didn't even know. We get so confused with our feelings and our emotions, and people always say, "I'm on a journey to find myself." I am going to end your journey this morning. We are going to put closure to it if you really want closure to it.

We examined two great landmarks, haven't we?

1. In Proverbs 22:28, we looked at the ancient landmark the Bible talks about there, which is the nation of Israel.
2. Then we looked at Proverbs 23:10, the next chapter over, and it talks about the old landmark.

We understood that the whole Bible, the whole history of the human race, and the whole history of the world can be viewed and should be put into context and perspective around two landmarks: one in the Old Testament, because that's where God's focus was in the Old Testament, and in the Church in the New Testament, that's where God's focus is in the New Testament.

I went through each one and showed you how these two landmarks will keep us as Christians, as a church, out of the apostasy that has literally swallowed up Christianity today. Last week, I showed you the seven periods or the seven stages of church history. I showed you how in the Old Testament, God broke the Old Testament down into seven or eight sections, making it easy to figure it out around the landmark. Last week, I showed you how He did that in the New Testament to make it easy again around seven periods of church history, and we went through those.

We are on the record now, and I wanted to do this last week. I wanted to have an official statement, even though Caleb has done a wonderful job on the website of putting up our statement of faith and what we believe. I didn't even know we believed all those things he put on there, but since it looks so good, I believe it now, Caleb, I believe it now.

Anyway, I went on the record last week and I showed you through what we taught why this church is a Baptist church and why, where everybody else that used to be Baptist are taking Baptist off their name, the reason they do it. We will never take it off of our name, and now you know why. It wasn't because I like the name Baptist, or it wasn't that my mama was a Baptist or my grandma was a Baptist; it was the fact that we now know why the Baptist name is so absolutely, from the Bible and history, vitally important. I get it, I get it; there are idiot Baptists out there, just like there are idiot everything out there. I understand that; that does not take away from the fact of who we are and what we believe and what we stand for.

I. Finding Truth Amidst Confusion

Today, I want to show you how we use what I gave the last couple of weeks. If you came here this morning expecting an Easter message, I apologize for that, and I hope that you will enjoy what I am going to do. But I sincerely apologize if you were coming in and you wanted me to talk about Easter and resurrection and how Christ came out of the tomb and saw a shadow and went back in, and there were six more months of the tribulation period. That's not going to happen today.

Giving you the material I gave you the last couple of weeks and then not giving you an example of how it works will really do you no good. My job is not only to teach you the truth—that is my main function in this church, to teach you the truth—but that's not my only job. My job is not

only to teach you the truth, but my job is to show you how to use the truth that I have given you, and that's what I want to do today. So this will be the final message, and we will go from there.

Years ago, before most of you were born, I was taught these two verses, and when I saw them for what they really were, it changed everything about me. You might say I found myself. Everything I looked at—I looked at God, I looked at the Bible, I looked at church, I looked at history, and I looked at myself—totally different. Now I had a context; I had a perspective. I could look at everything out there in life that God was doing, and I could now build it around two landmarks that put everything in a context for me.

Suddenly, God's three plans found in the Bible made sense to me. I told you this yesterday in Bible Institute; we came through these three plans. It just happened to be that that's where we were. God has a plan for the universe, over there in Isaiah 9:6-7. There is a reason why He made all those galaxies out there, and there is a reason for Earth. Isaiah 45:18 says God formed the earth to be inhabited because God has a plan for it. Yet God has a plan for you, and they are all separate but they are connected, because God has a plan for you, you live on the Earth, and the Earth is in the universe. So when you understand how that works, it will really help you put it all together. I completely understood then what God was doing.

Today, I want to show you how to use those two verses. I want to use it to figure out one of the most confusing things that most people deal with when it comes to Christianity in general. Yet it is made very easy. It looks like it is complicated. I have probably been asked this question more times than any other question, but when you look at it on its face value, it looks very complex. But when you use the landmarks, and I am going to show you how to do it, it becomes really simple.

As I said, I am probably asked this question more than any other: "What about all the different churches?" They say the national average is that there are 20 million churches in the world. 20 million churches! I am asked all the time, "How come there are so many different churches? How come there are so many denominations? How come there are so many different people who believe different things, different faiths? Why are there so many, and how do you wade through them to find really the truth?"

You have the Roman Catholic Church, you have the Presbyterian Church, you have the Lutheran Church, you have the Episcopal Church, you have the Greek Orthodox, you have the Russian Orthodox, you have the Charismatic churches, the Pentecostal church, and you have the Church of God, you have the Church of Christ. Then you get into the Jehovah's Witnesses, you get into the Mormons, you get into the Christian Science, you get into the Churches of Christ, the Unity, the Seventh-day Adventists. You have all of those groups out there, and you look at all of that, and it looks like it can be confusing.

You are scratching your head, and you can't even go out to a mailbox without somebody knocking on your door trying to get you to go to their church. The average Christian is probably comfortable staying where they are at because they have been there for many, many years. But if they were honest, they would look at it. You can't drive down the street; you have one over here,

one over here, one over here, and they are all different. How do we, in that great complexity of that sea of churches, wade our way through that? The answer is landmarks.

For us as Bible believers, we will find that the majority of God's people get caught up in this, and the majority of God's people think that they are all okay. I have had people tell me, "Just like there are lots of roads to go to St. Louis, there are lots of roads to get to God, and these churches are just on different roads." Now, that may be true of going to St. Louis, but it is not true of getting to God. God doesn't live in St. Louis, so it doesn't work that way.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

There is a way that seems right. There is a way when you say, "Ah, that's what I'm going to believe; that's right." There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. You have to be careful with things in this world. That's why God gave us the Bible. That's why God gave us the instructions in the Bible. That's why God gave us everything that we need, that as we wade our way through life—and boy, life can be a wading process—you have a way to figure it all out.

You will find that the Church of Jesus Christ that the Bible talks about will be manifested when you use the two verses I gave you last week, the landmarks. For us as Bible believers who will stay and learn and learn how to use those landmarks today, this is how we will stay on the right track. You, as a Christian, stay on the right track. If you don't, we looked at it the last couple of weeks, we enter into the fields of the fatherless. I have told you that the fields of the fatherless are going through history as an orphan, not knowing where you come from, not knowing the roots. Most of God's people go to churches, but they don't know what they believe, and if they do believe anything, you press them on it, they couldn't tell you why they believe what they believe, and that's a bad state of affairs to be in.

We are going to have some fun today. I am going to pretend I am you, and I am looking to figure all this out. Last week, I got some great truth. Last week, I heard one of the greatest preachers I have ever heard in my life, and I got the truth now of what I need, and now I am going to put it to work. I want to walk you through and show you how to do that.

