

## I. The Importance of Resting in God

Last week, I gave you one of what I think is probably the greatest places in the Bible that talks about one of the elusive aspects of being a Christian. I don't think that when Paul probably wrote his Epistles and he was dealing with the church, he ever thought that we would get to the point where we are today in Christianity, where resting in God is such a foreign concept.

If there is any place that will be our weakness and will be the gateway or the entry level to our demise as a child of God, it will be when we cannot have the ability to rest in what Christ has done for us and who we are in Him. One of the reasons why we do Discipleship One is to give you a foundation of not only Christ and salvation and everything that goes along with it, but to give you a foundation in the basic concept of how to do it. Discipleship Two is really a set of lessons that deals with what really changed about you the day you got saved. We talk about those seven things so you can understand now that you have been through the basic fundamentals, who you really are in Christ. That is so vital to getting to that rest where you can trust Him.

The Bible talks about in Philippians 4:7, the peace that passes all understanding that will keep your hearts and minds. That peace only comes from the rest that we have in God. Isaiah 26:3 talks about the fact that God will keep him in perfect peace, and it goes back to the fact that you trusted the Lord and your mind has stayed on Him. I told you last week how that in Colossians 3:15, the Bible says that the peace of God should rule in your hearts. It comes back to the fact of your trust.

I gave you two amazing verses last week. Proverbs 24 was our verse, and then Psalms 37, which was an addendum to Proverbs 24. What two amazing verses: getting to the place in your life and in my life that you learn to rest in the Lord. I showed you the process. I showed you that first of all, He said, "Fret not because of evildoers." We took that out of the equation. Then I gave you a simple three-point outline that you start by:

1. Trusting in the Lord. Trusting what He has done. Trusting what He says.
2. Delighting yourself. Recognizing what God has really given you and what you have in Him.
3. Committing your way. Quit going your way and start going His way.

When you put those three things in your life and get them working for you, then you have the ability to rest in the Lord. I hope that you took that last week, and I hope that it is a great outline that you can sit down and put through your Bible and really put it into your own life.

## II. The Word of God: Our Greatest Possession

Proverbs 24 has been a great chapter. We have been talking about over the last couple of months out of Proverbs 24 about the greatest possession that we have and that God has given us, and that is the Word of God. It goes without saying, without the Bible, there is no rest.

How in Christianity today, supposedly men of God, supposedly men who call themselves pastors who are standing in pulpits just like I am today, supposedly men of God, pastors, teachers, theologians, want to strip you of that possession and take it from you. The greatest possession God ever gave you. If you would stop and think about it and just ask yourself, "What is the greatest possession God gave you that sets you apart?" Most people would say salvation, but that is not true. The Bible says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. If it was not for a Bible, you would not know anything about salvation. So when you boil it all down, the bottom line is the greatest possession that God ever gave man was the Word of God.

It is hard for me, I would think it would be hard for anybody, but it is hard for me to get my head wrapped around the fact that I know I live in an imperfect world. I know there is nothing in this world that is right, that is perfect, that is good. It is hard for me to grasp the fact that God, who already knows I am living in an imperfect world, would give me an imperfect Bible to try to live in this imperfect world. There has to be a standard of perfect someplace. I know we say, "God is perfect." Well, that is great, but He is sitting at the right hand of God the Father. He is not going to do me any good. How is that going to help me? I will tell you how it helps me, because the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have now the written Word of God, the mind of Christ.

Today in Proverbs, we are going to enter into a new level of truth. I am always looking for things that will help you better understand and put you in a better position to explain. These verses today really explain and expose what is really going on today, and I think in a very practical way. This is not going to be a deep sermon. It is not going to be a theological sermon. It is going to be a very practical sermon based on just some very practical verses that really I think will help you.

Let us look at Proverbs 24:21-23.

*Proverbs 24:21-23*

*My son, fear thou the LORD, and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:  
For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?*

*These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.*

### III. The Problem of Change in Christianity

I do not know any other place in the Bible that really shows us the fundamental problem today with what we all struggle with in Christianity. This church, me as your pastor, as a church, we do not suffer from an identity crisis. We know who we are. Most churches, most Christians, most certainly do. They unbelievably so, they are unsure about everything. They have been taught a bunch of things that they believe, but none of them understand why they believe it. They have been given a set of rules and a bunch of Bible verses and hear a lot of sermons, but they could not go to the Bible themselves and exact out of the Word of God whether what they have been told is truth or not. That is always a dangerous position to be in. As I said, we know who we are. We know where we came from. We know and understand our roots. We know why we believe what we believe.

Before I get into this any farther, and like I said, it is going to be a simple little message today, I want to tell you I do not make an apology to anybody for that. The Bible is the Bible. I am so sorry for you if you live in a Christianity where a perfect God, having you and me live in an imperfect world, could not do anything better but give us an imperfect Bible. I feel sorry for you if that is where you are at.

The name of our church, and I get asked this a lot, the name of our church is Old Path Baptist Church. I like to look at the names of churches. I think it says something. You will have churches that want to suggest some kind of teaching by their name. I understand that. I think that is good. You find some churches that call themselves New Hope Baptist Church. They want you to know that coming to their church, you can find the New Hope. I am good with that. I think that is neat. You have some churches that call themselves Abundant Life Baptist Church, and they want you to go there and hopefully you will find the abundance of life that can only be found in the Lord Jesus. I like that. Some churches call themselves Calvary Baptist Church. I get that. They want to draw the attention to Calvary when Christ died on the cross. I think that is good. You do not find it much around here, but up in New York and New England, a lot of the churches are called First Bible Baptist Church. I like that because they want you to know that first is the Bible, and I think that is good. You will find some churches that call themselves Grace Baptist Church, and they want you to know that that is where grace abounds. You will find some churches that want to add to that and they call their church Grace and Truth Baptist Church. They want you to know that there is grace there, but there is also truth.

