

I. The Church's Enduring Impact

The fact that so many of you that were with me back in the day, God has seen fit to bring you back into our ministry here. That is always an encouragement to me because if there is anybody who knows me and knows how I operate and knows the way I am, it is you folks. You could be a testament to the fact that in all these thirty, forty years that many of us have been together, I am still preaching the same thing and believing the same thing I did back in the day. I have never changed anything. Hopefully, I have gotten a little better preaching, but that is also on you, not me. You have to tell me that.

To me, it is hard to believe, it really is, that an insignificant church like ours, a church that meets in a basement, if you drove by this place, you might think it sold apples, but you would not think it was the apples of Song of Solomon and the Book of Proverbs. It is a thing where you have a chiropractor up here in case I beat you up too bad, you go get your body broken. You have an E-play down here. You have an insurance. You have everything, investments in this place, and down here in the basement, if you need a tuxedo, you can go down the hall in this basement. Right here is where God meets with us. It is the most insignificant little place that you could ever think of.

To think that this church could have such an impact with people all over the world and all over the country. Last Thursday night, our brother from the Netherlands, we have him in Africa, we have him in England, we have him in France, we have him in Mexico, we have him in Canada, and all through the United States. It is an incredible thing. It is hard to believe that God would do with us what He did.

We know that the Bible says in Luke 16:15:

Luke 16:15

And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

I have told you from day one, it is not the big mega-churches that are going to reach the world. They have the ability to do it. They have the facilities, they have the money, they have the people, but they do not have the Book. So they just sit around and do whatever they do. That is the way it has always been. I have tried to tell you that from day one. It is the little unknown soldiers, the men and women whose names never get recorded in church history, that really carry the battle for God. It has always been the remnant, always has been. I have told you that long before we got into where America is at today and where it is going, that God always uses the remnant. I do not care where it is, what it is in history, down through church history, down through the history of the Bible. In the tribulation period, the nation of Israel is going to get wiped down to a remnant. It is that remnant that God is going to start with and going to use.

I have told you for every D.L. Moody and George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards, that volumes of books are written about and their household names among Christians, you will find ten thousand little guys out there that nobody knows who they were that were doing the job. I have said it last week, but I have been saying it forever. 2020 is a year for us with biblical ramifications, biblical proportions. It is a radical change of life of America and around the world, which nobody could have imagined even a year ago.

II. The Erosion of Values and Law

I think about it all the time when I hear, you have a stadium down here that holds what, seventy thousand people, and what, twenty thousand people can go to it. Your kids are playing football and all that. I drove by Raytown South yesterday going home and they were the girls' baseball out there in the field right next to the road. All the adults had to be in St. Louis. They were just spread out everywhere. You cannot go to football games anymore. You cannot go to restaurants anymore without being. It is crazy. It is a thing where we never would have believed a year ago.

We have seen the value system that this country once held, and it actually held this country together, it has evaporated. It is unbelievable. We are seeing the fulfillment of Isaiah 5:20 where evil will be called good and good will be called evil. We are living in the day that Hosea prophesied in Hosea 8:12 that the great things of God would now become the strange things to us. People do not even believe it anymore. We saw again Hosea writing over Isaiah 4 that in Israel, which is such a prophecy for where this country is in the world, is that in Israel's day, there was no truth, no mercy, and no knowledge of God on the land.

Law and order has totally come under attack. If you are a police officer, you cannot even, I pray for those guys every day. We live in a world now that you cannot even do anything because we have given people the license to rebel against any authority. It is just the way that it is. Because of that mob rule and anarchy rule the day, you have cities now where the city officials just give up whole blocks of the city and turn it over to them. That would have never happened in the 1950s. It would have never happened in the 1960s. But it is the rule of thumb today in 2020. Clearly, we are living, as I have tried to tell you for years now, we are living in the Book of Judges where there is no king in Israel and every man is doing what is right in his own eyes.

With all of that going on around us, and I have not even touched on the upcoming election, and what a disaster that is going to be. However it goes, if you think you are going to wake up the day after election day as we have for what, two hundred and some years, and we are going to have a new president, you are crazy. This thing is out of it. It is incredible. If I had a chance and we could do it, we would all sign up for the first trip to Mars to colonize it and start all over again. Somebody asked pastor, asked me the other day, what is my solution to all the problems going on? I said, I have an easy one. Nuke this place after twenty years, plant grass on it, and move in buffalo and start all over again. Because we are in a mess.

III. Plagues and the New Normal

We are along with that, we all have our own pandemic now. A pandemic is a sophisticated twenty-five dollar word. You will notice that in the Bible, you do not find the word pandemic, you find the word plague because God never sends pandemics. He sends plagues. All you have to do is be a little student of history and see that all down through history of the Bible and the history of the church, God has judged His people for their rejection of His Word through the enemies of other countries and the plagues that came against us.