Along with all the information I gave you the last couple of weeks, allow me to give you three more important verses that will be invaluable as you search for the truth to try to find yourself.

3. First off, Psalm 127:1. This is a good one: Psalms 127:1

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:

4. The second one is in Mark 7:7, when it says: Mark 7:7

Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

There is somebody that has taken the doctrines of the Bible out and then replaced it with what man wants to say. You have to remember that. I want you to mark in your mind mentally, because we are going to use this phrase today, "the commandments of men."

5. In Mark 7:13, it says this: Mark 7:13

Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

So what He is saying here is that the difference, if God didn't build it, then man built it. If man built it, then man building something makes the Word of God of none effect. That's what He is saying, because the Word of God tells us everything that we are to believe. It tells us everything that we are to operate by. It gives me the insight into everything that's out there. When I cease to follow the Word of God and I start to follow a man, the commandments of man, or somebody teaching outside the Bible, then what it does in their lives, in your life, and my life simply makes the Word of God of none effect. In other words, the Bible doesn't mean anything anymore.

Unfortunately, in Christianity, that's where we are at today. The average Christian says, "Oh, I love the Bible." My answer to that is, "How many times have you read it through last year?" I know why. Somebody said one time, "If all the dust was knocked off of closed Bibles in Kansas City, there would be a dust storm to smother the crops." Nobody reads it anymore. Nobody. We talk about it; we give it lip service, but the reality comes back that we really don't spend any time with it.

When you look at any church, any denomination, including this one, or any group of Christians, you always want to look for three things:

6. Who built it? Man or God? That's the first thing you look for.
7. What are the doctrines that they teach or that they believe or that they hold to? Are there Bible doctrines, or is there something that a man made up, or can you actually find them in the Bible, and there they are?
8. Does it line up with the landmark?

If you follow those three things with what I gave you last week, you are going to be okay. I want to walk you through these, and I want to show you. I am not attacking anybody. I could care less. Please, if you are one of these churches I am going to talk about this morning, this is not an attack on you. This is not an attack on your church. I care less. I support you, whatever you want to do.

I am the nicest guy you will ever meet. But I want to walk you through these. I want to show you how you use what I gave you last week, or it isn't any good for you.

II. Examining European Church Landmarks

Let's take the Catholic Church. I will take that first because Rome has been the second greatest focal point of all history. There is no question about that. The main focal point in history is obviously the nation of Israel and the Jews, Jerusalem. But the second greatest focal point all down through history has been Rome.

When you go back in Daniel chapter 2, and he lays out Daniel's image there, he shows you the ten-toe nations that are going to come into being. Babylon is in power, then Persia defeats Babylon, and then Greece defeats Persia, and then Rome defeats the Greeks around 100-200 BC.

From that point on, Rome is never out of power. Rome runs as a nation up through around 300-400 AD, and then Rome never goes out of power. That's why in Daniel 2, the legs are Rome, but the feet are also Rome, and they just go; there is no end to the Roman Empire. I will show you that here in just a moment.

Rome is in power at the first coming of Christ. She had by that time conquered all the known world, tremendous power, tremendous nation. But the devil knew that she would not be able to survive as a nation forever. So around 400 AD, what happened was the devil pulled off one of the greatest tricks and defeats of all history. He changed, through the Emperor Constantine, which is around 300 AD, 325 somewhere in there, he takes the Emperor Constantine, who history gives the credit for putting an end to the pagan Roman Empire and starting the Roman Catholic Church.

You can go to any library in Kansas City and find that information. We don't even sell that information in a bookstore; I purposely keep it out so you can't believe we are just doing that. Go to a public library and read it for yourself. He changed pagan Rome into papal Rome. He took and instead of having a nation now called Rome, he changed that nation into a religion. Now it's called the Roman Catholic Church, and it starts around 400 AD.

Today, the Roman Catholic Church is a world power. She is more than just a religion; she is her own country. We have ambassadors from our country to all the other nations out there, and we actually have an ambassador to the Vatican because it's not only a religion, it's now a nation in that sense. Of course, they claim their church goes back to Peter, Matthew 16, where the Bible says, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." The Catholic Church takes that and says, "See, that's where the Catholic Church started; it started with Peter."

Well, Peter was never in Rome. There is no evidence that Peter was ever in Rome. The Lord wasn't saying, "Peter, I'm going to make you the rock." What He was saying, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock," and if you read the context, the rock is Christ that he just confessed to. Let's not bring the Bible into it. You will find that I told you about the books of Avro Manhattan, probably the greatest authority on the Roman Catholic Church in the 19th and 20th century. He wrote tremendous material.

When you look at the Roman Catholic Church, you find that it was started with a man, Constantine. The Catholic Church is built on five absolute pillars. You take any one of these away, you don't have a Catholic Church.

9. The Mass
10. The Eucharist (that's the wafer that they take, making it into the body of Christ)
11. The Sacraments
12. The Catholic Church itself (the word Catholic means universal)
13. The Priesthood (that is a select group of men who are over everybody in the church)

Because the Catholic Church started with Constantine, who is a man, and you find nobody before Constantine believing anything that they believe, these five things that they build it on cannot be found in the Bible. You can't find a Mass in the Bible. You can't find the word

Eucharist in the Bible. You can't find the word Sacraments in the Bible. You can't find the word Catholic in the Bible, and you can't find a priesthood that matches up to that priesthood. So there, the landmark helped us understand where we are all at.

The second church group I want to talk about is the Greek and Russian Orthodox. What are their landmarks? Both of these come from the Roman Catholic Church. You will find that in 1054, there was a split with the Roman Catholic Church, and it goes back to Pope Leo III, who back in 800 AD, in fact, it was on Christmas Day 800 AD, he crowned Charlemagne, Charles the Great in history. I call him Big Chuck. He crowned Charlemagne King of the Franks. That ticked off all the European Catholics because they didn't like Charlemagne. So it broiled for a while, as all things do, and about 152 years later, a group of European Catholics split from the Catholic Church, and they formed what we know today as the Greek and the Russian Orthodox. So where is their landmark? Where do they come from? They come from the Roman Catholic Church, which comes from Constantine. The landmark for them is the Roman Catholic Church.

The next group of churches are called Anglican Church, Church of England, and Episcopalian. This, without a doubt, is my favorite. Anglican Church, Church of England, Episcopalian Church are all the same group. They are called different names by different places. In England, it's the Church of England. In America, it's called the Episcopalian Church, and for those who can't say Episcopalian, it's called the Anglican Church. That's basically how it works.

