

I. Introduction: Obedience, Liberty, and the Word of God

Last week, we looked at what I believe is an incredible set of verses that really deal with our rejoicing when we follow the authority of the Word of God over what are today man-made rules that put us under the bondage of what people want to control us with. The great truth is that true happiness, joy, and contentment can only come through our obedience to the Word of God.

The book of Judges is a great example of that. As long as Israel is doing what is right, everything is good. When they do not, they get sold into captivity to all these different nations, and God has to raise up a judge to get them out of it. The theme of the book of Judges, which is also written in our hymnal, is basically "Trust and Obey." That is a great song based on biblical principles: "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus than to trust and obey." That is so true.

We also talked about the great doctrine of our liberty in Christ and how that liberty has to be used to edify Christ or somebody else. Our liberty is never given for us to do our own thing.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Your liberty and my liberty is what we find when we let the Holy Spirit of God lead and guide us and give us everything that we need.

II. Critique of Charismatic Doctrine and True Salvation

One of the arguments of the Charismatic crowd is that they believe you can lose your salvation. One of their arguments is that they claim that people who are Baptist, in particular, who believe the doctrine of eternal security, talk about all the time that we are the kind of people who believe that because you are saved and have eternal security, we just do whatever we want to do. Of course, I understand that there are a lot of God's people like that, but nothing can be farther from the truth if you are a Bible believer.

I have to say, in almost 50 years of ministry, I have never at one time ever found a Charismatic who knew anything about the Bible. Without a doubt, they are brain dead when it comes to the Word of God. They are the dumbest people on earth when it comes to trying to open up the Bible and figure anything out in it. They hold a total disregard for the Bible as any final authority. Of course, we all know that they put their feelings, their emotions, and their experiences over what the clear Word of God teaches.

What a Charismatic could never get to or grasp, I mean, forget the fact that in the Bible there are 12 fundamental doctrines about salvation that if you understood them, you could never get to the place where you lose your salvation. I mean, the doctrine of justification, the doctrine of propitiation, the doctrine of expiation, the doctrine of imputation. These are all doctrines in the

Bible that deal with salvation that once you understand them, you see how absolutely absurd that heresy is that you could lose your salvation. But, as I said, their mindset is, "Don't confuse me with the facts." They just want to believe what they want to believe, and they certainly have that lie that God has given them.

What they really cannot see or miss when it comes to that aspect, what they say, is that if a man's salvation is real, when a guy really gets saved, you do not want to sin anymore. There is a fact that, "Oh, I am going to get saved so I can do what I want to do." You realize that that is what God saved you from: your sin, which was going to send you to hell. When you got saved, you got a new heart, you got a new spirit, you got a new nature; you are now a new creature in Christ Jesus. The old things are passed away, and all things become new. So, in time, you learn to love what God loves and hate what God hates, and God hates our sin. So when you do sin—for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God—when you do sin, you hate it. You do not enjoy it. You do not get up every morning and say, "Oh boy, I am saved now, I can just live my life and do what I want to do." That is not the way it works.

What a Charismatic is seeing, or what he wants to see—they do not see very much—is he is seeing people out there who claim to be Christian who, that is what they do. That is their lifestyle. Last week, we saw that the righteous rejoice at the authority of the Word of God and in their life. Now he loves the wisdom of God. We saw this last week. The problem is that a person who takes that position, "I am saved, I can do whatever I want to do," and let me be honest, there are people out there that do that, but the truth of the matter is that they have never truly been saved. There is no change. Salvation may be a free gift, but it is conditional on you turning your life in a different direction. We will call this the doctrine of repentance. Yes, that is one of the 12. You cannot come to God with the world in one hand and the Word of God in the other; it just would not work. But that is what they see. You deceive yourself when you think that you can. Of course, we saw that last week in Ezekiel 14, where God will very clearly give you a lie to believe if you want one.

III. The King's Judgment and Biblical Structure

Today, we are going to look at another verse that I think is a really good verse, and it really lays some things out. These are the kind of verses that come along every once in a while that there will be some historical stuff. There will be some practical stuff, but you are going to learn some things about your Bible today. I think that when we have these little times, they spin off into Thursday night and give you a little study that you can maybe get a few more pieces of the Bible together for you. I want to preach on Proverbs 29:4 today. Here is what it says:

Proverbs 29:4

The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

Cody, would you stand up and ask God's blessing on the sermon this morning?

I am going to take this verse this morning, and we are going to get some practical stuff out of it because I like to squeeze everything out of it I can, but there are some things here about your

Bible you need to get down if you are ever going to really learn your Bible. I realize that most of you come to this church because of the Bible you get. You want to learn the Bible. You have a desire to learn it and to know and to understand how it all fits together. I commend you for that, and I think that probably the majority of you are here for that today. But it is little verses like these today that really show you a little-known secret about your Bible and how you will learn it and how you will put it together.

I make mention of this every once in a while in Bible study on Thursday night or something like that, or in people ministry, or definitely for institute. But this is lost today for the most part. In my day, when I was 18, 19, and 20, and I was getting into the Bible, this stuff was Bible 101, but not anymore. What I am about to show you is rejected today by 99.9999 percent of pastors, theologians, and Bible scholars in the world today. So, it has got to be good because the Bible tells us in John 10:21, the only thing that Jesus ever rejoiced in to His Father was the fact that He hid truth from the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and God has hid it from them today.

Now let us look at Proverbs 29:4 here and begin to move through this. It says, "The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it." Doctrinally, this will be one of those contrast verses that we talk about so much. Doctrinally, this will be a reference to two events that are going to take place in our future. The land being established will be a reference to the second coming of Christ and the Millennium. The receiving of gifts, we have studied that before in Proverbs 18:16 and Proverbs 21:14, always connected with the Antichrist, how he takes bribes and fixes things during that, so it will be a reference to the Antichrist and the Tribulation Period.