I remember when AIDS first came out, everybody was on the bandwagon that was still preaching, and AIDS has been around for quite a while now. But back in the day, everybody was preaching the fact that it was God's judgment on this country because of its lack of morality. Everybody understood that there was anybody. But today, we do not see what is happening today anywhere connected with the hand of God. It is pretty certain now with no end in sight that life as we once knew it will never be back. It is called the new normal. I call it a country without God's Word.

Any student of history will see at a glance that all down through the history of the New Testament church, the church and Christians have had to adapt to changes in their life, the challenges that were presented. We built our ministry on the outreach to people. I taught you many times in the people ministry and even in Institute and even talked about it here in our philosophy of ministry that the way you build a church is you see what the need is in the culture of which you live. Then you find a solution to people's needs within your own culture. If you go to Mexico down in Central America, Africa, some of them places, sure, they need the Gospel, but they need food. They need clothes. They need medicine. So you give them the Gospel through their need.

America does not need food. There is a grocery store on every corner. We do not need clothing. Some of you do. You have your jeans on today with all the knees ripped out and we could kind of take care of that for you. But it is a thing where we do not need those things. America has its own brand of problems. America is an insane asylum run by the inmates. America is broken, broken families, busted marriages, disillusionment in people's lives, a complete utter chaos. People are struggling today.

IV. Adapting Ministry in Changing Times

We put our plan together, our ministry through the social things that we could do on a base level of ministry. Years and years and years and years, and you old folks know, been around me forever, you know that this is true of what I am saying. We started a softball ministry, and it was not a softball ministry because we wanted to win leagues or get trophies. The trophies we wanted were at the judgment seat of Christ. Most churches, they want to have a softball league and then through the softball league, they will try to reach people. That is the reverse philosophy for me. For me, I have told my captains many, many times, we reach people and we try to find out how to play softball because people are first. It has been an incredible thing. Many of you were here because of that.

Then in the volleyball, we did the same thing. Many of you were here today because of the volleyball. Remember the day when we would go out there to a place on 291 and it would be what, two hundred, three hundred people packed out there. We would all go to Jason's Deli. If we all went to Jason's Deli now, we would have to eat in the cars. Things have changed. I remember the Iron Man we used to do. We got three of them in and they were incredible. Another whole level of reaching people. Coming up in October 31st, we always used to go to Gary's and have the hayride. Remember that? Sean would get his guys out there and spook everybody up and scare everybody. We would get on the wagons and do my role as the master of disaster and scare everybody and have a great time. The Old Path Boys would play for us and do a concert. We would have Norbert's chili and hot dogs and all that. Gary would graciously open up his place and we would have a ball. We would always bring, you would always invite people to that. Through those medias, you would make friends, get to know them. They would see our church. They would see what we had for the kids. It was a great drawing crowd.

Then we had our restart where we started down there working and then we developed into the street ministries and all of those things. Remember our movie times? Whenever a new movie would come out, we would pack the place out. We would have more people there than anybody. It was incredible. It is all gone, folks. It is all gone. It makes you a little sad. For me, I am a nostalgic guy anyhow. It makes me a little sad driving by those places, knowing how that it changed. It was the beginning of changing so many of your lives. Now we have lost that. We had to cancel our softball league because of the Coronavirus and all of that stuff. They basically said that anybody playing out there or anybody coming attending, we had to give them a list of names and phone numbers and addresses so they could, I mean, come on. Is this Romania in the 1960s? Only the beginning.

Even some of the things that were so vital here, our prayer groups that were the greatest thing, one of the greatest things we ever did. I love coming in on Sunday mornings and seeing all you ladies and guys packed up there down here. Everybody gone, gone. All of the social things are elementary shut down. Everything is changed. I think back in February, I think February was the last fun thing that we did for you all got sick. It was a Super Bowl party. It was the funnest thing we have ever done. Not only did we just did not want to go home that night, did we? Some of you did. We did not want to go home that night. So you know what we did? We piled in cars and drove over to the sports place over here in the independent center. There had to be ten thousand people there. We waited in a line that had to be nine miles long. Just to go in and find out that they already had sold out everything that we wanted. You know what? We did not care. We just bought stuff. Some people even bought Alabama stuff. Alex, of course they were discounting that. We are almost next to nothing. Gone, guys. It is gone. It is sad. It really is. That is all changed.

V. Four Great Truths in Adversity

I want to tell you something. Throughout the years, this is not my first rodeo where the horses get shot. Throughout my years in ministry, I have seen some things come and go in Christianity that were equal or not worse than what we are facing now. From a country standpoint, we are

down to the sewer. But it is a thing through my journey, I have learned some things. I have learned four great truths. These truths have carried me through. No matter how black it was, no matter how dark it became, no matter how everybody just gave up their ghost and threw their hands up and said, "I quit." No matter how scared people got or how indifferent they got or how mad they got or whatever, I have learned four great truths.

1. I have learned that with God, out of confusion will come clarity.
2. The second thing I have learned is with God, out of fear can come courage.
3. The third thing I have learned with God, out of chaos can come order.
4. The fourth thing I have learned with God, out of change of life as we know it, can come opportunities.