I have to tell you, one of my favorites, I think, and I know the pastor, I have not seen him for years, but he was a nice guy, his church was Antioch Baptist Church. I thought that always said something, understanding a little bit about the Bible. My home church came from what was called the Canton Baptist Temple, and you will find that there was a bunch of them: Akron Baptist Temple, Mansfield Baptist Temple, Kansas City Baptist Temple. They were all over the country, and all of those churches, if you know what is going on, you can figure out what is in a name. For years, people have asked me, "Why did all those churches call themselves Canton Baptist Temple, Dayton Baptist Temple?" trying to figure out what Baptist had to do with a temple. I asked Dr. Henniger that before he died years ago when I was still in Ohio, because they were everywhere. He told me, "Well," he says, "when we all split from J. Frank Norris, there were two major churches that J. Frank Norris was operating out of. One of them was in Detroit, Michigan, and the other one was in Texas, Dallas, I believe, or Fort Worth." J. Frank Norris would actually preach at one in the morning, get on a plane, and fly back, and he was pastoring in both churches, and they were huge churches. The big fight and the big split took place, and a bunch of the Bible guys left J. Frank Norris, and Beech and Vic, who was his associate, they got into the big fight. What J. Frank Norris did is he took the church in Texas. Beech and Vic took the church up in Michigan, Detroit, and the name of the church up there was Temple Baptist Church. Now, all the guys who left Norris to go with Beech and Vic, who are the grandfathers of our church here, Wendell Zimmerman, they were all Norris's boys. Henniger was Norris's boy. All of them were. They wanted to set themselves apart from J. Frank Norris down in Texas, so they wanted to associate with Temple Baptist up in Detroit, so they all called their churches

Canton Baptist Temple, the temple associating with up there in Detroit. What is in a name? Churches pick names they want to say something.

The name of our church is Old Path Baptist Church. I did that for a reason. I like the verse. I like what it says, but I always wanted to find out what people really knew about the Bible, because they will say, "Oh, you, what, you pastor? Yeah, what is the name of your church? Old Path Baptist Church." What? If you would say to me the name of your church is Old Path Baptist Church, I would think of Jeremiah 6:16, because I know where it is at in the Bible.

*Jeremiah 6:16*

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

He is telling us that the rest that we are all looking for is found in the old paths. Israel, Jeremiah 6:16, he is writing that to Israel. Israel was told, because of their spiritual condition and all the new things that they were getting into, that if they wanted the rest that God promised them, they had to go back to the old path. That is a good sermon to preach to God's people today. If you want the peace of God that passes all understanding and you want the power of God in your life, I have some good advice for you: quit messing with all this flimsy stuff that is out there today and just get back to the old paths. When I gave you in my list of threes the last couple of Thursday nights, one of them I gave you was the old path based on the old way, based on the old book. That is where we are at. We make no apology for it. You want to make fun of us, you want to laugh about it, you want to sneer at us, just show up on a Thursday night and we will see what you are made of. No problem at all. I will not even do it. I will just put some of my girls on you. They will rip you apart.

The mess that we are in today will be bottom line found in the verse that we want to look at today. One small word that we are warned against in Proverbs 24:21, and that is the word, if you have not guessed it already, the word change. Everything that Christianity has once stood for has been changed today. Very slowly. It was not apparent. It did not all end on a Monday and go into apostasy on a Tuesday. We are talking about decades of a slow process of change.

When I was back in high school in biology class, my biology teacher was talking about physics and all of the things that go on, and he is talking about boiling a frog. He says, "If you want to boil a frog, you do not get in, he is alive, you do not get the water boiling and throw the frog in, he will jump out. What you do is put the frog in a pan of cool water, put him on a burner and slowly turn up the heat, and the frog does not recognize what is happening before he croaks." It has been a very slow process. It was a process that not many people in Christianity ever saw, because the only way you could see it was to be dialed into the Word of God in the first place.

I told you last week that God will always work through an established pattern in everything that He does. God in those patterns, listen to me, they are absolute. They are the only constant in a world of inconsistency. They never change. Hebrews 13:8 says that Jesus Christ is the same today, yesterday, and forever. The patterns that He used were to establish a pattern of truth.

Listen to me, that for you and me, who are living in a world where there is no pattern of truth, could find the way. That way is called the old path.

Let me ask you a question. I know people do not think like this. In 4,000 years of Israel's history with God, in 4,000 years of Israel's history with God, name one time He changed one of those patterns. He did not. You would think that that would mean something to somebody paying attention. But the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, all the religious leaders of Israel, the Bible scholar crowd of Israel, they changed everything that they could to the point that at the first coming of Christ, Israel did not even resemble what they were to be in the Old Testament. Today, they are even worse. I might add that today Christianity, like Israel, has completely changed everything that God gave the church and told them to hold on to as truth.