The thing I want you to note here is the punctuation mark at the end of the first part: "The king by judgment establisheth the land:" and then you have a colon. In English grammar, a colon is used to separate two clauses or two thoughts, and in the Bible, you are going to find that the punctuation of a colon most of the time—I am not going to say every time, but I am going to say that most of the time, and I am probably wrong, it probably is every time, but I just leave myself a little wiggle room here—you will find that it separates one dispensation from another, one main event from another. Most pastors today in their preaching or their Bible teaching do not follow that; they do not believe that. So where mine is based on biblical principles and laid out, they are preaching a colonoscopy to you that really does not do much for you, but punctuation in the Bible is crucial.

I have talked to you before about the paragraph marks in the Bible, and the paragraph marks in the Bible again, they are vital in rightly dividing the word of truth. We do not have time to get into it all this morning, but I will tell you this: you do not find any punctuation marks after Acts 20, and there is a reason for that, but you find them all through your Bible up to Acts 20. I will tell you something else: the only Bible in the history of the world that has punctuation marks in it will be a King James 1611 Authorized Version.

You are going to find that you have words in italics in your Bible. Those words in italics are very important. God will use them sometimes to give you something and show you something that

you would not get. Those words in italics were put in by the translators because you do not get a direct translation across the board from going from one language to another, so to make it make sense, they put them in there, but they put them in there under the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God, and they mean something and they will show you things. Again, the only Bible in the history of the world that has the words in italics will be a King James 1611 Authorized Version. Of course, we have studied many, many times the key words in the Bible themselves. The punctuation is absolutely crucial.

IV. Discerning Scripture: Punctuation, Reversals, and the Holy Spirit

Let me give you an easy example of this, and we have seen this before, especially the people in Bible. But for everybody else's benefit, turn back with me to Isaiah 9:6-7, and let us look here for just a moment. I am going to show you this is an easy one to see, and it kind of sets the pace for you so you begin to look for them. Isaiah 9:6-7 is a great verse on God's plan for eternity. In the Bible, you are going to find that God has three distinct plans: He has a plan for the universe, He has a plan for earth, and He has a plan for you. He has an overall plan for the universe; this will be Isaiah 9:6-7. He also has a plan for the earth; this will also be Isaiah 9:6-7. He also has a plan for you; this also will be Isaiah 9:6-7, because the universe contains the earth and the earth contains you, so all three plans are separate, but they are connected together.

Now let me show you how this works. Isaiah 9:6-7. I am going to read it first, and then I am going to come back and we will lay it out.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:7

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Now that is the two verses. Now let me show you how the punctuation breaks it down for you. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:" and then you have a colon. Verse 6, the first part is the first coming of Christ. He came as a son, as He came as a child. The next, and it stops with a colon. The next one, "and the government shall be upon his shoulder:" colon. That will be the second coming of Christ. So here you have in one verse the first coming and the second coming laid out and separated for you by the punctuation of a colon. "and the government shall be on his shoulders" will be the second coming going into the Millennium: colon. "and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Now we are into eternity. So there are two verses that doctrinally, dispensationally divide

themselves up by the punctuation, and once you learn these things, there are great keys to opening up your Bible for you.

In our verse itself, we have "the king by judgment establish the land," that will be the second coming in the Millennium, and then "but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it," that will be the Antichrist. So you see that here again, two different events, actually two different dispensations, are covered by the colon.

Here is something else you want to see, and this is kind of interesting here. The colon will separate the two different events in the Bible, but now what I want you to see is the aspect that they are reversed. The second coming was declared first, the Tribulation was put in second. In the order of the happening of the events, the Tribulation should have been first, then the establishment of the land, but He did not; He reversed it. You are going to find that in the Bible, God does it this way, and there is a reason why that He does it. You will find that in Genesis and in the Old Testament and the New Testament, He does the exact same thing.

You will find that there are two books in your Bible that are definitive books. The first book in the Old Testament is Genesis, so He gives us Genesis, and then He gives us four historical books that cover a time period after He gives us a definitive book on Genesis. When you get to the New Testament, He gives the four historical books first: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, then the definitive book for the New Testament, the book of Acts. Why is that? What was God's mindset behind doing those kind of things that He did?

You will see it again in Genesis 3:15. Come back to Genesis 3:15. This is your first prophecy in the Bible on the Lord Jesus Christ and the Antichrist, and it without a doubt is one of the great prophecies in the Bible, but I want you to see something. Here is what He says:

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Now it says, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed." We will stop right here for just a second. The key word here is the devil has a seed. Do you understand that? He just told you that God is going to put enmity between God's seed, that is the Lord Jesus Christ, and the devil's seed, that is the Antichrist. Yet we go one step further, 1 Peter 1:23, we know that the seed is also the Word of God, and it says, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." So not only are there two seeds to produce two people, there are two seeds that produce two Bibles. That is very important that you understand that, but that is not what I am trying to get to you; I just threw that in.

Now look at this thing: "it shall bruise thy head," that is the second coming of Christ. That will be Psalms 74:14, where the heads of Leviathan get broken. "it shall bruise thy head," second coming, "and thou shalt bruise his heel," that is the first coming. At the first coming of Christ, the heel of Christ, the seed of Christ, was bruised. At the second coming, the head of Leviathan gets broken. But notice again, they are reversed. Here you have the second coming first, and you have

the first coming second. Now you have to ask yourself, why is that? He does that throughout the scriptures in many, many places, and this is a very important aspect of you figuring out your Bible, and you are about to see an invaluable part of your Bible that is well worth over a hundred million dollars if you put a price tag on it.

Now turn over to 1 Peter 1. I know we are going to a lot of places today; you will not be able to sleep through this sermon. 1 Peter 1. You are taught—some of you may have been in churches where the pastor taught this, it is certainly the standard teaching today—you are taught that the people in the Old Testament look forward to the cross, and the people, you and I, look back to the cross. Now there is no question about the fact that you and I do look back to the cross. The cross of Christ was the exclamation point in the history of the world. Guys who do not know their Bibles, people, pastors who have no clue about the Word of God, and they read this stuff or they hear this stuff, or the scholars who even know less about the Bible than they do, they read their stuff, they get their teachings, and actually to them it sounds pretty good. I mean, it sounds like a reasonable assumption. I would love to tell you the definition of what the definition of my drill sergeant used to give us of the word assumption, but we have women and children here today, and I could not do that. If you catch me alone, I will give it to you. But the bottom line is simply this: that would be a safe assumption on their part, but nothing could be farther from the truth. Yes, we do look back to the cross, but you are going to see here in a moment very clearly how that fallacy is a pipe dream that somebody smoked too much opium to put it together.