We just have to find it within ourselves to stay with the Book that got us where we are at today. I am telling you right now, it will get us through. God has brought us through every issue that we have faced in the last eighteen years. I have no doubt that He will not walk us through this if we stay with the same Book that we claimed that we had. As I said last week out of 2 Timothy 1:7, the prevailing spirit in Christianity today is fear. There is a spirit of fear, as Paul talked about, and it has left God's people confused, scared, and...

I look at Christianity today like the little mazes that you have where they catch little rats, little mice's intelligence. They put them in a maze and they put a piece of cheese down at the end and that mouse has got to kind of figure out his way of getting through it to get to the cheese. It must be very confusing for him. Normally he just goes over, gets the cheese, the trap goes off and breaks his neck. This way he has got to go through the whole maze. Many times I look at that as that is where God's people are today. We are trying to get to heaven, the cheese at the end, but life has become a real tough maze for us right now.

If I have learned anything in all my years in the Bible and the study of church history, I have learned that real Bible-based Christianity will always find a way. It did in the 900s, it did in the 1000 AD, 1100, 1200, 1300, whether you are dealing with the Waldensians or the Huguenots or the Paulicians or the Bogomiles or the Hussites. When their persecution came, and I want to tell you right now, and I know you do not know this or you have forgotten this or your fear has clouded this for you, what they went through was a lot worse, but we are going through. But you know what? They all found a way. Real Christianity will always find a way, always has and always will.

Those four concepts or terms that I have given you over the years for thirty some years now, we used to have T-shirts that had it on back in the day. I talk about the four components that it takes for a successful ministry: adaptability, flexibility, compatibility, and durability. Those to me are not just a talking point for a really good sermon, but to the very pillars by which ministry and Christianity and God's people have to instill in their lives. It is the same principles that I have tried to build into you and tried to build into this church through all the different things that we have done. Through all of this and what is coming, God has done all down through history. He will take the strong and make you stronger.

VI. Examples of Courage and the Mixed Multitude

One of the greatest examples, and if you noticed over the last, since we got into the Gospel of John, it has been a natural. But I have tried to show you some really great examples of courage. The Bible says in 1 Samuel 30:6:

1 Samuel 30:6

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

Now there is a good guy to study. David went through some tough times. David had people that hated him. David had people that did not like him being king. David had people who had issues with him all the time. Now given, he caused some of his own problems. But he was God's man at that time. Do you do that today? With what you are going through, with what you are facing, instead of just hiding under a rock someplace, do you take the Word of God? I have tried to give you, throughout this whole time, examples of courageous men in the Bible who are faced with greater circumstances. You know why? Because those are the guys that I encourage myself with.

One of the greatest examples I have found is found in the nation of Israel itself, as God begins to formulate them in Genesis and then begins to call them out through Exodus and take them to the Promised Land where God had promised them. In the book of Exodus we see, at the end of Genesis they all go down to Egypt. You know the story, Joseph and Jacob, and they all head down to Egypt. They are down there and then the Bible says that there is a new king in Egypt which knew not Joseph. Everything begins to go south. They begin to go through four hundred years, or four hundred thirty years depending on how you want to count it, four hundred years of the most horrendous slavery, the most horrendous bondage, time of absolute destitute. There was not a family that did not lose multiple people in the brick kilns of Egypt, or crushed under the weight of the big rocks to make the Pharaoh's Pyramids, or whipped to death, or beat to death, or scarred to death, or had disease and yet had to work every day and die. The roads of Egypt would be paved with the bones of God's people. We know that the world, Egypt, and the devil through Egypt wanted to destroy them. That was the whole purpose. We have been at it for what, eight or nine months now in our light affliction? They went through it for four hundred years. Where the devil wanted to break them, destroy them, and cast them aside, God used that four hundred years to forge them into the strongest, greatest nation the world has ever seen. God took the bondage. God took the suffering. God took the trials of Egypt. He made them strong.

Here is what I want to tell you. That was only the beginning. When they come out of Egypt and they headed for the Promised Land, I guess you could say their problems just really started. Because God, as they got to that land, that land was filled with giants. That land was filled with the Philistines, the Amorites, the Anakims. They were filled with everybody. The devil for those four hundred years had put them in that place to keep them from getting the Promised Land, the land that God promised them. When you study them on their journey, you will study that one challenge after the other they had to face. You will find that it was only the beginning of their

struggles. But God used the four hundred years to forge them so they could get through what they had to get through to get into the land. What a picture of modern day, twentieth, twenty-first century Christianity from the aspect of our failure to see and understand that.

The Promised Land for them was the land that God had given them, promised them through Abraham. It was a place where God was going to fulfill His promises to them. Everybody out there today that teaches on the Promised Land wants to make the Promised Land heaven. The Promised Land was never a picture for you and me of heaven. The Promised Land is a picture of the place in your life where you get that through the adversaries and the world and the flesh and the devil, you can be successful and live a life based on the Promises of God. God gave them the land, but they had to keep the Promises, the Word of God, to keep it. When they did not, the enemies came in. God gave Christianity the Book and all the promises to keep us where we need to be and get through anything that comes our way. But when we dump the Book...