The church is told not to meddle in this verse. The church, Christianity, has been told not to meddle with those that are given to change. Somebody says, "Who are you?" I am somebody who is not going to change. I believe what the Bible says. I believe it is God's absolute truth. That is all I need. Somebody said one time in a little song, "God said it. I believe it. That settles it for me." People were singing that all around. They thought, "What a great song that is." God said it. I believe it. That settles it for me. The truth of the matter is, God said it. That settles it. It does not matter whether you believe it or not. It is settled. If you want the peace, you have to get on the old path. If you want to be on the old path, you have to quit meddling with the guys who want to change what God established and said He would never change. That is simple, is it not? Is that hard? I mean, I know you all are an intelligent crowd, especially you young people. You are much smarter than me. But if I can get it, why can't other people get it?

I cannot impress upon you enough the importance of an unchanging Bible and an unchanging Christianity in this world. As I said, there is nothing absolute. Society changes, and man will always adjust as society goes and society degenerates. Society does not get better on its own. Society starts at a point and goes down. That is the first and second law of thermodynamics. Things left on themselves degenerate. They do not go up. They go down. We as God's people in every church, probably in this city, we would denounce evolution. We would think that evolution is of the devil. We would think that the very fact that God is not creator and an evolution process brought you, every church, no matter where you are at, you would stand against that. But those same churches would be okay with an evolving Bible, that every two or three years, God has to bring it along and evolve it and make it better because the last one was not as good as the one you just got. Where does that end? I do not know where it ends, but I can tell you where it starts: in a pit of hell with evolution.

You look at our country from 1940 to where we are at today, total change. Everybody with half a brain cell sees the trouble we are in as a nation. I mean, we have got to the point now that Congress and Washington cannot get anything done. I mean, they are trying to get a Supreme Court guy in, and I do not care one way or the other. I just think it is goofy. Here is a guy that all of his public life served the country or whatever, and maybe he is a good guy, I do not know. But they are going to kick him out because of something he did in high school. God help you. That is for you, Troy. Are you kidding me? Thirty, forty years ago, when he was a junior in high school, that takes him out of public service. We are in trouble. The reason we are in trouble is because of

the change, the value system that was instilled in our country by our founding fathers. There were some values that once were held in America, the very concept of God and the Bible.

When the founding fathers asked Thomas Jefferson to do the first draft of the Declaration of Independence, he did. He brought it back. The founding fathers said, "There is only one reference to God in this. We can never as a nation forget what God has done for us, put some more in." He went back and he put a total of four. Do you know what they are? He talked about God as a lawmaker, God as creator, God as supreme judge, and God as a protector. Do you know why we want to take God and trust off our money today? Some things have changed. Somebody said, "All these school shootings, they are so terrible. Get rid of the guns. Get rid of the guns." What is the matter with you? You know what? You took the Bible and prayer out of schools. The guns are going to come in. I mean, come on. You take God and the Word of God out of any society and see what comes in.

Family. Families do not talk anymore. Maybe yours do. Most parents, when their kid goes into a school and shoots up people or they go do something stupid or they kill somebody or they rape somebody or they do something terrible or they doubt, the parent says, "I had no idea he was into that." That is because you have no idea about nothing. Families are destroyed today. Patriotism in our country. I get it. I understand. But Romans 13 says that it is your job and my job to be loyal to the government that God has given to us. We burn American flags. We trample in the streets. We laugh about it. We try to do everything that we can to bring down the government. We have a seated president. I do not know what you think about him. It does not make any difference to me who is president. But what I am telling you is this: there was a time when whoever was president was respected. All they are doing now is both sides want to destroy the very authority that sits at the top of this government, no matter what you think about him. All that comes down to the fact that it has all changed.

During World War II, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the next day, the next day, there were kids quitting their jobs. There were kids lying about their age so they could go. The lines at the recruiting station were blocks long of young men that wanted to fight and serve for their country. A great tragedy that happened at Pearl Harbor. Not today. When I was in the Army and you would go through the airport wearing a uniform, hippies would come up and spit on you. They would wear American flags on their rear end. I always thought that was good because when I needed to kick them, I knew right where to aim. They burned the flag. They burned their draft cards. They went to Canada.

Marriage. Complete breakdown. Divorces today are as numerous as cereal in a grocery store. When I grew up in the 1950s and the 60s, nobody got a divorce. Do you know who got divorced? Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. Nobody got divorced. In the tabloids, the scandal was what movie star was getting a divorce? Normal people did not do it. They did, but I mean, not like today. It was the rare commodity. It was the rare commodity. Do you know why? Because there were some values. People understood that marriage was a commitment. The movie stars and a famous life, I mean, Liz Taylor was married about eight or nine times. We had a girl in our church one time that beat that record, by the way, but she was married eight or nine times. Oh yeah, ten times. Now it has all gone through change. You see, there were some, and there was

a time when there were some values in Christianity that set us apart from all the other goofiness in the world.

Today, if you call yourself a fundamentalist, you are laughed at. I understand that there are some goofy people who hold the term fundamentalist, but the people who laugh, and probably even the people that take the name, do not know where it started. The name fundamentalist started with J. Frank Norris when he broke with the Southern Baptist Convention in the 1920s and 30s and 40s. He started his own Bible Christianity based on a King James 1611 Authorized Version. He gave birth to the fundamental movement because, do you know what his cry was? "Let us get back to the fundamentals." The Southern Baptists were teaching that Genesis and Adam and Eve and the Bible were a myth. They were teaching that salvation was by the blood of Christ. They completely apostatized. He came out of that, and he led us back to the fundamentals, hence the phrase fundamentalist. Today, we have changed the truth that is absolute into a gray mush of uncertainty and phoniness.