Now let us read 1 Peter 1:11-12.

1 Peter 1:11

Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

1 Peter 1:12

Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Here is the reason why, if you know anything about your Bible at all, here is the reason you know clearly, based on the scriptures, not some opium pipe dream of some Bible theologian, how you absolutely know that the people in the Old Testament were not looking forward to the cross, but yes, we are looking back to it. Now it is so ridiculously stupid that you would feel embarrassed if you were a pastor, but most of them not only do not have the sense of the Bible, they do not have the sense to be embarrassed when they do not know anything about the Bible.

There are a couple of things I want you to see here. First of all, look at 1 Peter 1:12: "Unto whom it was revealed." That "it" there is the Holy Spirit of God. The first thing that I want you to know about your Bible is that in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit of God was not recognized as a person. He is not recognized as a person. From Isaiah 11:1-3, again in Revelation 1:14, in Revelation 5:6, that in the Old Testament, around the Old Testament structure, which will also be true in the Tribulation Period, the Holy Spirit of God did not operate as a person. He operates

through seven manifestations of spirits that are actually listed for you in Isaiah 11:1-3. Before the resurrection, the Holy Spirit of God is not referenced as a person. Now it is today. We talked about this Thursday night; somebody asked the difference between the Holy Spirit of God and the Holy Ghost found in the New Testament, and I showed you clearly from the scriptures that the Holy Spirit, that title, will always be a reference to the person, but the Holy Ghost will always be a reference to the indwelling Holy Spirit of God that is inside you. So that is the first thing you want to recognize and understand: that in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit of God is never recognized as a person in a direct reference. Again, these are the details of putting the book together that you get in time if you stay with it, and I call these things the hidden keys of the Bible. They are almost absolutely invaluable.

Now note, look at 1 Peter 1:11. It says that the Old Testament prophets, in their preaching, declared two things: one, the suffering of Christ—there is the crucifixion, first coming—and the glory of Christ—there is the second aspect, the second coming of Christ. He clearly tells you that when the Old Testament prophets came, they preached and testified to the sufferings of Christ, that is the crucifixion, and the glory that should follow, that is the second coming of Christ. But what God did is He mixed the two of them together. He not only stuck them together in places, but He reversed them in places. If you want to see some of this, I gave you Genesis 3:15. You will want to look at Jeremiah 23:5; there is one where He talks about the righteous branch and then He talks about the king. You will find that I guess in Genesis 49:10, where He talks about the scepter, that He talks about Christ. You are tied to Genesis 49:24, where He talks about the sheep and then the stone, which is the second coming. You will find that in Psalms 102, a reference to the first coming and the second coming. You will find that in Isaiah 53, 51, 54, Job 30, places where it lays out the sufferings of Christ, and that is why you could never get it.

This is something you have got to get, and it is really just like today, the key to rightly dividing the word of God will be the Holy Spirit of God. That is true in the Old Testament and also true in the New Testament. The Bible clearly had told you that when the prophets came up, they preached about the suffering of Christ and they preached about the glory of Christ. He has just told you that. Now if that is true, and it certainly is, then how come the nation of Israel missed His first coming? Somebody says, "Well, in the Old Testament, they look forward to the cross." Really? How come they missed it then if they are looking forward to it and He already told you they are preaching about it? How come they missed it? What happened? Of course, that is the great dilemma we find ourselves in today. Of course, just like today, they could not see it and they could not understand it because in the Old Testament, you are told this in Isaiah 6:9, you are told that the nation of Israel rejected the Holy Spirit of God.

I am going to tell you something: if you are ever going to learn your Bible, if you are ever going to get anything above what you get off the internet, if you are ever going to be able to get into your Bible one-on-one and dig it out yourself, it is going to have to be your recognition of the Holy Spirit of God in your life that is going to teach you. If you are one of those who get on the computer and surf it, or you even get on our website and all you ever do is just glean off of that and you do not use that to prepare you that at some point you can get into it yourself and make

your deal with the Holy Spirit of God—I know you are saved, but I am talking about Him illuminating everything that you need to have.

In Matthew 12 and Matthew 13, Jesus Christ showed up at the first coming of Christ. He displayed Himself as, and in the book of Matthew, 28 chapters, every chapter is a different chapter on Him showing the nation of Israel that He is their Messiah, and this is the first coming of Christ. If they were looking for it, why did they not get it? I will tell you why: because in Matthew 12 and Matthew 13, the nation of Israel takes the position that the Spirit of God by which He is revealing Himself is the spirit of Beelzebub. They equated the Holy Spirit of God with that holy spirit of the devil, and at that point, they could not get any more truth, and that is why they missed it. God had through the prophets laid out about the suffering and about the glory, but He stuck them in verses together and sometimes He reversed them, and the only way for the Jew to discern it and figure it out was through the Holy Spirit of God. But when they rejected it, when they called it the spirit of Beelzebub, when He says in Isaiah 6:9, "Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not."

That is the problem today. The problem today is that pastors—we talked about this in people ministry yesterday, didn't we?—the spirit of somebody being deceptive, the spirit of falsehood, a guy getting up and preaching from his pulpit something that is not true, and the people being so stupid they do not hold him accountable and they believe it. Of course, they literally could not understand the scriptures. They missed the suffering part. They could not see it, they could not grasp it. To this day, when they read Isaiah 53, a Jew, he cannot see it as Christ. He thinks it is his nation. Because they rejected the Holy Spirit of God, it was not a thing that they are looking forward to the cross. If they did, why did they not accept Him?