This is my all-time favorite of all the churches I am going to walk through. This is my best one, and I love this one. You know why? Because this shows you how stupid people really are. My little plaque back there says, "Life is tough, tougher when you're stupid." This one shows how ridiculously people don't pay attention. Maybe they are not stupid; they just don't pay attention. But that can't be right, because when I didn't pay attention, my mom said, "Pay attention, Bobby, you're so stupid." So I guess they do go together.

In 1500, 1500 years after Christ, in 1500, England was a satellite of the Roman Catholic Church. Henry VIII was on the throne. Back then, maybe this will help you understand a little bit about history, back then the nations, especially the ones in Europe, if they wanted to form alliances and not go to war, they would have the daughter of one king or the son of one king marry a son or a daughter of another nation's king. That was kind of like making them all part of the family, and they would think twice about going to war because "you're married to my daughter, your daughter married my son."

In this case, Henry VIII had married Catherine of Spain, and her father, Ferdinand—remember Ferdinand and Isabella, the ones that sent out Christopher Columbus—well, Ferdinand and Isabella, he was the King of Spain. His daughter Catherine had been betrothed to Henry VIII, who is now the King of England. Well, Henry VIII was a character, and he fell out of love. He fell out of love with Catherine of Spain, and he found a hot chick in Europe by the name of Anne Boleyn. Henry VIII fell in love with her. He wanted to divorce Catherine to marry Anne. Things don't change much in time, do they?

He wanted to get a divorce from Catherine of Spain and marry Anne. But back in 1500, the only people who could grant a divorce was the Pope. So Henry calls the Pope on the Pope hotline, and

he says, "Look, Pope, I need your help. I am married to Catherine of Spain, but I don't love her. She doesn't do it for me. I don't love her anymore, and I have met the love of my life, Anne Boleyn, and I am telling you, this gal is something else, and I want to divorce Catherine. I want to marry Anne, and I know you are the only one who can give a divorce, and I am asking you, we are buddies, you scratch my back, I have scratched yours, we have done a lot of things together. I need your help. Give me a decree of divorce. We are good."

Ferdinand said, "Henry, I can't do that right now. Spain is in the middle of the Inquisition, and she is killing a lot of these Bible believers for me, and I don't want to tick Ferdinand off because if I, you are married to his daughter, he is doing a lot of good things for me, and if I give you a decree and a divorce so you can dump his daughter to marry Anne, well, you can see the position that puts me in."

Henry says, "You don't understand true love because you priests can't marry. You don't understand what a man loves a woman. He loves a woman, and I love Anne, and I don't love Catherine, and I need a divorce." The Pope says, "Henry, I'm sorry." Henry VIII, "Oh, Henry, I made a candy bar after you." After a while, he says, "I can't do that. I just can't do that."

Well, Henry slammed down the phone. So he is at dinner that night, moping around. You know how it was when you fell in love for the first time? You are shaking your head, yeah, you do know, don't you? You are just, your face falls in your food, you are just not hungry. Your mom and your dad or your friend says, "What's the matter?" "Oh, nothing." You are in love. Love is in here. You are in love, you are in love. This was Henry VIII, and he was just moping around. Usually, he was full of fire; he was just moping around the palace.

Thomas Cromwell was his Prime Minister, and Thomas Cromwell came in, and he says, "What aileth thee, King?" Henry took him into his confidence, and he said, "Well, I don't love Catherine of Spain, and I love Anne Boleyn." Thomas said, "Yeah, she's hot." He says, "What do you mean the Pope won't give you your divorce?" He says, "No, he won't." He says, "My King, you are the King of England. You are going to let some pepperoni pizza Pope tell you what you cannot do? You are the King of England." Henry said, "I am. I'm Henry VIII. I am." He says, "I am. I'm the King of England." So he says, "Get that Pope guy on the phone."

So Henry gets him, and he says, "Hey, Pope, this is Henry. I want you to know something. I don't care if you give me a divorce. I am going to go ahead, and we are not going to be Catholic anymore. We are going to pull out of the Catholic Church. England is no longer going to be Catholic, and we are going to be our own church." Pope says, "You can't do that." He says, "I'm the King of England. I can do whatever I want. You watch me." Pope says, "What are you going to call it?" Henry thought real quick, and he said, "How about the Church of England?" It is going to be the Church of England.

Now, that's how the Episcopalian, if you are in a Church of England, Episcopalian, or you are in England, that's how your church got started. It got started because the King of England wanted to divorce his wife to marry somebody else, and the Pope wouldn't do it, so he quit the Catholic Church, started his own church, and gave himself a decree. What's your landmark? You see what I am talking about? How stupid is that? My church goes back to the Waldensians and the martyrs

and the Huguenots who would not, who got bathed in the blood of their sacrifice, or yours goes back to a guy who wanted to leave his wife for somebody else. That's the church I want to belong to. What is wrong with people? See how the landmarks work for you? It makes it easy.

Then we have the Protestant Church. I need to explain the word Protestant. Everybody thinks that if you are a Baptist, they are part of the Protestants. That's not true. The word Protestant means protester. The Protestant Church came into being out of the Reformation of the 1500s. Baptists were already there; we were Anabaptists at that point in time, or in a Baptist, but we are not Protestants. I am not a Protestant; I am a Bible believer.

You have the Lutheran Church; that's a Protestant Church. When the Reformation took place, and the Catholic Church was being ripped apart, and people were fed up with it, a guy by the name of Martin Luther left the Catholic Church, and he started his own church called the Lutheran Church. So what is the landmark for the Lutheran Church? Martin Luther, 1520. It's not Acts; it's not the apostles; it's a man by the name of Martin Luther.

You have the Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Church came out of the Swiss Reformation. Its landmarks follow the landmarks, and the Reformation not only affected Germany, it affected all of Europe. In Switzerland and in France, you had two men who were fed up with the Catholic Church. They started what is called the Presbyterian Church. One of them is John Calvin; the other one is John Knox. John Knox is buried out here in Lee's Summit at John Knox Village. He's not, but that was named after him. That's him, that's the guy. From them come the Presbyterian Church because they protested the Roman Catholic Church. They left the Roman Catholic Church, and now they have all went back to the Roman Catholic Church.

Then you had the Methodist Church around 1700. It starts with a guy by the name of John Wesley and Charles Wesley. They say, "Where are their roots?" They were both pastors in the Church of England. See how it works? They got fed up with the Church of England. They left the Church of England, and they started what is known today as the Methodist Church.