Revelation 3:15 tells that the church of Laodicea is neither cold nor hot. It is a lukewarm church. It is not completely dead into apostasy, but it is not on fire and doing the things of God. It is right in the middle. God says, "I hate that." He spewed the angel out of His mouth. The reason for that is found in 1 Corinthians 5:6 and other places in the Bible, because of leaven. Leaven is false doctrine. Leaven is bad teaching. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 5:6, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." That is what has happened. The process is so easy to see once you have a Bible that kind of gets all the smoke blown away. To me, it has always been an amazing thing how the devil pulled all of this off. As I said, it was not an overnight process. It was a 50, 60, 70 year turning up the heat, a little bit of lying until this morning the frog is dead.

#### IV. The Rise of Neo-Evangelicalism and Neo-Orthodoxy

The lesson from history that God's people will never learn. Around 1900, around the 1880s, 1890s, a movement came into being which was called Neo-Evangelicalism. Evangelical means to evangelize, but the neo meant that this was going to be a new evangelism. It was a movement to bring Christianity into an accredited way of thought. In other words, when the devil put this forward, he wanted to get the idea out there that you as a common man could not be trusted with the Bible. It has been called a reconstruction of theology. Simply put, they wanted to take the Bible out of the hands of the common man and put it back into the realm of scholarship. They thought that you and I could not be trusted because of our lack of education. They thought for sure that you and I could not be trusted with the Bible because we are a bunch of dumb Ozark hillbillies. The scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees of the old nation of Israel have come back and resurrected into the form of the Bible scholars today.

During this period of time, it was a neo, new evangelicalism. It was a shift from preaching the Bible to teaching. It was a shift from hard-dying Bible doctrine that had been the established foundation of Christianity, now into a gray mush where nobody really believes anything. The key word here is compromise. Compromise means that you can reach more people. It is not about truth anymore. Now, the number one aspect is getting people saved. But you are in a fruitless

effort if you think you are going to get somebody saved without any truth. They took the Bible from the common man and they put it back into the realm of scholarship.

I would go to Christian school around in Kansas City that would fit the bill, and I am sure there is more than one, would be Calvary Bible College out there in old Richard Gebauer's Air Force base. Calvary has been around for many, many, many years. Calvary Bible College is an absolute cesspool. There is not one stick of truth any place in the place. They are completely gone of any truth whatsoever. It is rife with Calvinism, predestination. There is no truth in it. They all go the same way.

The kind of neo-evangelical churches that you will find today just show you, and next time you are driving down the street, just pay attention. Look at the church marquees. Look at the names. They will not have any denominational affiliation on their name. It will be Grace Church, Community Church, Berean Church, Village Church, Harvest Church, a Bible Church, an outreach center, First Family Church, Community Family Center. Great. I had to drive for 20 miles to pick this up yesterday. It is all non-denominational. They stand for nothing. There is absolutely nothing.

Billy Graham is the greatest example of this, and I am not knocking Billy Graham any way, shape, or form. I am just straightening the facts. Billy Graham started out as a Baptist. He wound up as a neo-evangelical. If you get some of his old tapes back in the 40s, late 40s, he is preaching in Madison Square Garden in New York. He is preaching the hell out of them. His hair is all sweaty, stringing all over the place. He is sweating through his suits. He has got to have a thing to wipe his face off, and he is giving it to them. He is preaching hell so hot that they could feel the heat. But when he winds up after the neo-evangelical gets through with him, he does not believe there is a hell anymore, and now believes that the Muslims are all going to heaven. He called Pope John the greatest Christian that ever lived. Once you lose your doctrine, you have no moorings of where you go.

In 1994, they had what they called the Catholic Evangelical Accord. In 1994, not that many years ago, in 1994, they got together and had a Catholic Evangelical Accord. It was all of the head Catholics and all of the neo-evangelical crowd coming together to decide how they were going to win people to Christ in the third millennium. All the neo-evangelical guys, a lot of the pastors that you are connected with in your church, if you are listening to this, all signed that accord. They signed an accord with the devil's church. They signed an accord with a church that believes that they are the only true church, and that church in the Council of Trent in 1500 put out over 200 anathemas, that is curses, against people just like that, and they never were rescinded. If you pushed to come to shove any Jesuit, any priest about these other neo-evangelical churches coming in, could they go to heaven? Their stand would still be the same. You cannot go to heaven without being a Roman Catholic. Yet, your church, your group, your people, signed that concordance and aligned with the Roman Catholic Church. Then you get upset with me, some of you idiots, you get upset with me because I tell you the NIV is the devil's Bible. When your church signed a concordance with the devil's church. Now, how long again when you were born were you without oxygen?

This is why so many Baptist churches that once stood for the truth are now taking Baptist off their name. There were many, many churches that once held the truth and preached the truth and do not preach it anymore. They have all went that evangelical crowd, that neo-evangelical crowd, so they take Baptist off their name. They think they are doing that because they are going to reach more people. They think they are doing that because they do not want to be associated with the Baptist. Now, I am the first one to tell you there are some screwy Baptists. They do not want to be associated with that. I do not have a problem with that because somebody says, "Are you a Baptist?" And I said, "I am a Baptist with an explanation." I explained to them what kind of Baptist I am. I am not a crazy Baptist. I am a Bible-believing Baptist. I will never take Baptist off the name of this church no matter what all the crazy other Baptists do, because at the end of the day, the Baptist church was the only true church that came out of the Reformation. The word Baptist, we are the only group in the history of Christianity that got our name from the greatest enemy of Christianity, the Roman Catholic Church, which you signed a concordance with after you took Baptist off your name. We got the name Baptist because we were against baptizing babies for salvation, and we were against baptism at generation for salvation. So they called us Anabaptists, against children baptism. Then they called us Anabaptists, and then they just got tired of saying it so long they just said Baptist. Somebody said, "Man, where do you find stuff like that? It is a conspiracy. They hide it in books."