It is like the old stupid argument, "Well, the sons of God back in Genesis 6 were really," I just heard a guy preach on this the other day, he said, "really they were saved people marrying unsaved people, just like today." Really? Well, let me ask you something, Dr. Bozo, if they were unsaved people marrying saved people and you have all these sons of God running around here, why did they not get on the ark? You see, heresy sounds good till you run right into the truth of the Word of God, stonewall, then you are dead. Then you have a decision to make: you really have to back up and change your position or you follow the lie that you want to believe. That is what the Jews did. Once they rejected the Holy Spirit of God, God shut the door. Revelation, we see it as we talked last week, the church of the open door and the Philadelphia church age, and today we see the church of the closed door. You know why the church of the closed door? Because the church today has rejected the revelation of the Holy Spirit of God through the Bible.

So what did the scribes and the Pharisees do once they got shut down, once there was no truth revealed from heaven anymore? The scribes and the rabbis went to work, and they invented the Midrash. The Midrash is the book that the Jews use instead of the Old Testament today. What is the Midrash? It is a man-made book that interprets the books of the Old Testament. So they now do not preach out of the Old Testament anymore. They will open up the Midrash and they will take what man's interpretation of the books of the Bible is because God shut the door of revelation a long time ago. They will open up the Talmud. The Talmud is a commentary on the law made up by the rabbis. In other words, they did with the Old Testament, when the door of

revelation was shut, what the Bible scholars did in the New Testament with the NIV and the RSV. Once the door of revelation got shut and they could not get anything from God, they started to make it up.

I think it was Lorne. He told me yesterday that they went up to his old church last weekend for something with the kids, and they went to their old church that Sunday, and he says they are not using the Bible anymore. He said some guy has written a whole book on what the real Bible means, and so everybody gets the book instead of preaching the Bible, they go through that guy's book. That is where we are at today.

I am telling you, to me, one of the great things that God ever gave me was just one single verse that was absolutely the one verse I would say that opened up and got my head squared around straight, and it is in Luke 20:45. He simply says this:

Luke 20:45

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.

I am going to tell you something: if the Holy Spirit of God does not open up your understanding and give you that book, you are not getting anything. In John 16, you have seven things the Holy Spirit of God will do for you, and number seven, wow, it is a killer. When the Holy Spirit of God will not do it for you, you have to get off the internet. You have to get it out of somebody's book. You have to get somebody's book that tells you what the Bible is, and then you just teach that because God shut the door of revelation in your life.

V. The King James Bible and God's Order

Moving on here, to completely see and understand this great doctrine, let us turn to 2 Corinthians 3, and we will see it again. The idea that the people in the Old Testament were looking forward to the cross and we are looking back, you have to be out of your mind. Not really, just out of your Bible, out of God's mind.

Here is what he says in 2 Corinthians 3, just picking up in verse 9.

2 Corinthians 3:9

For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

2 Corinthians 3:10

For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

2 Corinthians 3:11

For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

2 Corinthians 3:12

Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:

2 Corinthians 3:13

And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

2 Corinthians 3:14

But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:15

But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

2 Corinthians 3:16

Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

What he is simply saying there, if the Old Testament was glorious and the Old Testament puts you under a law of condemnation, then the New Testament, which is about righteousness, exceeds in glory. That is all he is saying here. "For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious."

"Seeing then we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech and not as Moses which put a veil over his face that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished." When Moses was up on the mountain, he was face to face with God, and he got the law, and God gave Moses the whole complete plan. When Moses came down, his face was shining because he had been in the presence of the glory of God, and his face was shining with a glow. I am going to tell you something: your face does the same thing when you get in that book and you have a relationship with Him. You can tell in a glance by your countenance if you are on today or you are off. It is just that simple.

When he comes down, he scares the people. I am going to tell you something else: when you really get tied into the Word of God and you really start doing things for God, you are going to scare people because people who do not want to do right are going to be scared of people who want to do what is right, and that glow is going to be intimidating to them. You might as well get that straight.

So he comes down, 2 Corinthians 3:13, "And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished." Now that veil in his face was the glory of God, and the glory of God is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, also the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because they could not look into his face and see that glory, because they were afraid of it, he put a veil over their face, and they could not see the glory of God to the end because they were afraid of the glory of God that was shining on them through the face of Moses.

Then he says, 2 Corinthians 3:14, "But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ." What he is saying here is that the Jew to this day cannot see the glory of Christ, either the first coming or the second coming, because they have rejected the Holy Spirit of God that illuminates the light and the glory of God. "But even unto this day," 2 Corinthians 3:15, "when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart." You know what Jesus said? He said, "If you were to believe Moses, you would have believed me." Why? Because he wrote of me that you cannot see it. Do not give me this idea that, "Well, back in the Old Testament they were looking forward to the Christ." You are out of your mind. The prophets preached the glory of God and they preached the sufferings of God, and he put them right in the same verse, but it took the Holy Spirit of God to discern it, and when they rejected the Holy Spirit of God in the Old Testament, when they rejected the Holy Spirit of God when Christ showed up in Matthew, they missed it. Nobody was looking for anything. You got that from a guy who could not figure his way out of the Bible if his life depended on it.

"Nevertheless," 2 Corinthians 3:16, "when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away." There is the Millennium. Where does she turn to the Lord? During the Tribulation Period. You see what you have. Then our great verse, 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." The real true liberty will be the Millennial Reign of Christ. You have the liberty now in a spiritual sense when the Holy Spirit of God becomes the number one thing in your life, and you live in that same liberty that Israel is going to live in during the Millennium. Incredible. 2 Corinthians 3:18, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." You know what he is saying? He says you can see the Lord in the Old Testament, you can see the Lord in the New Testament, but it takes the Spirit of God to reveal it to you. It had nothing to do with Israel looking forward to the cross. That first coming and the suffering was preached by the prophets. You can find it all the way through the Bible, but it stuck right in there with the second coming, and they could not see it. They could not see it because they rejected the one person that would illuminate the scriptures to teach them, and that is why men cannot get one thing out of the Bible today because they reject the one thing that can illuminate it, and it is just that simple. So when you learn these things, that is a major deal. I am telling you right now that will spring off into many, many other things. So when you learn these things, it will help open up the Bible for you and to you.