Let me give you a little sideline here. The Wesleys came to America to preach, and they flopped. You know why they flopped? Because they weren't saved. They had come out of an Anglican Church, the Church of England, which taught baptism for salvation. The Lutheran Church always taught baptism for salvation. The Presbyterian Church teaches baptism for salvation, and the Methodist Church does today. Where do they get that from? Rome. All roads lead to Rome when you follow the landmarks.

So you have Wesley coming over to America when some great things were happening in America, and he flopped. He is going back to England, and he is in great despair, and he is laying, he is over there looking over the rail of the ship with a wave going up and down, and he is thinking to himself, "What a failure I have been, and what a waste of trip this was." In 1738, going back to England, he met a guy by the name of Peter Böhler. Peter Böhler was a Moravian missionary. The Moravian missionaries come from the Waldensians, right on the line where you and I come from. He starts talking to Wesley, and Wesley talks to him and confides to him how he is messed up and how it isn't working, and that old Moravian missionary, who nobody knows his name, won Wesley to Christ on that boat. Right on the line, right on the line. He couldn't find

salvation in the Church of England. He couldn't find it in the Roman Catholic Church. He couldn't find it in the Lutheran Church. He couldn't find it in the Presbyterian Church. He couldn't find it in the Methodist Church. He had to find it from our line, a Moravian.

III. The Four Stages of History and American Cults

Now then, we have the American cults. They will be the cults that pop up in America from 1700 to 1900. There is a science to this that I want you to understand here. All history goes through four stages. If you look at history, you want to look at it in that light, and you will find all history is in one of these four stages. It's just the way it is.

14. It starts out with a man.
15. It goes to a movement.
16. It moves to a machine.
17. It winds up a monument.

Everything in this world started with a man. That man brought about a movement. As long as history starts with a man and stays with a movement, it's good. It's when it moves into the slick machine where everything has to be fast-tracked, where everything is orchestrated and made to happen, that it dies and turns into a monument.

I will give you some examples. You take the Salvation Army. Salvation Army at its start with William Booth was one of the greatest organizations for winning people to Christ that you ever saw in your life. It truly earned the name the Salvation Army because they preached the salvation of Jesus Christ through the blood of Christ and won thousands and thousands to Christ. What happened was, after the old man's death, things started to move along. They left the movement, went into a machine, and now today it's a monument. It's a social organization today; there is no salvation preached. If William Booth came back from the dead and walked through the first Salvation Army church, he would have a heart attack before he got past the first ashtray. Totally gone. There is no salvation; they don't even talk about God or the Bible. It's a social organization; that's where it went.

You take the Lutheran Church. It started with a man, Martin Luther. Martin Luther was a saved man. He was a Roman Catholic priest, and he read in the Bible, "The just shall live by faith," and he got saved. So he broke from the Roman Catholic Church. He not only started the Lutheran Church, but he knew that the Catholic Bible was no good, so he translated off the text that your King James Bible comes from, Martin Luther's German translation. He was doing good, but after his death, it went from a man to a movement, then it went into a machine, and today it's a monument. Today, they are all going back to the Roman Catholic Church.

Take America. This country was founded on the Word of God. When Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence and he brought it back, the first draft, they said, "There's not enough references to God here. We as a nation can never forget what God has done for us," and sent it back, and he had to put it in four times. You know what happened to America? It started with the Bible, went to a movement, Christianity went into a machine, all the political stuff, and today it's a monument. We have done exactly what our founding fathers told Thomas Jefferson

we could never do: we forgot what God has done for us. That's why we are a monument. All history goes that way.

I say that to say this: when God founded America and had the Pilgrims come over in their Plymouth, when God founded America, God began a movement in America that was going to last for the next couple hundred years. Here's a great principle you want to learn about God and you and this country or any country: if God does not keep injecting Himself into a nation, if God does not keep injecting Himself into an individual, that individual will move past the man and the movement where he should stay and become a monument.

That's what happened to churches today. Churches today have gotten so big, they have gotten so shiny, they have gotten so sparkly. They started, they were good churches at one time. They started with a man who believed the Bible and had a movement, but then it moved into a machine. It went into all of the fancy stuff. It wasn't enough to come to a place and just have a place where you preach the Word of God. We had to dress the place up so you would feel more comfortable because you are very sophisticated people. That was what we wanted to build everything in the world into the church so you would feel like this is really a neat place. It's the concept that bigger is better.

So it's a thing where we bring in a restaurant, and then we bring in a Starbucks, and we bring in this, we put in a gymnasium, we have a fitness center, we have all these things. All the things that people come, they say, "Wow, look at this church! It's got everything!" It's got everything but the Bible. Because you have all that and done all that, when a guy gets up to preach on Sunday morning, he gets on a pulpit, but he spends 15 minutes on a lame Bible and 45 minutes on "we need money," and then Sunday night, "we need more money," and at the Wednesday night service, "this is going to be the son of money."

So God, through the next 200 years across America, going east from west, which is the movement of the Holy Spirit of God in the Bible, gives us what we call in history seven Great Awakenings. Seven times that the Holy Spirit of God injected Himself into this country. Let me just say this to you: if God does not inject Himself into any country, then that country is going to go downhill. I want to say this to you as a child of God: if God doesn't continually inject Himself into you, you are in trouble. He injects it in you on Sunday morning and Thursday night or whatever night you have at wherever church you go to. That's your injection point. That's where the guy gets up and puts out the Word of God, and you get injected by the Holy Spirit of God or the Word of God. That's why when people have problems, the first thing they do is miss their injections, quit going to church, quit coming here, quit going there. I know you are going to find yourself. You drop the needle of God giving you His injection; you pick up a needle of something else to get that injection. I know how it works. But the bottom line is, if God doesn't keep injecting Himself in a country or us, we are in trouble.

Very quickly, across America for the next 200 years, you have seven Great Awakenings.

18. In 1740, we start to see the adversity. Once this country got established, we start to see the Church of England starting to come in. God sent a Great Awakening under Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards.

19. In the 1800s, in the New York and Pennsylvania Valley, we began to see another great revival because apostasy began to set in.
20. In 1830, we had the Cumberland Gap Revival down in Cumberland, Maryland, and all that area, and again, apostasy had set in.
21. In 1860, during the Civil War, revival broke out with the Southern troops in the South, and apostasy showed up again.
22. In the 1880s, in the Ohio Valley in Illinois, D.L. Moody preached and really made an impact, and God used him as a Great Awakening for this country.
23. The sixth Great Awakening, about 1900 to 1920, was Billy Sunday in the Midwest. Billy Sunday rocked this country, and God through him gave a Great Awakening.
24. The last one was in the 1940s on up to, I'd say, maybe the 60s or the 70s, before it went into a machine and monument. You had the ministry of Billy Graham, and Billy Graham finishes it off, and he does a tremendous job in the early years, and God used him in those early years before his associations went into the machine, into the monument, to really impact this country.