Around the same time, there was what we call the birth of neo-orthodoxy. The word orthodoxy means sound in the faith. Sound in Bible doctrine. Ah, but this is neo-orthodoxy. The new orthodoxy. It found its roots in the midst of religious liberalism. Their mindset is that they change the Bible, they change the message to accept everybody. Everybody is God's child. There is no sin. There is no hell. There is no judgment. Man is okay, and God will change His standard and bring it down to man so man will now accept it while God accepts whatever man is doing. Of course, no literal return of Christ. They are either all millennial or post-millennial. As society goes, so goes the church. This is why you have them today bringing in gays and lesbians into the church, and it is okay. They are pastors. This is where the women pastors come in, and most of them are lesbians. This is why they probably make good preachers because they hate men, and boy, they could give it to you in the pulpit. They all teach baptism for salvation. This is where the social gospel gets preached. This is where all of the liberals and all of these churches are all connected to the political agenda. It was a move to destroy any and all truth in the church and bring it into a worldly system.

Now you want an example in Kansas City that does this? It would be the Kansas City Bible College downtown and probably Midwest Seminary too. They are totally apostate. They do not believe anything. It is all psychology, and your churches that believe this would be your Methodist churches, your Lutheran churches, your Presbyterian churches, your Anglican churches, your Free Evangelical churches, your Episcopalian churches, your Greek Orthodox, and of course, Church of Christ, not churches, but the Church of Christ, and of course, Unity. These are called Protestant churches. They are called Protestant churches because they protested and came out of the Reformation, so they are called Protestants. They came out of Rome, and now they have all went back to Rome. I did not come out of Rome. I am not going back to Rome. Do you know why? I am not going to change. I am who I am. I am what I am, and the

fact that you can trace your roots back to Rome, boy, I can trace my roots a lot farther than that, and my roots are better than yours.

## V. The Charismatic Movement and Its Impact

Then the third satanic organization, and I want to underline the word satanic, was the Charismatic Movement. It starts around 1900 out in Los Angeles in the Azusa Street Mission and over in Topeka, Kansas. This is the final bullet in the head of Christianity and the church of Jesus Christ. These three working together, combining together, overwhelmed Christianity and the attraction to scholarship, the attraction to a pastor learning Greek and Hebrew, a language that his people do not know so he can stand in the pulpit and hold that over you. That little thing that he can hold over your head that whatever you say, he can always twist the Greek word out another way to prove you are wrong. Every pastor ought to not be any smarter than his people, and he ought to lay it out to the people, and they ought to get as good as he is in the Bible. Do you know why? So you can keep him accountable. If he keeps you accountable with the Word of God, you ought to be able to keep him accountable. But you see, when you have that Greek and the Hebrew, and some little Ozark hillbilly raises his hand and says, "Well, I do not think that is correct. My granddaddy told me out of the Bible," and he says, "Well, your granddaddy was wrong because the Greek word there is ex-ak-in-el-ana, and it means that it means usah-ina," and if you do not have those words, and the guy looks up and he says, "Wow, my granddaddy never talks like that. That is why you listen to me instead of your granddad. Did your granddad go to school?" "Well, he just graduated when he was in the third grade. He had to work on the farm." "I have got two Kern PhDs." "Wow. I guess you really know what you are talking about. I do. I will listen to you." No, listen to your granddaddy, because at the end of the day, your granddaddy was right. He is in heaven, and this guy is going to wind up in a lake of fire. Do not meddle with them that are given to change. I have no use for it at all.

The Charismatic movement has absolutely no doctrine, no Bible, no nothing. It is the biggest joke in 6,000 years of history. Their churches are IHOP. Whatever that means. International help. Whatever it means. Pentecostal churches. Foursquare churches. 700 Club. PTL Club. Jim Bakker. All these guys get up there, and all these guys, they have no Bible. They have no doctrine. Everything is based on something that was given to the nation of Israel. Of course, the college here in town for that would be IHOP. Go to the other one and get pancakes. Do not go to that one. They have fake healing and fake tongues. All stolen from the nation of Israel, tried to be put into the church. I am not going to go through it. I wrote a book on it, The Charismatic Movement. I get it. Give it to your friends. It will cure them or kill them. I guarantee you.

These three cult groups have taken over Bible, New Testament Christianity over the course of the last 100 years and have affected the change. These three have destroyed the fundamental truth of everything that God gave us. They changed everything. They have done for Christianity what the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees did to the nation of Israel. You can just, I mean, five major areas of change.

4. Change of music. We sing the old hymns of the faith found in that book right here called Great Hymns of the Faith. If you look at the dates of those, 99% of them are written during

the Philadelphia church age when the Bible was premier. Now, I am not against new songs. I think that you guys sing new songs, and it is good, and I like that. But you know what? When you have to go to a church, and if you close your eyes, you could be in a nightclub someplace, you are in trouble. Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." It starts in your heart, and then what is in your heart comes out.