I do not make any apology for what I am about to say, and most of you know this. I believe that the book is God's Word from cover to cover, including the cover. I believe that the Word of God

in the King James 1611 Authorized Version is everything that God intended it to be, and it needs no. I believe it was inspired by God, it was preserved by God, and you have it today because God wanted you to have it. I know all the arguments, believe me, in almost 50 years, I have been through them several times. When God put together His final revelation to man till the advent of Christ's second coming, He gave us a book that in every aspect will follow the doctrines of the Bible consistently.

I mean, if you know anything about history, you know that as far as God was concerned—this is not man now, because man will say this is not true, it is about how man views it, it is how God views it—there have only been three universal languages down through history, and that will be Hebrew in the Old Testament when the world was a Hebrew-speaking world. You say, "Well, the world was not a Hebrew-speaking world." As far as God is concerned, it was, because all God cared about was the nation of Israel. You say, "Well, most of the other world did not speak it." For God was concerned, it did not matter. All God was concerned about was His people and the language that He gave them. The Bible talks about being a pure language, Hebrew, and He gave it to them. You say, "Well, the Amalekites, the Hittites, and all these other nations out there, the Egyptians and the Assyrians and the Babylonians," God did not give a flip about them. You said, "We had 500 other languages out here that everybody in the world was speaking." God did not give a flip about that. God's universal language, that if a man that was an Amalekite or an Assyrian or a Babylonian or Egyptian or whatever he was wanted to come and find God, he had to come through one people, one nation, and one language because that was God's universal language.

A little bit later on with the New Testament, when the world became a Greek-speaking world because of the Greek empire and impacted the world, then when the New Testament was written, it was written in Greek. Later on, when the world was changing again and God was moving toward the second coming and the bringing back the nation of Israel, God brought the world into an English-speaking world and made the universal language English. I have actually had guys who were supposed to be smart argue with that because they wanted to believe that the real key to learning your Bible today would be Greek, the New Testament. When I would make a statement, they would say, "You are telling me that the English language is the universal language of the world?" And I would say, "That is correct." And they would say, "Well, what about all the people in the world who do not speak English?" And my answer would be, "And you are telling me that the Greek language is the answer? Yes? What about all the people who do not speak Greek?" In a world of what, eight billion people, there is probably less than one millionth of a percent who actually can speak and understand Greek. The Greek language of the Bible is not the Greek language from the Greeks today. It is a dead language, and it is incredibly hard, and nobody speaks it. But you see the stupidity of their mindset when clearly through history, if you studied the origin and the foundation and the putting together of the English language connected with the nations in Europe and what God is doing, are you kidding me?

I am telling you, God gave us an English Bible to a world in a universal language of English that follows the law of grammar in the English language. You study the formation of the English language, it does not even come into about 1000 AD, and then it goes through a perfecting

process. When God decided to put the Bible, the final Bible out to man to the second coming of Christ, He waited till the English language got to its most purest form, and then He put the purest Bible in the purest form of language of English that it was. When those King James translators sat down and put that Bible together, they not only had English in a perfect universal language that was perfect as far as the apex and then it degenerates—all languages do it—they put forth the book in the best perfect language that they could, and they used the laws of grammar to lay that thing out. The Holy Spirit of God just mixed and mapped that thing the way He wanted it to go.

VI. The Order of Books and Premillennialism

Now we believe the pre-millennial return of Christ, do not we? Yes, we do. That means that we believe that Christ is going to come back before the Millennial Reign of Christ. We are in the minority on that today. Most people believe in a post-millennial return, that they are going to make the world a better place and then Christ is going to come back. Some of them believe amillennialism, that it is a spiritual kingdom and Christ really is not coming back literally. We know that that is not true. If I did not know that it was not true because I have 10,000 verses in the Bible, I know it was true by the order of the books in the Old Testament that God did, because when God put His Bible together, not only did He use the punctuation, not only did He use the word, not only did He use the paragraph mark, not only did He use the words in italics, He used the very order of the books himself.

If you had a Hebrew Old Testament, the order of books in the Hebrew Old Testament is not the same order as in your King James Bible, and of course there is a reason for that. The last book, you know, in a Hebrew Bible, when a Jew opens that up, if he would ever read it, would be 2 Chronicles, and he ends his Old Testament with 2 Chronicles, and at the end of 2 Chronicles, that Jew is told to go back to the land, and that is a fulfillment of I do not know how many prophecies in the Old Testament. A Jew does not get it, but it is right there. But you see, the last book in your Bible is in 2 Chronicles. The last in your book in your Old Testament is the book of Malachi, and Malachi is the Day of the Lord. So when you start to come back and look at the books of your Bible the way they are put in your Bible, it teaches us the truth of the pre-millennial return of Christ. Because in 2 Chronicles 36, that Jew was told to go back, and in your book, it is a different order. He is told to go back, and in Ezra he does go back, just like he did in 1918. The book of Nehemiah, he rebuilds, exactly like he did in 1948. The book of Esther is one of those strange books in the Bible where God is never mentioned anywhere, but God is behind the scenes. Lo and behold, in the book of Esther, there is a wedding in the king's garden, seven days and seven nights, a picture of the marriage supper of the Lamb and the rapture of the church.

You know what the next book is? The next book is Job. Job is a picture of the Jew in the Tribulation Period. Job is in the land of Uz, that is where the Jew is. The name Job means "one persecuted." There are 42 chapters in the book of Job, 42 months in the Great Tribulation Period. At the end of the book over there in the book of Job, you are going to find in Job 42, you are going to find that Job gets back double everything he lost. If you go over to Isaiah 61:7, you will find that the nation of Israel at the second coming of Christ gets back double everything that they

lost. You will find in Job 42 a type of a resurrection. You will find a resurrection at the end of the Tribulation Period. I mean, it is an incredible thing. Job is on the ground seven days being persecuted by the devil. The nation of Israel goes through persecution by the devil for seven years of the Tribulation. You could not miss it.