Follow the landmarks. As God's Holy Spirit moved across America to keep them in the Word of God and to keep them where they need to be, the devil raised up seven counterfeit churches. We talked about the European churches; now we are going to talk about the American churches. We are going to talk about the American cults, and I want you to see, going through our thing, "the commandments of men." We are going to look at the landmarks, and these were all prevalent, and you all have to deal with them. We all know somebody that's associated with it, and all we are doing is just going with the landmarks. If you want to find out the truth, just stay with the landmarks. Find out where it is. Find out if it's the Word of God or the commandments of men.

IV. Identifying American Cults by Their Landmarks

As God's Holy Spirit moved across America to keep America in the Book, the devil raised up seven counterfeit churches that have absolutely no landmarks. Let's look at them.

25. What happened in the 1740s, in the 1800s in New England, when the first Great Awakening came? The devil raised up what we know as the Mormon Church. The Mormon Church, sometimes called the RLDS, starts around 1800, 1820, somewhere in there, and it starts with a man, Joseph Smith. A little bit later on, they split, and Brigham Young takes a group. That religion, that group, that church right there started with a man. There was nobody in the history of the world that believed anything that a Mormon believed before Joseph Smith founded it. He is a young guy out there when he finds some angel. That angel gives him some golden plates, and then he gets the Book of Mormon from that, and voila, we have now the Mormon Church. That's the way it works. If I didn't know the Mormon Church was not right and was out of whack by any other way, I know because he believed that the Second Coming of Christ has come to Independence, Missouri. If Christ is coming to Independence, I am out of here, honestly. Years ago, they built that big tower up there, and it's got a big light on it, and I asked the guy, "Why do you?" He said, "This is where the Lord's coming back." I said, "Why the tower and the light?" He says, "That's so the Lord can find it when He comes

- back." I am going to tell you something: my Bible says that my Lord knows the hairs on your head, and in some of your cases, it takes less to count than others. My Bible says that a sparrow falls to the ground, and He doesn't know it, but we have to help Him with a light on a tower so He can find where He is supposed to come back. I will be an Episcopalian if I have a choice in the thing. Landmark: a man, Joseph Smith, goes back to him, 1820, a man.
26. The second Great Awakening in New York and Pennsylvania, and we find another cult group pop up, an American cult as we call them. This will be the 1820s, the 1830s. This will be the Seventh-day Adventist. This group starts with a guy by the name of William Miller and a woman by the name of Ellen White. He was a Baptist minister, got ticked off at the Baptist Church, and said, "I'll start my own church." We had to call him Henry VIII. He broke free, and he started what is known today as the Seventh-day Adventist. Adventist means the coming of Christ, the Advent, Second Coming. In fact, he said that Christ would return on October 22nd, 1844, and he gave that date as when Christ would come. All of his followers sold everything that they had. They went on this little pasture mountain someplace in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, I forget where it was, and they all waited patiently for the Lord to come back. Never came. Never came. The Bible says in Deuteronomy 18:18-22 that's how you know if a prophet is of the Lord or not. Nobody paid any attention to the Bible. They hold that Saturday is the day that they meet, so they don't meet on Sunday, and it doesn't matter that the Bible says that in the New Testament they met the first day of the week, which is Sunday. Of course, nobody on planet Earth before these guys believed anything that they believe. Their landmark: a man. Their teaching from the Bible: absolutely not. They are teaching from the man, the commandments of men.
27. Then the third one, in the Cumberland Gap Revival, took place around 1820, 1830, pops up the Christian Science movement. This will be by Mary Baker Eddy. She writes a book a little later on called *Science and Health*. This is our first interesting church because this is a metaphysical church. This is one that says that everything that's wrong with you is in your mind. Of course, they say that all sickness or all illnesses are an illusion, and she said that in her book, and they have the, they go to Christian Science reading rooms, and they have them all over the place, and it's all a spiritual thing. Landmark: a woman, 1820. Nobody ever believed anything that they believe before she shows up.
28. 1860, the Civil War, the great revival in the South. The counterfeit church that pops up is the Church of Christ. These are American cults. These are cults that pop up in America that are absolutely ridiculously stupid, and it only plays on the people who get in them because they are dumber than the people who put it together, because all you have to do is have the landmarks and see. Why would you join a church that was nowhere in history before the middle of the 1800s and think that it was the true church? We are going to get there in a minute. Church of Christ. The Church of Christ started by Alexander Campbell. A little bit later on, after he dies, a guy by the name of Barton Stone. It starts in Kentucky, right where the revival takes place. Alexander Campbell was associated with the Baptist Church, and then he got ticked off and he pulled a Henry VIII, and started his own church. No landmarks. The landmark goes back to two men. Nothing in the Bible, two men.
29. Then the fifth one, 1880, the Ohio Valley Great Awakening, and of course, this was under the preaching of D.L. Moody. At this point in time, about 1860, we find the Jehovah's Witnesses

popping up. The Jehovah's Witnesses pop up with Charles Russell, and then after he dies, about 1916, Judge Rutherford takes it. Of course, they don't believe that Jesus Christ was God. They believe in baptism for salvation. They don't believe anything. They believe they are going through the tribulation right now. They believe that Christ is not coming back. That's where they are at. Landmark roots: a man, two men in particular.

30. Then the sixth one, in 1919-1920, when Billy Sunday is preaching the fire out of the country, we found in 1889, Unity popped up, who has their headquarters out here in Lee's Summit. That was started by Charles Fillmore and Emily Cady. Again, it's a thing where during also this time, we saw around the turn of the century, neo-evangelism and neo-orthodoxy came in. Neo-evangelism was set up to take the Bible out of your hand and put it back in education. Neo-orthodoxy is the teaching that we as Christians evolve with the world. We accept the world. We don't have a standard. We have an evolving Bible that keeps getting better. If society says that this is okay when the Bible says it's wrong, if society accepts it, we change the Bible and the message to fit to it. That's where that one goes.
31. The seventh one, in 1940, started with Billy Graham on the West Coast, and along with that, the devil countered what we all know and love as the Charismatic movement, which starts around 1900, develops itself in the 20s up to the Full Christian Businessmen Association or the Full Gospel Businessmen Association of the 1940s. It starts in California in about 1920 at the Azusa Street Mission. It starts also about the same time in Topeka, Kansas, at the Bethel Bible Church. The founder of the Charismatic movement is Amy McPherson, a woman. A while back, when we talked about this, it's been a while back, one of the guys that was in our church, he's no longer here, he moved back home out in Craig, he bought me a 1942 page of newspaper on the death of Amy McPherson, and it went through her whole life history and talked about all the lawsuits she had against her, how she left her husband and ran off with a piano player. What a way to start your church!