You do not want to miss this. As I was reading this this week, and I just decided to throw it in here because it was so prevalent to my own encouragement. But you do not want to miss this. With all the promises and the future that God had for them, with the nation of Israel, there always was the mixed multitude. The mixed multitude were always the people that came out with them, but all they ever saw was the downside of things. When push comes to shove and things really got bad, they always wanted to go back to Egypt. Their association with the nation of Israel always, when they camped, they were always on the outer fringe of the camp. They never really got involved in anything that God was doing with the nation of Israel itself. By design, their job was to sow doubt in all the people that God wanted to do something with.

I remember, this is, by the way, we have talked about this, this is my father in the Lord, Mel Subach, up here. This picture was taken in the 80s, or maybe early 90s, when we were at a Bible conference over there in St. Louis, Missouri. Based on my Timothy talking about Mel Subach, I wanted to, somebody from St. Louis actually sent us that picture that took it and heard the message and gave it to us. I wanted you to see what he looked like. Many of you know him. Some of you do not, but now you know. I would never forget him telling me that whenever you build for the Lord, you will want to keep the mixed multitude to the smallest remnant number that you can. He told me, I said, you know what? You are going to have guys in your church like Moses, guys in your church like Aaron, guys in your church like Joshua, and guys in your church like Caleb. Caleb is the guy that I really focused on today. What a great study he is.

You will have strong leaders who never flinched back in the day with the nation of Israel. Caleb is one of the greatest studies that you will ever take, and a study of courage in the face of adversaries. He is one of the, him and Joshua, when Moses sent the spies over to check out the land, remember they all came back and they were scared to death and afraid, so they had to wander for forty years. It was Joshua and Caleb were in that group that went over, and when they came back, they were not afraid of nothing. They looked at this Dane with the other people that were so afraid of the obstacles out there, Joshua and Caleb wanted to take it. Moses would not let them, they were ready to go.

The last time you find him is in Joshua 14, and God is dividing up the inheritances. Caleb is now, listen to me, he is eighty-five years old. He looks at Mount Hebron, which is his inheritance, and he says to Moses and Joshua, "I want that mountain for my inheritance. That is my inheritance, and I am going to claim it." The last thing you find him doing, by himself, now that mountain is filled with the Anakims, they are filled with the Amorites, they are filled with all the enemies. It is a stronghold, and the last thing you find that eighty-five year old guy doing is climbing up that mountain with a sword in his hand and a gleam in his eye. That is his mountain. If you and I would pursue our inheritance in the millennium, we will just have the courage of a guy named Caleb.

What do you encourage yourself with during the week? I mean, I know you see the news and you hear the newspapers and you read here the CNN and Fox News and what a disaster all that is. But how with everything that is going on with all the negatives that is flooding everything in America, how do you encourage yourself? Do you? Are you just fold up like a house of cards? God gave us men like Caleb. He gave us men like Paul. He gave us men like Timothy. He gave us men like Joshua that we could encourage ourselves with whatever we are going through.

Then you had men like Jethro, men like Jannes and Jambres, who the Bible says withstood Moses to his face. In Numbers 11 and Exodus 12, you have the mixed multitude that came out with them, the outer fringe people. At the first sign of trouble, they wanted to quit. They are at the Red Sea and they look around and here comes Pharaoh's army. They want to go back. God does the great miracle, splits the sea, they go over. Then somebody looks around and says, "Pharaoh's army is coming through the dry ground, the water is still up," and they want to go back. God drowns out Pharaoh's army. They are not out there any length of time and you want to make a golden calf. They are not out there any length of time that they are in the wilderness and there is no water and there is no food. Now they murmur and complain to the leader, Moses. It did not seem to matter to the mixed multitude whatever God was doing. In fact, their mindset toward the manna, which is a picture of the Word of God. They said, "Moses, all we got to eat is this old dry manna. Give us flesh." That is what they wanted. The mixed multitude never sees what God is doing. The mixed multitude never cares what God is doing. It is no different today.

Through adversity, God will always purge His people. He always has, He always will. You would think that some of you people would figure that out. When we get to the judgment seat of Christ, the Bible says God takes your works, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, and stubble, whatever the case may be. You know what He does? He takes fire and He purges it. If you build on your foundation gold, silver, you know what the fire does to the gold and silver? It purges it. It purifies it. It gets the dross out of it. Why would we have such a trouble thinking that God would not purge His church when at the judgment seat of Christ, He would not purge His works?