Next book is Psalms. David on the throne, picture the second coming in the Millennium. You know what the next book is? It is Proverbs, eternity, the mind of God, the Everlasting Father. The books of your Bible lay out for you and document the pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. I do not care what any scholar says about it. You know what? There are a lot of idiots out there that are teaching against the rapture today. You can do the same thing with the rapture coming through the Bible. You can go to Genesis 5, you can go to Song of Solomon 2, you can go to Proverbs 25, Revelation 4, Revelation 11. That is not even getting into 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4. I mean, that is the way the Bible was put together, and when you learn those things, you learn your Bible. I am not interested in teaching you a lot of things about the Bible, and I know that that is as far as some of you will ever take it. I get that.

VII. Establishing the Believer: Samuel's Example and the Path to Growth

So let us talk in the few moments that we have left, and we are really doing good today. Let us talk a few moments that we have left about this thing as it lays out inspiration. Now notice our verse says "established the land." That is what he did, and the key word here will be the word "established." Yes, I am back in Proverbs now.

That is Israel in the Old Testament going into the Millennium, and what God wanted to do with the nation of Israel in the Old Testament but never got accomplished, other than the short time that Solomon is on the throne for 40 years because of their rejection, is God wanted to establish them, and He did, but it did not last. Studying the history of the nation of Israel is an amazing study. It is one of those things that you just cannot, it is incredible. We have talked about it before in the people ministry and also in Bible institute, the five stages of bringing Israel to where God wants her to be, and the whole Bible in the Old Testament is a record of this.

- The first part would be Genesis, where we can see clearly the formulation of the nation of Israel: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- Then in Exodus 12, in the four books following, or three books following, you find the calling out in Exodus 12.
- When you get into Joshua, Judges, in 1 and 2 Samuel, you actually now see the establishment. This is where they are. God intended them to be established, and this is what He wanted to do with them, but it did not work out because it all falls to pieces.
- So you see in 1 Kings, 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles, you see the demise of the nation of Israel.
- Then of course, in 2 Chronicles 36, you see the captivity, and they are done until the first coming of Christ shows up, and then they reject Him again.

- Then of course, they are done through the Church Age to the Tribulation to the second coming.

The nation of Israel gets established around Solomon, but it does not last. It is only a short period of time, and the land was established through David wiping out the last of the enemies, like we talked about last week, and then Solomon coming to the throne where he brings peace for 40 years.

Now that is a historical thing, that is a beautiful picture, but the parallels of that are quite incredible. I tell you many, many times, the parallels between the Old Testament and the New Testament are really incredible. In the Old Testament, God builds the nation of Israel around the temple. In all the world, once the land is established, that temple is where the world is going to come to worship. You see that in 1 Kings 10, a number of places. But in the New Testament, we know that it is a kingdom of God, and it is not a literal temple. Now we know that your body and my body is the temple, and where in the Old Testament the world came to the temple once the land was established, in the New Testament, here it comes, you take your temple to the world. Are you ready for this? This is not a time to go to the bathroom. Are you ready for this? When you get established in the nation of Israel, when it was the kingdom of heaven, He wanted to establish the land. In the kingdom of God, He wants to establish you as His temple. We talked about last week, worshipping God with your very substance. But in both cases, the believer will be established, and you as a New Testament child of God will, through the righteous judgment of a king—that is our verse today—you will get established.

Now the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 8:4, "Where the word of a king is, there is power." So God wanted to establish you. He wanted to establish us in a Church Age through the word of a king. So you have a King James 1611. I am not even going to get in today to talk about the development of the name of what Jacob means in Hebrew and how it is all connected, why God did not give a Bible when Henry was on the throne or Edward or when Mary or when Elizabeth. He waited till James got on the throne because of the consistency of the scriptures. I am not even going to have time to get into that today. I would not do it if I had time.

The great example of being established, as we already know, would be in the life of Samuel. We have talked about this many, many times. In 1 Samuel 3, we know from our past studies that in 1 Samuel 3, God had a plan for Samuel. He wanted to establish him. So through Samuel's mother, he takes him down to the temple, gives him to the high priest because the structure for the Old Testament was that Old Testament priesthood built around the temple. The Bible tells us that it is an incredible period of time because there is no open vision, but God is only giving things through the Word of God. Incredible. So Samuel was put into God's structure, and he serves God and comes up through that, and we see God in his life, but he cannot yet discern God, who He is or what God is doing. The Bible says in 1 Samuel 3:21 that the Word of God has not yet been revealed to him. I see a lot of you like that, especially you new kids who just come in and you new folks that are really trying to just learn your Bible. Some of you have been around for maybe a while, but you are starting to put it together, but God has not made it clear to you yet.

Yesterday in Bible people ministry, we had what I would consider the greatest session anywhere on the planet on what it takes to have God's vision. I mean, it was absolutely probably the best that I ever laid it out, and I am sure there could be somebody else lay it out even better than me, but I am just saying for where my church is and where you are at and what we are trying to do, if you missed that yesterday, you missed something because that was a crucial part of not only understanding the vision but the burden that God has for you. We laid that thing out in an incredible way. We saw Samuel, much like you, he got into God's structure like you have, and he begins to grow. 1 Samuel 3:19 and 21 says, "And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD."

That is a biblical process for you to grow and get to the place where God can use you and you giving Him your substance and Him establishing you. In any church, I do not care where it is, on what level it is, at any church, you will have people who are invaluable to the ministry. I mean, you are really well, and most people who are invaluable really do not see themselves as invaluable. It is the ones who walk around and strut around like they are valuable who are worthless. It is just the way it works. But I want to say, many of you, I could not do what I do here without you. I mean, you may not think that you are important and you may not think that you add anything, but that is simply not true. I look at them and guys like that, we talked about this yesterday, I look at people who are invaluable in the ministry, and it does not mean that you are doing everything in the church, it just means that you have a sense and a presence of, well, I will explain it here in a moment. I look at you like David looked at his mighty men of valor back in 2 Samuel 23. You are above the norm. You are Christians that are, you are not the normal Christians, and you have a sense about you that is above the normal mindset of Christianity, and you have allowed, like we talked about last week, those four areas to be built into your life that made David's mighty men of valor mighty men: courage, determination, loyalty, and honor.