V. Common Characteristics of Counterfeit Churches

Those are the main ones. Here's how you spot them along with the landmarks. The Bible says in Revelation 17:5 that "Mystery Babylon, the mother of harlots." I told you all roads are going to lead to Rome. All false teachings, all false religions will have their roots back to the Roman Empire, either pagan or papal. Remember that. You don't look at a church itself or what it's called; you look at what they believe, you look at what they teach. Every one of those American cults will bear the marks of the characteristics of the Roman Catholic Church because fundamentally, they all come from them.

Let me show you what I mean. Seven ways that they don't look like it, and at face value they don't, but when you look at it and you see it and you study it, they all have the same traits.

32. They all believe and teach that their church is the only true church. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that. Every American cult teaches that. A Jehovah's Witness will tell you there's no salvation outside their church. So will the Church of Christ. So will a Mormon.
33. The second thing: they all teach baptism for salvation, just like the Roman Catholic Church does.

34. The third thing is they all have to replace the Word of God with something else to keep it going. The Roman Catholic Church does the Apocrypha. The Mormons do the Book of Mormon. The Jehovah's Witnesses do the New World Translation. Everybody does that because if you took the Bible and tried to propagate that church, it would fall on its face because the Bible won't support it. So, if you have to write another Bible to support what we believe, we are in trouble. We will just take the one God wrote, and we will find ourselves there.
35. They all believe that salvation is only with their church.
36. They all claim that they take the place of the Jews, that God is done with the nation of Israel, and they now have become the new Jews.
37. Every one of them will not match up to any of the landmarks found anywhere in the Bible.
38. Every one of them will start with a man, and every one of them will have an absence of 1800 years in history. But nobody pays attention to history anymore.

I know that whether you are a Roman Catholic and you believe in baptism for salvation, or you are a Jehovah's Witness and you believe in baptism for salvation, I know the end result for both people is the lake of fire. I get that. You cannot get to heaven by being baptized, no matter what you are. But I have to tell you, you look at the American cults that I just listed, the seven of them, their history only goes back 200 years and starts with a man. You look at the Roman Catholic; at least it goes back 1500 years.

I don't know what it's like when a man dies and goes to hell. I know it's a terrible tragedy, and I am not making light of it in any way, but I want to make my point here. If you are a Roman Catholic and you died and went to hell, you at least could maintain some respectability. You were in a church that was around for 1500 years. I mean, you are still in hell, I get it, but at least you can say, "Well, my church was around for 1500 years." Somebody could say, "Yeah, I got that." I can't imagine a guy going into hell as a Jehovah's Witness. I mean, it would be like going to hell in a Cadillac versus going to hell in a VW bus with the engine stolen; they have to push you over.

How anybody could believe anything that only goes back a hundred, two hundred years, and then you have a gap of 1800 years that nobody on the planet, nobody in history could ever, ever believed anything, and suddenly a man shows up in 1820, 1830, 1840, and he says, "I got the truth." You are kidding me. You are kidding me.

Psalms 127:1

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:

In dealing with the American cults, Christians always make a fatal mistake. They always do. Most Christians have no understanding of their own roots, let alone the other roots to deal with them, and it always doesn't work well.

VI. The Secret Weapon: Challenging Historical Credibility

What I am about to tell you here is a secret weapon. This is my secret weapon. Where Eric Brom developed the atom bomb, I developed this. Mine is more destructive than his. All the American

cults are trained to deal with you in the Bible. They have classes on it. That's why when they go door to door and you see them walking down the street, they have been trained. They don't put them out on the street until they have been trained. They know who we are as Baptists. They know what we believe. They go through elaborate classes, all of them: Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Church of Christ, all of them go through enormous classes being taught what the Baptists believe so that when you come up against these Baptists, you can defeat them. They have been trained to deal with us, to know the verses that you are going to say to them before they say it. They know what they are going to believe and they are going to say, and they know what you are going to say back, and they have already got their answer, and you fall right into the trap.

When you are in a war, in combat, and you have a very hard objective that you have got to take, a frontal assault is never a good idea. You never attack your enemy on his strong front. You look for him to look where he least expects you. You find a weak spot, a place that he leaves undefended, and then you will put up a false attack to the front; that's called a diversion. Then you will sneak around and come into the weak spot, and you will kill him.

The Bible says in Ephesians 6:12 that we are in a warfare. You are going to find that most Christians today are not warriors; they are whiners. They whine about everything. But it's the same with the American cults. When they come to your door or you confront them, I know you have got your list of verses here, and you are so happy because you are going to whack them. You are not going to whack anybody; they are going to whack you.

The Jehovah's Witness is going to knock on your door, and you are going to say, "Well, there is a hell." And he is going to say, "The Greek word for hell is Sheol. There's no word in hell." And you are going to say, "Yeah, but there is a hell." And he is going to say, "Yeah, but it's not found in the Bible. That's a mistranslation in my Bible." And you are going to say, "Yeah, but..." You are not going to know what you are talking about because he knows where you are going to go before you even go there, and he has got you covered. So this frontal assault is like standing up in front of nine German pillboxes and saying, "Shoot me now."

I have to say this: when it comes to the Catholics, the Presbyterians, the Episcopalians, and the Anglicans, and the Lutherans, this really doesn't apply. They are an exception to this rule that I am about to give you because they don't know anything about the Bible. In fact, the Catholic Church tells their people not to read the Bible. They will tell you what the Bible says, and the reason they do that is because the Catholic priests know that if you get into the Bible like Martin Luther did and you read the Bible, you will get saved. Somebody said one time, the greatest book against the Catholic Church wasn't written by a man; it was written by God. It's the Bible, because you can't find anything in any belief. That's how Martin Luther got saved. So you are going to deal with those groups; they don't know anything about what they believe. Most Catholics don't even know what they believe. Most Lutherans don't even. "I'm a Lutheran because my mama was a Lutheran. I'm an Episcopalian because this. I'm an Anglican because I can't say Episcopalian." It just goes that way. But when it comes to the American cult, you have your hands full.