5. Change in preaching. The greatest definitive chapter of what a preacher ought to be is Jeremiah 1, when God sent Jeremiah to the nation of Israel. He told him to root out, to pull down, to destroy, and to throw down. That is preaching. You will not hear that today in any neo-evangelical church and in most Baptist churches. They will not root out anything. They will not pull down nothing. They will not destroy anything. They will not throw down anything. Because of that, they cannot build and plant. That is why I will go on record as saying this: most of these guys in these neo-evangelical churches or the churches that took Baptist off their name, they have great crowds. But you know what? I will say one thing. I would put any one of you guys up against any five of them when it comes to the Bible. Do you know why? Because they have never rooted out anything. They never pulled down anything. Shoot, they still social drink. They still do all the things they want to do. They brought in psychology and got rid of the Bible. Are you kidding me?
6. Change in the church. If you want to find out what a New Testament church should be, you want to go to Ephesians 20 and you want to go to Acts 12 and 13. You will find in Ephesians 20 the six things that a church should be doing. That is the last church that Paul goes to before he goes to Jerusalem. When he leaves them, it is a terrible emotional time, and he charges them with six things that they are not to change. You want to go to the beginning? Acts 12 and 13, there is a church of Antioch. There are seven things that they are doing, and we are never to change those things.
7. Change in the importance of doctrine. Second Timothy 3:16 said doctrine is number one. We have replaced doctrine with theology. We have replaced doctrine with psychology like Colossians 1 says.
8. Change in the Bible. Genesis 3:15 says that God has a seed and the devil has a seed. You missed that. You did not go three chapters in the Bible because you were told the devil has a seed. If you want to do a little Bible study, God forbid, go over to 1 Timothy 1:23 and it tells you that the seed is the Word of God, and there is an incorruptible seed and there is a corruptible seed, and then go back to Genesis 3:15.

## VI. The Dimming of Gold and Fine Gold

Along with Proverbs 24, let me move you in here to another book that I want you to see. It will be the book of Lamentations. The book of Jeremiah and Lamentations go hand in hand. In the book of Jeremiah, he preaches, the book breaks down around three sections of sermons. Jeremiah is a pre-exilic book. It is before they go into the exile. Jeremiah is preaching. Jeremiah is preaching in the first section. He is preaching about the fate that is going to happen to Judah. In the second chapters, he is going to preach on the fate that is going to happen to Jerusalem.

Remember they are split now. In the third section, he is going to preach the fate of what is going to happen to the Gentiles. All this was written right before judgment came down and destroyed them with a foreign nation. Doctrinally, I get it, it is to Israel. It is praisefully, it is to you and me in 2018.

I want you to look at Lamentations 4:1. This goes right along with what Proverbs 24 says about not mingling, meddling with those who are given to change. The book of Lamentations is a book that goes along with Jeremiah. In Jeremiah, he talked about God's coming judgment. In the book of Lamentations, Lamentations means lament. Now they are lamenting over God's coming judgment. Boy, he is going to kick the fire out of them.

*Lamentations 4:1*

*How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street.*

This verse will be an incredible verse and an eye-opening verse that goes along with Proverbs 24:21. The context is Israel losing their perspective of God and who He is in their life. They are relegating the knowledge of God to a foreign, graven, false image of worship. Now he says, "How has the gold become dim?" Gold in the Bible will always be a reference to the deity of Christ. The Old Testament tabernacle was made out of wood and then it was overlaid with gold. The wood shows the humanity of Christ. The gold shows the deity of Christ. Everything in the tabernacle was made of gold, all the furniture, because gold is a picture of the deity of Christ and the Word of God, Psalms 119. The Old Testament tabernacle and temple was completely overlaid with gold and completely covered with everything because gold was the highest standard. Here in Israel's time he says, keeping in mind what the gold represents as far as God is concerned, he says the gold has become dim.

*Psalms 119:127*

*Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.*

The Bible says with that verse in mind that God's people today, the gold has become dim.

*Psalms 19:9-10*

*The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.*

*More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

God's judgment and truth are to be desired more than gold, more than fine gold. God's people today have looked at that gold of the Word of God, and the gold has become dim.

*Psalms 119:72*

*The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.*

The words out of His mouth not only represent who God is and the deity of Christ, it represents the Word of God, which is the words out of His mouth that you and I are to esteem as the highest value man ever placed on anything, the gold standard. Today, because of meddling with those who are given to change, the gold has become dim. That book does not mean anything to us anymore.

As a Baptist, there are eight distinctives, major ones, that have been handed down through the centuries of the New Testament church. These eight, I would say at least in the beginning of the fundamentals, are the eight gold standards of what New Testament Christianity is. You are told in 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul 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.*

In other words, what I am saying, when the book of Acts 11, 12, and 13 laid out the concept of the church at Antioch, that church had some things that God gave them through Paul. That church was to hand down those things in an unbroken chain of Bible teaching and Bible doctrine to the coming generation, that every man that heard what Paul said and taught would get it, and then he was to pass it on. What are they?

9. Salvation is only by the blood of Christ.
10. The absolute deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.
11. The eternal security of the believer.
12. The premillennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
13. The rapture of the church before that return.
14. The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
15. Only two offices for the church: one was a pastor, the other one for the deacons.
16. The King James 1611 Authorized Version was the only true, absolute, perfect Word of God given by God to God's people.

Those have stood for 2,000 years. We get called a cult. We get called crazy. We get called like we are dangerous. You are right. We are dangerous. You are so idiotic in your concepts. You are so absolutely stupid in your theology. You look at me, and you have no clue for 2,000 years what we stand for today and believe today started way back in the church at Antioch by 120-150. Donatists had it. Then the Novatians had it. Then the Montanists had it. Then the Waldensians had it. Then the Lollards had it. Then the Paulicians had it. Then the Huguenots had it. Then the Hussites had it. Then the Anabaptists had it. Then the Baptists had it. It was passed right down the line. Paul gave it to Dr. Ruckman. Dr. Ruckman gave it to Mel Samaha. Mel Samaha gave it to me. I give it to you. That is what we do.