We as a church, we talk big, did we not? We got the King James 1611 Authorized Version. We are not like those other churches that got those man-made devil Bibles. Look, we got the absolute perfect Word of God. Some of you have got so many principles cataloged that you could wallpaper your house with them. Our doctrine, the number one thing, all scriptures given by inspiration is profitable for doctrine. We have the right doctrine. What we believe, look at the

notes in your Bible. We would come up with little phrases, "hold the line," "back to back," "we own the night." We would sing the songs, "hold the fort for I am coming," "wave the answer back to heaven." All verses, the mega-churches, the evangelical churches, the Baptist churches that went renegade without the Book, and their service is no more than a halftime show of Dancing with the Stars. This is why we had the Book, we took our stand, the biblical stand, to stay with the Word of God. Well, God has now called our hand on that, has He not? Are we really any different? Were we just a bunch of talk?

I have said it before, we are at the defining moment of our lives for all of us. Will this church now find a way through all of this and see the opportunities, the open doors, the door of utterance that God has put in front of us, or will we just be like everybody else? We talked a good game, but when push comes to shove, we are nowhere to be found. This very moment in time, right before the rapture of the church, will define who we really are.

VII. Operation Remnant: A New Direction

It is really simple today, and obviously this is my introduction, but it is worth listening to. My job as your pastor is to lead this church through this time. Your job as leaders is to lead with me. It is just that simple. It will take all of us, as you will see as I lay out Operation Remnant today. As far as ministry is concerned, we can no longer come at it the way we once did. It is gone now. That is not going to happen anymore. Probably never again. Now, as I have told you many, many times in people ministry and all the other things we do, we need to be smarter than the problem. We need to hit it from another angle.

Again, I want to give you one more example. Turn over to the book of Philippians. Of all the books that Paul writes, this book is the most personal and the most intimate. In this book, he shows that he has a special relationship with this church. He has got a special relationship with this church that he does not have with any of the other churches that he writes to. It is also clear that this church has a special relationship with him. For one thing, this is the only church he writes to that he does not have to correct them on any issues. Every other church has got some kind of doctrinal issue, some problem they are going through, not this church. This church is firing on all eight cylinders and it is doing the work. In this book, he gives them, I have told you this before, ten of the greatest New Testament principles for the church and for Christianity you could ever find. If you just had these ten and you did not have anything else, you could survive. That is how important they are.

This church that he writes to in the book of Philippians is filled with people who are like-minded and naturally doing the ministry with Paul like we talked about last week. He feels so comfortable with this church and has such a relationship and a bond of love with them that in this book he is just laying out his heart to them because of the love that they have for each other. He feels so close to them that he actually, more than any other church, he sends Timothy to them and then he sends Epaphroditus to them, two key guys in his life and he says, "Epaphroditus is my brother, my companion, my fellow soldier, my messenger, my co-laborer." We already know he was sick and Paul says, "I am worried about sending him but he will not stay. He is coming because whatever you need is worse than his need." Incredible.

Those of you who we have a bond together today, we have a bond of unbroken love for each other based on our labor and our like-mindedness together that naturally you have fallen into what God has put you into here. Nothing will ever get between us for we are one for the work. When you see that the work and the ministry is the most important thing, the personal things never get into it because you have such a bond together that you cut each other whatever slack you need to get the job done, realizing that we are co-laborers together. I found in the military that soldiers very often did not always get along but when the bullets started flying they were willing to die for each other.

I have seen people that come to this church and they take everything this church has to offer for them. I have seen this church minister to people that had needs in their family, help them with struggle through financial times, get food for them, give them this, or they went through some medical issue that they did not have to go through by their self that this church was there for them, helped them, gave them money, worked through this, helped them with their kids, helped them through whatever we could do. And yet they will throw you under the bus in ten seconds or less. They have no love for the work here. To them it was what we could do for them, not what they could do for the Lord. But that is not what makes the church work. You are going to always have that mixed multitude. They are always going to be there. It is okay. But the real bond is with the fellow soldiers, the fellow laborers, the messengers, the co-laborers, the people who believe in what God is doing and nothing will separate you from that. You realize that God puts you here for a reason. It was no accident that God brought you here. You got at the beginning everything you could want. Something changed with you. Thank God like the Timothys, like Paul, like Epaphroditus, these men never changed. The church at Philippi, it never changed. They were brothers that were born for adversity. They worked through their differences. They worked through their issues. They saw the value that each of them brought. It was not about them. It was about others.

You became my companions. You became my co-laborers. Those that God has allowed us together to do this work. Not only you new ones that are growing up and coming on the scene, but you old ones. And I say old ones, but the ones that were with me for years and years ago, that God has brought back because you will form the stability of whatever we do. So I want to lay out to you what Paul laid out to them. I want to look at you here today and those of you who are tuning in who legitimately cannot be here. I want you to listen to me as my Timothys. Listen to me as my brothers and sisters in the Lord, my companions in ministry. My brothers that are born for adversity. My fellow soldiers that we share the same foxhole. We eat the same mud, spill the same blood. My messengers who have the message to take forth from this church and my co-laborers that we labor together.