Let me give you the weapon. Listen to me very carefully. All fake, counterfeit churches, cults, the American cults, fundamentally lack one thing. They lack one thing because they are latecomers, middle 1800s, have no roots, have no landmarks, and they are not real, and they are phony and they are counterfeit. They desire more than anything else credibility. They want you to recognize them as a legit contender. When you foolishly go up against them with a Bible and debate them verse by verse, then they come away with a sense of credibility. They think because you opened up your Bible as a Baptist and debated them in the Bible that they are now on an equal level with you, and you have just given them the number one thing that they desire and want, and that is legitimacy and credibility.

You have to deny them that. You have to hit them where they are not expecting you to hit them. You have to strip them of their credibility. You have to make them look stupid. I know, I know, I can see it now, I can hear it now, "Boy, Bob just doesn't have the love of Christ." Yeah, I do have the love of Christ. I do. I honestly do. But you fail to read your Bible over there in 1 Kings chapter 18 when Elijah went up against the Jehovah's Witnesses of the Old Testament. Did you see what he did?

He said, "Let's have a test. You build your altar, I'll build my altar, and let's find out who's God is God. You call your God down to bring fire on the altar; I'll call my God down to bring fire on my altar, and we'll just settle this. Let's find out who's God. You say you're the true church; you say God is your God. I say He's mine. Let's cut the debate. Let's just find out who's who. So you go first."

So all these prophets of Baal, they get their altar up there, and they start crying to their God for fire. "Oh, send us fire! Give us fire! Give us the baptism of the fire! Give us the fire! Give us everything! Bring the fire down!" And they are dancing around over there, and Elijah is standing there watching them, saying, "Having a little trouble, guys? Are you having a rough time, isn't it?" But then the Bible says they got serious. They started cutting themselves. They started macerating themselves, cutting themselves, trying to get their God to appease them, and they are going and they are going all day long, and they are waiting at high noon when you have the Roman Catholic high mass that they are going nuts. They are cutting themselves, they are praying, they are jumping.

Old Elijah, he's over there, and he's saying, "Hmm, what happened to your God? Maybe he's sleeping." What a non-Christian thing to say! "Maybe he's on a far journey." I don't like the new translations at all, but one time in one verse in a Living Bible that I love, when it's in 1 Kings 18, where they kind of re-put it into a modern, and where I just said in my King James Bible says, "I wonder if you're on a great journey and he can't hear you. I wonder if he's asleep." In a Living Bible, it says, "Maybe he's sitting on a toilet." That's what it says in a Living Bible. Don't look at me like that; go get one, read it. I didn't write it.

He ridicules them, and then you know what he does? He does the most ultimate ridicule possible. When they can't get theirs done, he says, "All right, boys, my turn for my God." And he says, "Bring you some water," and he dumps the sacrifice, dumps all it with water. "Bring another bucket." He dumps the water on it again and again and again. He saturates it with water. Then he,

so it would be hard for anybody to light a fire. Then he stands back, and he says, "Okay, God, show them who's God." And that fire comes down. It burns up the sacrifice. It burns up the wood, and it burns up the stones. You know why? Because God's sacrifice is always a complete sacrifice. And as Jehovah's Witnesses, the Baal worship, their God never showed up. So that's how you have to deal with them.

So when I say what I just said about you have to strip them of their credibility, you have to make them look like a fool. That's the only way you can reach them. Elijah knew that. You do that by slamming them down through history, the fact that there are no landmarks.

Let me give you an example. Here it is. I am you. Jehovah's Witnesses are talking to me. Mormons are talking to me. Church of Christ. They are telling me they are the only true church. Here's what I would say: "Oh, I see, you're the only true church. Really? I'll tell you what, I know you're out here trying to find converts. You answer me one question, and I'll quit being a Baptist. I'll go with you right now. I'll go back to your Kingdom Hall, go back to your temple, or wherever you want to go. I'll renounce everything. You can baptize me as a Jehovah's Witness or a Mormon. I'll go through the whole nine yards because all I want is the truth. All you have to do for me to do that is just to answer one question: Where was your church in 1400? Where was your church in 1500? Where was your church in 1600?"

"I'll tell you what, let's play a game. I'll give you 50 names of guys who believed what I believe down through history. I'll give you 50 for every one of yours. I'll give you Martin Luther. I'll give you a Savonarola. I'll give you a Peter Turnus. I'll give you a Jonathan Edwards. I'll give you George Whitefield. I'll give you John Clark. I'll give you Roger Williams. I'll give you John Huss. I'll give you John Christensen. I'll give you Peter Cartwright. I'll give you Menno Simons. On and on and on. You go 50 of them. I just gave you 50. All I want from you is one. Just one. I don't need five. I don't need four. For every guy you gave me who believed what you believe in 1400, 1500, and 1600, I just want one. You're telling me you're the only true church. You're telling me that salvation is only through you. I want salvation, but I want to know you're the true truth. Where were you in history?"

Now what he'll try to do to you, what they always try to do, he'll try to pull you off subject. He'll say, "Well, what do you think about hell?" And I say, "You idiot, I think you're going to go to hell if you don't get saved, but put that aside right now. Tell me, don't pull me off. I am not speaking to you about the Bible till you show me your roots and your credibility that you have some history. Otherwise, you're just a cheap imitation, two-cent cult."

"He'll say, 'Well, what about Acts 2:38?' I'll say, 'What about 1400, 1500, and 1600?' 'Well, what about Luke chapter 16 and Mark chapter 16? What do you think about that?' I said, 'I think you're nowhere in history, and you know it, and you're scared to death, and you can't prove anything, so you're trying to pull me off. So let's forget the Bible right now. I want to be whatever the truth is, and if that's you, I'm in. You just got to answer one question. Why have you been answering questions to a stupid Baptist all morning? Why can't you answer this stupid Baptist just one question? Where were you in 1500 when Martin Luther and the Holy Spirit of God was shaking the world through the Reformation in Europe? Where were you in the great Philadelphia Church

Age when three-quarters of the world were saving knowledge of Jesus Christ based on what I believe in the Bible I have? Where were you? Come on, how stupid are you? How stupid do I have 'stupid' written across my forehead? You're trying to tell me you're the only true church, and for 1800 years, the world was without any salvation, any truth, because your church didn't exist. It wasn't till your guy showed up and decided to make up his own church, and everybody from everybody from the Book of Acts up to 1820 or 30 or 40 died and went to hell because there was no truth. And then what, in 1820, with your guy, God finally said, 'Let's send the world salvation'? I mean, give me a break!"