Listen. From 1600 to 1900, that King James Bible was the gold standard of every saved man on earth. You did not go into a bookstore and find 2,500 other versions. You had two. You had the God-honored King James 1611, and you had the Devil's Bible, the Douay-Rheims of the Roman Catholic Church. You go into a bookstore today, and because of all the Sadducees, all the

Pharisees, all of what they tell you, you actually think there is a bunch of Bibles out there to choose from. There are still only two. There is that time God-honored Bible right there, and every other translation, every one of them, including the New King James Bible, is out of the Roman Catholic Church manuscripts. Do you think there is something wrong with me? Come on Thursday night, pal. We will find out who has got the problem.

For 400 years, it was responsible for more souls being saved, more churches being started, missions around the world to the tune that three-quarters of the world had come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. A time unparalleled in the history of the church where Revelation 3, when John wrote, he called it the church of the open door, and God said, "I open it, no man can shut it." The reason God opened it is found there in Revelation 3:8, that it was a church that kept His Word, and that Word was not an NIV. It was not a New King James. It was not some new godless piece of trash out of the pit of hell, out of the Roman Catholic manuscript. It was a God-honored book that God held high for 400 years, and He gave man a common Bible to a common man because God wanted you, not scholarship, you and me, not the educators, you and me, to take a stand and to carry on that unbroken chain.

Then in 1900 to 2018, it all changed, began to change through the damnable satanic influx of those three cult groups. The neo-orthodoxy crowd, the neo-evangelical crowd, which everybody loved today, all the great Bible teachers, all the great mega churches, all the Baptist dumping Baptists because you want to have a mega church like them. Wear the blood-stained sheet of Christ, pal. When you have to stand there up beside an Albigensian or a Paulician or a Hussite that gave up their own family, who lost them to the torture or were tortured themselves, all because they would not deny that book. They watched their kid be eaten alive by pigs. They had their eyes put out with hot pokers. Women had hot iron run up inside of them. They were castrated. They were beat to death. They were fed to the lions, and they would not give up that book that you give it up. Why? Because you want a big church? God help us. What is wrong with us? We changed, and it started by men who thought they were smarter than God meddling with other men who thought they were smarter than God and changed the very principles that God gave us. Anybody that will not change from that book that God bathed the world in from 1600 to 1900 is now a cult. When just 120 years ago, everybody on planet earth knew that the King James 1611 Authorized Version was the absolute perfect God-honored Word of God. What happened? It changed very slowly with a purpose and a design. Oh, I wish I had time to show you the influx of the Roman Catholic through the Jesuit system into Christianity, into the educated system of neo-orthodoxy and neo-evangelicalism. Oh, I wish I had the time this morning.

The real issue that Israel had with God is the same one that we have. It is the fact that we have meddled with those who want to change and have allowed them to make God's gold dim in our lives. That book no longer holds the luster that it once had. We have replaced it with tongues. We have replaced it with healing. We have replaced it with education. We have replaced it with degrees. We have been replaced with big churches, and the gold has become dim.

Then he says, "How has the most fine gold changed?" Now gold will be God and the Word of God and the deity of Christ. The fine gold will always be a reference to the person of the Lord

Jesus Christ in your personal life. You will find this in the book of Song of Solomon. Song of Solomon 5:10-16. You know what the book of Song of Solomon is about. It is a great love book. It is a great book of God telling you how He thinks of you and what He thinks when He sees you. Then it tells you what you ought to think and when you see Him. It is a great book of two people going back and forth and telling each other how much they love each other based on the qualities that they each have for each other.

*Song of Solomon 5:10-16*

*My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.*

*His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy, and black as a raven.*

*His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set.*

*His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.*

*His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires.*

*His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.*

*His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.*

You know He is. He is better than any hero you kids who ever put your hero worship in. He is better than any role model you will ever find, and any ball player, any hockey player, any basketball player. He is better than them all. Do you know why? Because He is the chiefest among 10,000. He is the greatest model in the history of the world for what right is. Now look at verse 11, "His head is as the most fine gold." In 1 Corinthians 11:3, it says the head of every man is Christ. Just like the gold has become dim, fine gold has been changed. The holiness of Christ, His standard of truth in our lives, what He is for, what He is against, what He loves, and what He hates, it has all been confused today. We are now living in Isaiah 5:20, when he prophesied that evil would be called good, good be called evil. That is where we are at.

Hosea saw it coming in Hosea 8:12, when he said the greatest, the great things of God have now become strange things. The great doctrines of the Bible that we teach on Thursday night, when the evangelicals hear, the Orthodox hear, the Charismatics hear, "Oh man, where did that come from?" The Bible. It came from the Bible. The great things of the Bible have now become strange things to you because the gold has become dim, and you have lost the luster of the most fine gold, it has been changed. Hosea saw it in Hosea 4:1-3, when he says that there is no truth, there is no mercy, there is no knowledge of God in the land. Micah saw it in Micah 2:11, when he says today a man is following a spirit of falsehood. Isaiah saw it in Isaiah 29:13, when he says we have a head knowledge, but the heart knows nothing of God. We give Him lip service. We tell Him what He wants to hear without ever affecting any change. Malachi saw it in Malachi 1:2-8, when he says that the churches today have polluted bread with polluted sacrifices.