I want to lay out to you today Operation Remnant. Based on what Paul told them in the book of Philippians in chapter 1:11-14, and here again is another great example. This will be our text today.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. Thank You for all that You do for us. Thank You for all that You have given us. We pray now Your hand upon us today. We thank You for those that are here. We thank You for those who are tuned in. We thank

You Lord for the ones who are part of this ministry. Whether they are here or they are not here today. Because they cannot be. But Lord, they are the ones that believe in what God has put them here. Lord, they are my co-laborers. They are the ones that nothing gets between us. We work through all the issues because there is a bigger, bigger picture than just our differences. That is the cause of Christ that God has put us together. We thank You Father. May I speak to these, my Timothys today as Paul spoke to his Timothys at the church at Philippi. We will thank You and praise in Jesus' name for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Philippians 1:11-14

11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

This church was going through its own trials at this time, if you know anything about this church. Much like Christianity has went through their trials and much like we perceive our trials today, even though theirs were certainly much worse than ours. It was under attack from the Jews who hated New Testament Christianity. Then it is under attack for the Gentiles and that would be the Roman Empire who also is the greatest enemy of Christianity. Paul himself is in prison as he writes this book. It is a prison epistle. He is in bonds. He is in jail for preaching the Gospel. Yet Paul sees himself that what he is facing and his adversity has opened up some great opportunities for him. He sees the issues and the challenges and the oppositions to his ministry. He does not look at it that way. He looks at the opportunities like last week, the Door of Utterance.

He says in verse 12, "I want you to understand something. The things that have befallen me, persecution, put in jail, and in time executed. The things that have happened to me, they have fallen out under the furtherance of the Gospel." He did not whine and complain and want to get a good lawyer. He did not whine and complain of a poor old me, what has happened to me. When he knew the Roman government was against Christianity, he did not hide. He got bolder and he preached more and he wound up in jail and he never gets out of jail and they wind up cutting his head off probably. He says the things that happened to me, they have fallen out under the furtherance of the Gospel. Now do you see that?

I cannot speak for you nor would I presume to. Most of you here, you are here because we are in this together and I get that. But even at that, I cannot speak for you, but I will tell you today, in our crisis, Paul's stand is my stand. It is just that simple. He says in verse 13 that what he is going through, that Christ is being manifested. Then he look at this, in the palace, that is the king's palace. That is where he is in jail, in the dungeon, in the basement. The fact that he is saved and on his way to heaven, even though he is in jail, it is radiating through the jail, through the palace. Then he says in all other places, you see, your circumstance in this situation should never limit

you. Paul is in jail. He is locked up in a cell. He gets three hours and a cot. That is all he gets all day long. He is never going to get out again, but yet he finds a way. He is in jail, in prison, in bonds, yet he finds a way not only to impact the jail in the palace, but all the people around him. Here we are with our freedom. Here we are, still free, maybe for a short time, still free to go where we want to go. Let us say what we want to say.

Verse 14 says, "And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by what I am going through, are much more bold to take their stand because they see a real Christianity and a real Christian, to speak God's word without fear," he says, "boldly." I am going to tell you right now, if you are worth your salt for God, and many God's people are not, but if you are worth your salt with God when you go through some things, and it is going to come your way, if you do not learn to encourage yourself in the Lord, you are out before you get in. The persecution of the Jews and the Romans had spread fear through Christianity, but people saw Paul and his boldness. They saw this church, and their stand in the face of great adversity, and God's people took courage. That is where we are at today. This is what we are going to do.

I must have got fifty phone calls this week from people, and I have not even laid anything out today, and yet I have got fifty phone calls from people this week saying, "I do not know what this is, but count me in." Today I want to lay out to my people, just like Paul did to his. I am not speaking to the mixed multitude today. I am not speaking to the people who have just used churches, every church you have been in, you have left, and it is always been somebody else's fault. I am not speaking to you. I am love you, but I am not speaking to you. I am speaking to my Timothys. I am speaking to my fellow soldiers. I am speaking to my co-laborers. I am speaking to my men and women who have bonded with me through a love for the Book, and a love for God, and a love for each other, that nothing, not a piece of paper, will ever get between us. That we will find the boldness in this time of adversity that is only going to get worse, that we will find a way. My band of brothers, for he who sheds his blood with me this day, shall be my brother, my band of brothers.

Over the last four or five months, I have watched some things. I wanted to find out who I had, let everything kind of shake down. I did not want to presume anything with anybody, and I just kind of let this thing take its course, and just see how it all came down and shook down, and you mad? You leaving? I just wanted to see how this thing was going to shake down. You know, me, anyhow, before I get into a major engagement, I want to know who is on my side. You guys have nothing to prove to me, every one of you here today. The folks upstairs, the folks out in the lobby, the folks here, many of you have been with me forever. It is a thing where, you know, we go back so many, many years. I talked to Jim Daris-Kevich this morning before the service, and he reminded me of some things. And how many years ago that we had been together, the Christies, how many years? Penny Hansinger, does not look a day older than she did forty years ago. Well, a little bit, but anyway, and I hate to start getting names because you miss somebody, but you know who you are. It is just people who have been here with me, and many of you, God has brought back.