If you remember last week, the Bible says in Ephesians 6, it is a great chapter about putting on the whole armor of God. It says that you and I are to stand and take our stand. It says like four times, "Stand, stand therefore, having done all, to stand." Our job is to stand. I will tell you something, it takes courage to stand, and most people do not have that courage. They just do not. So the first thing we talked about last week was courage. Then the second thing I listed was determination, and courage is a good thing, but you have to be determined that you are going to keep your stand, otherwise somebody will talk you out of it. The third thing was loyalty, loyalty to the Word of God, loyalty to each other. The fourth thing was honor, honor that bond of honor among each of us that nothing or nobody ever gets between us, that we are here to do a job and we are above those things that snag most of God's people. You pass through that portal, you pass through that thing in life, and you are not looking back. You are not somebody who is going to go back to the world. You have, like we said yesterday, you have got on your tower, you are on your watch, and just as you came here to begin to grow by the book, in time, God in time will establish you.

VIII. The Four Pillars of Establishment

Now if you ever want to get established, I am totally honest with you, if you ever want to get established for the work of the Lord and give Him all your substance, there are four things you have to do, and I see this in many, many, many of you, even some of you that do not think you have it, I think you do.

1. You have to get into God's structure like young Samuel did. You have to get into a Bible-believing, Bible-teaching, Bible-preaching church. You have to put all your eggs in one basket. You have to realize that in Acts 13, the church at Antioch is the model for us, and in 1 Samuel 3, it is a thing, and I want to tell you, lining those up with the four things that mighty men of valor, it takes courage to do that because you have to walk away from some things, you have to walk away from some people. So you have to come to the place where you get into God's structure and you realize that whatever substance you have is going into that structure.
2. I will tell you the second thing, it says, "And Samuel grew." Once you get into the structure, folks, you have to have a plan to grow. This idea that you are just going to go here and hit something here and get something here and get something here and read this and do this, you will never learn the Bible that way. At some point in your life, you have to get a process for you to grow. Here it is laid out clearly: discipleship one, discipleship two, Bible institute, the people in the ministry, the prayer groups. All the new people that we had up here today this year that got into it, or teach you now Sunday morning, Thursday night, the one-on-one option that you have. It is just that simple. I have spent over half my life learning the Bible. I have spent over half my life learning the Bible. Now what time I have got left, my job is to get it into as many of you as I can. It is just that simple.
3. I read through the Bible and I know that God's school, and I tell you this all the time, God's school is never out. I do not care if you are 90 years old, you are still in school. But I have given before that in God's school there are seven classes that you have got to keep taking all of your life. You never graduate from them. You have to take an English class because your Bible is in English. You have to take civics and government because the Bible is built around the kingdom of God versus the kingdom of heaven; that is a government. You have to take a biology class because you have to understand you are a body, soul, and spirit. You are going to how to divide that up. You have to take a history class because you have to understand your roots. You have to take a music class because you have to understand psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. You have to take a math class because God divides and multiplies and adds. You have to take a science class because the Bible is the most scientific book on the planet. In other words, it is a lifestyle of growth, but there is no room in God's seven classes for the drama class or for recess. God's school is never over.
4. Then the third thing, and that would be determination. You have got to be determined for that. That is why so many of God's people do not make it. That is why they just cannot stay with it. First of all, they do not have the courage to do it. Second of all, if you do not have the courage, my God, you are not going to have the determination to do it.
5. Then the fourth one is loyalty, and "the Lord was with him." You have got to do it God's way. I am telling you right now, every issue, every problem we have had in life simply came because we did it our way instead of God's way, and it is just that simple. You can alibi it all you want. You can blame your problems on everybody else and everything else, but I am

telling you right now, we have the issues in our life because we are so bowheaded, so prideful that we had to do it our way. As Dr. Phil says, "How is that working for you?" The quicker you get that part of your life in order, the better off you are going to be. If you are ever going to get established, you will have to follow a biblical process, a pattern to do it. Established with your loyalty: loyalty to your family, loyalty to the Word of God, loyalty to the church, loyalty to your Bible, loyalty to the people that you are working with, loyalty to God's way, not just your way.

6. And the fourth one, and here is the key, "and he let none of his words fall to ground." Honor His words in every aspect of your life. Now that is really the question today. Sorry it took so long to get to the question, but in your own life, in your family, in your marriage, in your personal relationship, and the daily doings, how much of the Word of God are you not willing to apply? How much will your pride, your bowheadedness, your "my way or the highway" keep you at arm's length from ever being established? Picking and choosing out of the Bible what you want to do over what you do not want to do. When you do those things, at some point God will establish you doing them the right way, of course, not a word falling to the ground. You hang on to every word of God.

You know how you get those secret things I talked about today? I know back in my day that was Bible 101, and I thank God it was because I am not very smart, but I will tell you this right now, back there when I was just sitting listening to a boy that hung on every word that they said, I used to listen to them lay out the doctrinal applications and places, and I thought to myself, and I remember driving home, remember being, I lived by myself and living and thinking late at night, "God, will I ever get to that point where I can do that?"

IX. Leadership and Establishment in Ministry

In Acts 13, it talks about the life of Paul. Paul was saved in Acts 9. He was baptized in Acts 9. He joined the New Testament local church in Acts 16. He grew with God, Acts 12-13, and through his ministry, God established him to others, and they recognized God's hand in his life. Never one time, Paul was a pretty individual. God pulled him, one man, to Sinai, laid it out, and gave him the plan of the gospel, which Paul called it "my gospel," his own personal gospel because God gave it to him. I do not know how many times he said God gave it to nobody else but me. He held that up high as it was right from him to God. He did not get it from anybody else. You know that could be a pretty prideful thing. But when Paul was ready for God to use him, you know what he did? He did not walk into the church of Antioch and say, "Hey, here I am. I just got back from Sinai. I got all the answers and the secrets." You know what he did? He did not say a word to anybody. He got into that church. He went to work. He did what he was supposed to do. He paid his dues. He did everything that God told him to do, and he waited for the Holy Spirit of God to establish him. There came a time in his life when the people in that church, listening to the Holy Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit of God said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." You know why? God established it. In other words, you do not establish yourself. You are kidding yourself. You do not walk around here like you are in charge of a thousand things. You do not pretend you are this spiritual person or that. You know what you do? You get in here and you clean the toilets this afternoon. You get on a cleaning crew.