All this is because God gave us a perfect book, and read it sometime, Jeremiah 23. Two verses you want to look at in that chapter, one of them is verse 20 and the other one is verse 30. All this because God gave us a perfect book. Jeremiah 23:20 says in a latter day God will give you a perfect book that you could consider the thing perfectly, and then verse 30 will tell you that somebody came and stole it from you. Read it! Now Jeremiah 23:25 says that you, you neo-evangelical, you, you neo-ortho, you, you charismatic, you live in a dream world called Christianity that has nothing to do with God in the Bible. Read it, Jeremiah 23:25. Why? Because the gold has become dim, and the fine gold has been changed, and you and I have been warned not to meddle with them that are given to change.

## VII. The Calamity of Compromise

Now look at the last part of this verse in Lamentations. "The stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street." Stones of the sanctuary, that is Bible doctrine. Remember back there in Isaiah 28:9, when it says, "Who shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts." He talked about the building blocks like building a wall, a course of a wall here, a little there, line upon line, precept upon precept. The very stone that built that temple is the very Bible doctrine in the New Testament sense that you build your temple with, and the Bible says now they are in the street. They are laying in the street just as the prophet Isaiah foretold in Isaiah 59:14, when he said that judgment is turned away backward, and justice stands afar off: for truth is fallen in the street. Today, the stones of the sanctuary, the Bible doctrine, the building blocks of your temple to make you strong, sure, have fallen in the streets.

*Proverbs 24:22-23*

*For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?*

*These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.*

That is a good word to describe the child of God's life today without the Word of God: a calamity. One mess after another. A joke. People who go to church who care nothing for the things of God, nothing for the Word of God. Saved people who will drop going to church in a second to go do what they want to do. They do not read their Bibles. They do not care about their Bibles. For them, I am not sure what it is other than a calamity. God's people's lives, one disaster after another, one bad marriage after another, losing one child after another, no victory, no rest, no peace. A Christian life that is a total calamity.

Now look at Proverbs 24:23, a great verse with a great principle to me: "These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment." Let me say this, I have been around for a while. I have known pastors who were my friends, some of them still are, and over time they changed their stand on the Word of God. I came out of a church back in Ohio that started strong and believed in the Bible and then went into apostasy by the time I was ready to leave it. I have seen churches who once held the truth of the Word of God, and now they have changed, taking Baptist off their names, do not want to be associated with the greatest doctrinal fight of Christianity, men and women down through the centuries of Christianity taking a stand

against the Roman Catholic Church and their Bible and their doctrine, who got awarded the name Baptist. I know there are a lot of goofy Baptists, I get it. Men and churches who once were Baptists and stood for the seven fundamentals of the faith, and now just a church without any truth.

I have had many a young man over my years that I taught the Bible and trained in the ministry who knew better, but when they got out there on their own, they got seduced by education. They got seduced by the glamour of the neo-evangelical world, and almost every one of them walked away from the King James Bible, walked away from the truth that they were trained. Many of them renounced the very truth that where they talked to them, and they picked up this gray mush for a mega church concept. Now they have little cable talks on Sunday morning. Now they have little skits. Now they have little music presentations. Now they have rock bands. Now they have this. Now they have that. They have everything to draw people in except the one thing that will draw them in, and that is truth. Somebody says, "Well, we just do things like that so we can bring people to church." Where do you draw the line? Four or five years ago, Unity was showing pornographic films in their churches so people would come to church. Where do you draw the line? I will tell you where to draw the line. I will just preach the book. I will do what Jesus did. He never showed a movie. He never had a rock band. He never deviated from one thing that He said to Israel in over 4,000 years, and we suddenly think when the 2,000 years of Christianity He changed it all. Billy Sunday wasted his time preaching against alcohol because now it is okay.

All I can say is this: that almost 50 years of preaching and teaching the Bible. Now you can prove this. I have not changed one doctrine of my biblical standard of my belief. I have learned a lot of things that I thought were stupid and changed. I started preaching in 1973. You can go back probably 75, 76, 80, to 90s, and you can find tapes of me, and you will see I am preaching today exactly what I believed and preached back then. I have not changed one thing. You use a discipleship lesson, and you get disciplined. Most of you do not know I wrote those discipleship lessons in 1977. They have not changed one inch of the doctrine that is in them in all those years. My two first books that I ever wrote was "How to Study the Bible" in probably 1979 and "The Charismatic Movement" in 1980, 1981. How many years ago was that? I still believe everything in those books. I will not change one thing. I will not go back and put a preface in it and said, "Oh, I did not mean this. I meant when I said," because that is out of the book. I have stayed away and never meddled with those that are given to change because God does not change. The principles do not change. The book does not change. Everybody wants to reinvent the wheel and start a church today. Find something new and exciting to attract people. Let me tell you, I will give you some good advice. You want to build a church? Jesus said it Himself, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." You just preach the book, exalt the Lord Jesus Christ, exalt the Word of God that He gave you, and let the result be in God's hands. I have stayed with the old paths, the old way, and the old book. The same thing that built those churches in Acts 20, the church at Ephesus, and Acts 11, 12, and 13 at Antioch will work today. It is just a matter that we have lost any sense of reality. We are so into change. Our society has changed so much, and now our Christianity not only has an evolving Bible, now we have an evolving lifestyle that we are evolving just like the world. Where once the church was separate from the world, now we have invited the world into it, and we think God is okay with that.