I can hardly believe it. I did not see this in the last year, but you have got to be adaptable. You have got to be able to adjust. You have got to be able to do what you have to do when things

come. But you cannot just get up and do it with people that you do not know where they stand. Because adversity will purge any church. It will separate the men from the boys. It will show you who you got and who you do not. So I have taken it four or five months. This has been in my mind and my heart for quite a while, but I just wanted to see how this thing was all going to play itself out. Over the last four, five, six months, I have put together six things that I want to adapt into this church. Some of it is already moving along and doing, but other things are new things that we need to start. This is only the beginning. This is where I am going to call in time, and I just got a pilot. What I am going to lay out today is just a pilot program. It is just a beginning. It is going to enlarge. It is something that everybody here can have a part on on whatever level you are. Certainly, as this thing demands, I am going to need my older people who have been with me that are the stable rocks that to help me with this. But I put this together and I call it Operation Remnant. I call it Operation Remnant because God is going to get done what He gets done out of our church with a remnant. We will lose some people. All churches have. I talk to pastors all the time and their churches are way down. People are not coming. People get their nose better to join about something and they go. It is okay. It is all right. God purges everybody, everybody here, everybody listening to me. You have to look inside yourself and you have to ask yourself, is your petty problem bigger than the cause of Christ to reach people? You are the only one that can answer that.

Operation Remnant, something for everybody. Including all of our YouTube people who are around the country that if you are not listening this morning, you will listen maybe sometime this day. Everybody, you can be involved on every level. You know me, everything I try to do, I try to build and squeeze every drop out of it to get everything out of it that I need to get. Obviously out of this, I want to, I have a host of new Christians here that I want to build in the build leadership into. I want to take care of the older ones. I want to take care of those who are around this country. Basically, I never really talk to this. But when it comes to people and building people, I follow a simple little plan called the three L's of leadership. Three things that you do all start with L to train leaders.

- Listen
- Learn
- Lead

The first thing, if you want to be a leader, you have to listen. You have to listen what is being said. You cannot just come in here, hear it and leave. You have to listen. The Bible is a different between hearing and listening. You hear your mother yell at you all the time, but you do not ever listen to her. It is a thing where, you know, you have to listen. Once you listen, then the next L is you have to learn from what you have listened. Once you listen and once you learn through the listening and the learning, you know what you do? The next L is you learn to lead. Leadership leading people is based on you listening and you learning. In most cases, it is listening and learning from the apostle Paul's in your life, you as a Timothy, where the older Christians can take you and mentor you and bring you where they need to be. That is my goal.

Let me walk through these. Some of these are quickly so I want to spend some time on the others.

- Bible Institute
- Operation Lifeline
- Timothy Project
- Craft Class
- Top Time Ministry for Mothers
- Principle Classes

VIII. The Call to Action

My goal today, like Paul, was just to lay out my heart to you. I wanted you to see that I am not going to quit. I am going to take those that will stand with me and I am going to get the job done. I am not going to criticize anybody who does not because I have made it very clear. You have to decide for yourself and you have to decide for yourself. That is based on where you are at with the Lord and your own calling and where you are what you are going to do with that. But, you know, we got now Operation Lifeline. We got the Timothy Project. We got the Top Time Ministry. We got the Principle Classes. We got the Crafts. We got the Bible Institute. It is a thing where this is where we have to, we have to step up and we have to decide what we are going to do.

Every week I try to pick a different encouragement to me. Sometimes I will do it out of the Bible. Sometimes I will do it out of church history. Sometimes I will just do it out of history. It is a thing where I have always been intrigued by men who had to go through great challenges. Admiral Halsey said one time, he said, "There are no great men, but just ordinary men who rise to the occasion to face great challenges." That is so true. He is a great life to study, too. They did not call him the Bull for nothing.

This last week I was, I just came across an article about the Alamo. Most people have forgotten the Alamo. They do not think much about it anymore. It is all the way back in 1836. But the guy that was in command of the Alamo was a guy by the name of Colonel William Travis. Colonel William Travis put together a militia of two hundred men. They were down on the Rio Grande in Texas there on the border of Mexico. They held up a little adobe mission called the Alamo. Santa Anna, whose Mexican army wanted to take Texas and very brutal, they were marching up to Texas. But the Alamo stood in their way. Now, Santa Anna had fifteen thousand crack Mexican troops. The Alamo defenders had two hundred men. Most notable when you think of Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, they were both at the Alamo. Both gave their lives at the Alamo. They had held out, believe it or not, these two hundred men. They stood in the way of Santa Anna getting into the Mexico because they could not pass them up. Sam Houston was putting an army together to going to fight Santa Anna. But the Alamo was an absolute crucial part of that defense to save what we now know is Texas. They held them off thirteen days. They held fifteen thousand crack Mexican troops off for thirteen days. Two hundred volunteers.