Do not pick and choose, "Well, I am only going to preach the places where there is a lot of." You get in there and eat some mud and some dirt and some blood. Let God establish you like He is supposed to establish you.

I have watched that same process that worked in so many of your lives. You fixed what you had to fix. You made right what you had to make right. Sometimes it took fourfold, did not it? Yes, it did. I watch your attitude change. For the nation of Israel, the King will establish the land at the second coming of Christ, and for us, the King will establish His temple in you, your body, to take to the world. The job of the Holy Spirit of God, seven things in John 16. The job of the Word of God, seven things the Word of God will do for you in Hebrews 4. The job of this church, Acts 13 and Acts 20. My job as a pastor is to try to establish you, to give you everything that you need.

In my life, I may just speak candidly here for a moment. I have a real sense of urgency in my life. I do not show it, but I do because I know that I have more time behind me than I have ahead of me. My urgency is to take every moment I can and yet in every way I can to train leaders, women and men, who fall into that category of David's mighty men of valor, who will take their stand, and I can train that after I am gone, if the Lord does not come, that I know it will carry on. Most pastors will try to reach the world through missions, but they will never build anything in their own church. My mindset is that I want to reach the world, but I realize that this church cannot reach the world without building people who can reach the world, leadership. It is my prayer every day, "Lord, just let me build one more. Just keep one more coming. Send me one more kid. Send me one more kid from across the country someplace that does not have a mom or dad. Send me one more kid in our own church whose mom and dad have failed miserably that wants to do what is right. Just give me one more. Just send one more my way, Lord. Just weed out the non-hackers, burn off the dross, so only leave the pure silver and gold to work with."

I have had people come to this church, they come in here six or seven times and they last about three months. Our last one just blew out of here a couple of months ago, and I know what will happen. I know what will happen. I will bump into him at a bank someplace or I will bump into him someplace and he will come up and say, "Bob, I really need to talk to you." Or he will come to the place that he will say, "You know what, that is the church, it just did not work for us." And I am going to say to him, "You know what, you are absolutely right. Church is a terrible church. I am thinking about leaving it myself." I mean, you have been here seven times and it has not worked for you. You know what? The eighth time is not going to be any charm. There are people like that. There are people who will never pull their life together, never pull the act together, and they are always going to blame somebody else for it. I will be honest with you, I am tired of it. I mean, I have put up with it all my life. Hey, after almost 50 years, would you allow me to be tired of some things? I am tired of that. I am tired of people who want to play games. I am tired of people who want to use this church. Tired of people who want to use me. Tired of people who want to use you. Now I know ministry is putting yourself in the position of being used. I am tired of it. There comes a time when you simply say, "You know what, I do not know what time I have got left. I am not going to chase around all over the world for you. We have some things we have to do." I just asked the Lord, "God, just bring me one more." I love the guys and the men and

women that God has brought back that were with me so many years ago. To me, they are absolutely special. I mean, they mean the world to me, and I just say, "Lord, keep them coming."

I tell you over and over again that everything rises and falls on leadership. That is so true in the Old Testament, but it is so true in the New Testament church. Over the years, I read every book on leadership that there probably was, and I have to be honest, some of it was okay, but you know where you really learned the key of leadership? You learned reading the biographies of great men who were great leaders, and in my life, most of them were military guys. I think of Hal Moore. You all saw the movie *We Were Soldiers* based on a true story. Every kid had to watch that movie. Hal Moore was an incredible leader. He dropped his 400 men into a football-sized field in the Ia Drang Valley over there and found himself against 10,000, the whole division of NVA, and he won. You know why he won? Because he was a great leader. He understood the principles of leadership. Read the Patton papers. Patton was a prima donna in a lot of ways, but he was a great leader. He understood leadership. Admiral Halsey was an incredible leader. When I was in the army, we had a guy named Bull Simmons. Bull Simmons was a colonel, never got past the rank of colonel in the Special Forces, but he was an incredible leader.

I am telling you, my job is to build leaders, but I want to tell you this because in all these books I read over the years, they always talk about leadership and looking for the ability in people's lives to be leaders. I want to tell you right now, leadership has nothing to do with ability, but leadership has everything to do with responsibility. You are not just responsible for the easy calls, you have to be responsible for the hard calls. You have to be able to make the call decisions in your life, in your family, in your ministry. Anybody can make the easy calls, but a leader has to make the tough calls. I will tell you something else: a person who always has to win, a person who always has to be number one, a person has to always be right, will never make a good leader. You know why? You will never be a good leader until you lose. You will never be a good leader till you fail. You will never be a good leader till you fall, and then through determination, loyalty, and honor and courage, you get up and you lead through it. That is what makes leaders: yourself, your family, and in your church.

For us, this verse is an incredible verse because it lays out for us that God wants to establish you. He wanted to establish Israel and have all the world come to Israel, and Israel rejected it. So He moved into the New Testament, and He wants to establish the temple in you, and He wants to take you to the world. Most of God's people today have rejected it, and it goes right back to the same rejection, Old Testament and New Testament: the rejection of the Holy Spirit of God leading in your life. So what do we do to maintain our pride, to maintain our vision of spirituality? We get a lot of man-made crap put into Christianity that pretends that we are really spiritual. As the book of Revelation says, we think we are big, we think we are rich, and we have need of nothing, but in reality, we are poor, blind, wretched, and miserable, and we are the church of the closed door. It does not have to be that way. Not only is the church of the closed door simply an existence because Christians are Christians with the closed door of their heart. They will not allow the Holy Spirit of God to do what He wants to do, what He saved them for, to establish you. But if you are ever going to be established, it is going to be God's way. It is not going to be yours, and you are going to have to change some things, and for most of God's

people, they are never going to do that. Their way, as much as they complain about it, as much as they do not like it, as much as they do not want to do it, they become comfortable in it. So we will hold up there, and this has been valuable stuff. This goes way beyond, "Here is the inspirational little tickle your tongue this morning and give you this." This is down where the Bible really hits the road.