There wasn't one person on planet Earth that believed one of those things. There wasn't a Jehovah's Witness before Russell and Rutherford up to 1860 believed anything on Earth that you believe. There wasn't any place in history before Joseph Smith in 1820 anybody on planet Earth and the world believed what the Mormons believe. The Church of Christ crowd, there was nobody. I mean, and no nation, and no country, and no cracker, no crevice of the known world that believed anything until Alexander Campbell, your man, decided to make it true. Not one person on planet Earth thought, not one person on planet Earth believed, not one person on planet Earth had a church that had anything to do with the Seventh-day Adventists before William Miller and Ellen White showed up in the 1830s. Nowhere. Nowhere.

I'll tell you what, I'll give you 10 million dollars in cash, don't have to report to the IRS, 10 million dollars, if you show me one church, one pastor, one man who believed what you believe before 1800. I've actually said that many times. One of them scoffed and said, "Oh, come on now, you couldn't get that much money." I said, "You know what, bugwit, I could get the money together before you could find a guy, because he ain't in history nowhere. Nowhere." Happy Easter.

There was never a Unity Church anywhere in the universe before 1889 with Charles Fillmore and Emily Cady. Nowhere. There wasn't one charismatic, Pentecostal, Church of God, tongue-speaking, tent revival, healing person anywhere on planet Earth when the great missionaries through the Philadelphia Church Age went out to Africa and India and all of the places where the Gospel went. 95 percent of the missionaries were medical doctors.

I used to watch Jimmy Swaggart. The stupid people sending in millions and millions of dollars, and he was talking about God healing, God's perfect healing. I'd watch him up there, and he'd say, "God will heal you, send for the prayer cloth, God will heal you." And I want to read you a scripture, and then he put his glasses on. Well, if God could heal you and you have bad eyes, what do you need glasses for? If He heals, and there are stupid people out there sending, "Write a check, honey, write a check, let's get it to him. Oh, I want one of those prayer cloths."

Oral Roberts, he put himself in a tower one time and said, "I'm not coming down, and I'll die up here in this tower unless the people out there send me 10 million dollars because I want to reach the world with the Gospel." He wasn't in that tower a week. Shoot, he'd still be there if it was up to me. I'd lock the door, weld the hinges shut. He never got out. He said, "I need 10 million dollars." He said, "I have come to God, and God has told me to lock yourself in this tower, and I will not come out until God touches your heart." And God's people just, "Write a check, honey,

write a check, or write a big check, or that ain't big enough, write a bigger one. We can't let him die."

One of the greatest healers on the planet. He had things where you had a disease, they healed you, and people looked at that and believed that. Oral Roberts University was a medical university; it trained doctors, not faith healers. I've seen those guys. I've said, "Hey, can you heal? Absolutely. Good, let's go to Children's Mercy. What are you doing in here in this sawdust tent while you're just getting nickels and dimes with these people that don't have any money? You want some big bucks, bozo? Come with me. If Mom and Dad down at Children's Mercy will pay if you heal their little kid of cancer, well, they'll give you everything you want. What are you doing wasting your time here when you can walk through those halls? You'd have your picture on every newspaper. You'd be on Oprah. You'd be everywhere. I mean, you would have the greatest, if you just, just, just..." But they won't. It's always in a tent. It's always with supper. When you get done, you rush them off. You know why? Because it isn't true. Landmarks, landmarks, landmarks.

Kathryn Kuhlman was one of the greatest faith healers back in the 60s and 70s. She died. She was one of the greatest faith healers you had to hear on the radio, and she sounded, oh boy. When she had a heart attack, they wasted no time getting her to a hospital. There wasn't one charismatic anywhere in the history of the universe before 1900. Just for the record, there wasn't one neo-evangelical or neo-orthodox either till 1890 to 1910. It was brought into existence by the Jesuits of the Roman Catholic Church, but that's another message.

They existed because God's people were orphans. They don't know. They don't have any landmarks to trust anything. They themselves don't know what they believe. Why would they know what anybody else believes? The reason is no landmarks. You don't have the ability to separate the real from the phony, so you just get confused with it all.

VII. The Bible as the Ultimate Landmark

What I did today is show you how to take the landmarks and use it clearly to find out if it's the Word of God or the Word of God is made of none effect by the commandments of men, and you can't argue with it. It's so easy. People say, "Well, I just don't get it, all the churches out there, it's so..." It's not confusing. It's only confusing because you're trying to wade through it without a flashlight. This is what I call a working knowledge of the Scriptures.

I don't care what it is in your life, what the subject is. It can be history. It can be a church. It can be your own personal life. It can be your marriage. It can be your family. Whatever the key will always be finding the landmark principles of the Bible that will simplify the process, and whatever your issue is in life, it will make it workable and make it understandable and make it fixable. The Bible is the truth of God's Word, and with it will be the guide to everything in life that you and I want.

That's why the number one goal of the devil, but here's another thing, the number one goal of the devil is to take the Word of God from you. The number one goal of God's church is to get the Bible to you. It's just that simple. Happy Easter.

They will tell you, "Well, you don't have a final authority." I'll tell you, "Yes, you do." They will tell you, "Well, the Bible is full of mistakes." I will tell you, "No, it isn't." They will tell you, "Well, you got to have the Greek and the Hebrew." I will tell you, "No, you don't." They'll tell you that the Bible contains the Word of God, but I will tell you the Bible is the Word of God. They'll tell you that you find God through education. I'll tell you, you find God by being dumber than a stump.

You always mark the devil's crowd, saved or lost, by just one thing: they want to destroy your faith in a Book and take it from you. You always can tell God's true church by one thing: you get the Bible, you keep the Bible, and the Bible becomes the most precious thing in your life. They cannot stand you having an absolute perfect Bible that you don't have to get your information from them.

Let me tell you something: I may teach you the Bible and bring you along, but I expect every one of you a time in your life when you will stand on your own, that you won't need to read anybody's books, you won't need to hear anybody's sermons, though there's nothing wrong with it. You'll be able to figure it out for yourself, stand on your own, and that Bible becomes your personal guidebook through everything in life, whether it be history, whether it be your life, whether it be your family, whether it be your kids, whether it be your marriage, no matter what. It will get you through.

The whole Christian world stands to try to take it from you, and there are churches out there that are on the line with the landmarks that weren't started by a man but started by God's man, Paul, in Acts chapter 11, where they were first called Christians in Antioch. They don't want to give it to you. You have to decide which one you are going to put yourself in. You are either going to put yourself under the influence of the ones that want to take it from you and tell you you can't trust it, or you want to put yourself under these influences of somebody that says it's the only thing in this world and it's the only thing you can trust.

So there's your Easter message, a good fitting to the last two weeks, and I showed you how the landmarks work, how you use them. You just use them. You look at that thing and you find out, are they on the line of the landmarks? Find out if God started it. "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it," or did man build it? That's where you go.