They all knew that the next day was going to be the final battle. They all knew that none of them were going to be alive because they could not hold it. The Mexican army had already come forward and blew the trumpet signal that says that tomorrow when we attack, there will be no quarter asked and no quarter given. We will kill everybody there. That night, they are low on ammunition. Food almost gone. Travis calls everybody out. Years ago, I went to the Alamo. It is all changed now. San Antonio is all built up around it. But I stood on probably that very spot. I imagine my mind as old Travis took out his sword and he drew a line in the sand. Those two hundred volunteers were standing there and he said, "Gentlemen," he says, "tomorrow will be our last battle and we will all be dead. I am going to stay and I am going to stay and fight for Texas because if we do not hold the line for Texas, then Texas will fall back under Santa Anna and I am going to give my life for that. But," he says at the same time, "I cannot ask you men to do that. You are all volunteers. So would you align in the sand?" He said, "Any man that will stand with me cross that line and pick up your arms and we are going to fight to the death tomorrow. Gentlemen, if you do not cross that line, no dishonor will be on you. You have fought violently. You have fought courageously. If you do not cross that line, I understand that you slip over the wall tonight and you try to make your way out because tomorrow will be our last day." You know what? All two hundred men stayed. Not one man left. They died for their cause. Texas. Probably every one of them was unsaved. They gave their life for what they believed in. For years after that, the battle cry was "Remember the Alamo."

All down through history, men had to decide what they were going to take a stand for. Today in Christianity, we have a decision that we have to make. You see, I can teach you the Bible. I can lay out its principles. I can give you all the character studies of God's men, the Bible, history, and all the things that took place. But the courage for you to take your stand, you will have to find within yourself. What God has done with His sword today, the Word of God, drawn a line in the sand. God's people are going to have to decide if they are going to cross over that line or they are going to stay on the other side. Honestly, I think nothing negative about people who do not have the courage to do that because I have been around them all my life. I am only interested in who we have in the battle tomorrow that when push comes to shove and they are coming over the north wall, who is on my left and who is on my right. That is all I am concerned with. You always have people who cannot make the grade. It does not make them bad people. But I am not interested in that. I am not concerned with that. I am interested with those men and women, my Timothys, who have I invested my life with.

I want to send you, just as Paul wanted to send his Timothy to that church at Philippi, I want to send you to the people around this country. We are going to attack from another angle. During the Korean War, there was a First Marine Division was surrounded at the Chosin Reservoir, very bitter cold. There was a Marine colonel there. I cannot remember his name exactly, but they made a movie about it. He was surrounded and he got the orders to pull back while he could. The name of the movie and the book was written was *Retreat, Hell!* So they got the name of that because they are pulling out. This guy was a typical Marine man. One of the reporters came up to him that was embedded with them. He says, "Colonel," he says, "are you retreating? Are the Marine Corps retreating?" He took the cigar out of his mouth and snarled, "This is the retreat hell. We are just attacking in another direction." That was the mindset. We are never going to

quit. We are never going to give up. We will find a way with or without you. But we will attack in another direction.

These six things here will be implemented. The Timothy Project next Sunday morning will kick off all of the people when we are done here. I am going to pray while I am praying. I want all my team leaders that are now leaders to go upstairs and man your tables. Some of you older leaders can hang back because I may need you to take a team. We will see what we get into. But that is where we are going to start. You people on YouTube, contact me, either text me or email me this today or tomorrow or whatever. I will get you on a list and we will contact you. We will get a hold of all of our people that are out there. We will do what we can do. So that is where we are at. It is only the beginning. We are going to stay in this fight right up to the end. We will do it safely. We will do it cleanly. We will put all of the precautions in place and everything that we do. But we are going to get the job done. It is just that simple.

So let us pray. As I pray, my people that are need to get upstairs, please do that. When I dismiss you, make your way upstairs. You may take a little while. But go ahead and get yourself signed up up there if you want to. We will get it going for you and we will go from there. Let us pray. Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. I thank You for these people. I love them. They are my fellow soldiers. They are my, they are my co-laborers. They are everything that I could ever want to hold the line in these last days. Lord, truly, You have drawn a line in the sand for Christianity. Lord, I cannot speak for anybody else in this church, but I can speak for me and my family. We are crossing that line and we are going to take our stand. We will do it biblically. We will do it right. We will do it with everything we can. Lord, I thank You for the many men and ladies that we have here, especially the older ones, Lord, that really understand how I think and my work and have been behind me for years. In all the midlife ones, Lord, who have come in in the last eight or nine years that have worked their way to the place where they really make a difference. Then for all the young ones that are here that are yearning to learn, want to be part, want to grow, nothing will separate us from the work that God has called us to do. I thank You for them, Father. Thank You. I thank You for the purging of this church that all that we have now, Lord, is for You that will offer up ourselves, Lord, for Your service in these last days. I promise You, Lord, we will find a way to get the job done. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name for His sake. We ask it. Amen.

All right. Go on up there and sign up. If you need to see me about anything, I will be here.