

I. Operation Remnant and Ministry Focus

As you know, last week we basically took a week off from John and we laid out Operation Remnant. Now you all have a good idea and understand all six new areas of ministry that we have adapted and adjusted to during what is probably the greatest change in our country and probably the world that most of you have ever seen in your young lives, if you are under 100 or so.

For us, it is utilizing all of our available assets. We have talked about this week after week after week: the opportunity during this time of an open door. One of the fundamental keys of good leadership, and I talk about this all the time, is not just to see the opportunity, but it is the ability not only to see the opportunity, but then to seize the opportunity and take advantage of it.

During this time of change in every part of our life, I wanted to help our people. Yet, at the same time, I never want to lose sight of our fundamental goal here, and that is to develop you up the chain of command, so to speak, to a place of true leadership in a biblical sense. You come at your own pace; nobody forces you. But the opportunity is always there, and I am constantly looking for young men and young ladies who truly have that ability: young couples, midlife people who are in their 40s, 50s, and 60s. It is always a challenge and always a blessing to see how God does that in our lives.

So we talked about six areas, and I laid each one out last week.

➤ 1.) Our Bible Institute, which is going back into effect at the end of the month. That is so crucial in its own way of helping you get to a point in your life where you truly understand. We do more than just teach the Bible; we teach leadership skills, we teach ministry skills. It is an adaptation of everything that we learn, putting it back into our daily life and what we do.

➤ 2.) Operation Lifeline, and that is taking our prayer groups that were upstairs for a number of years, and then, because we cannot do that anymore, going online with those and opening that up to everybody in our church who legitimately cannot be here because of their age, illness, pre-existing conditions, or whatever. Then we opened it up to all of our family out there on YouTube, some 900 people who follow us on a regular basis. I must tell you that the response has been overwhelming. If you are out there listening to us this morning, again, thank you for being here. But if you do not have a church, or even if you do, and you want to fellowship with us in this church, we have now put together a way for you to do that. All you have to do is email me, call me, text me, whatever. My email is Alexander1611@SBCGlobal.net, and I will get you on a team. We have had some

30 or 40 people who are just coming out of the woodwork. It is so good to see these teams up and beginning to move forward with this. I tell you this too: I know some of you have kept your prayer groups from before and kept in touch. What we are doing now supersedes all of that. We are going to have to put all of our eggs in one basket here, and this is going to be a lot of work for a lot of people. So it is a whole new world for us. All the old prayer groups are pretty much gone now, or should be. We are going to work together as we build this thing together. Some people have moved on, and that is a good thing. Now they have their own church, and they need to be a part of that and support that. They do not need to be a part of what we are doing. They need to get in and take what they have learned and truly make a difference where they now have their little church together. So that is a good thing too. Operation Lifeline truly has been an absolutely incredible thing.

➤ 3.) Our Timothy Project. I went back there this morning and looked, and other places got our little guys and gals back there. That is so exciting, and my leaders back there, my singles, are teaching that.

➤ 4.) Our craft class. I know a craft class probably does not look like much in comparison to Bible Institute or Operation Lifeline, but you could not be more wrong. That is one of the greatest outreach ministries we have on another level. The last time they did it, the place was packed, and they had a lot of great things. We are excited about that.

➤ 5.) Our Talk Time ministry, where we are going to take the mothers who have young babies, is moving along and will get up and get going here in the next week or so. We are excited about that. That is another tremendous opportunity with young mothers who, through this time, can connect with our young mothers and learn how they are dealing with it. It would be a tremendous opportunity.

➤ 6.) Our discipleship and our principles classes. I think I was probably a little confusing on that last week. We have classes where people get disciplined, and obviously they use principles in the scope of their discipleship. But then we have classes that are just purely teaching principles. So those two are crucial, and they are already in operation for the most part. It is a time where we always are discipling people here, and you know as well as I do that discipleship is nothing more than teaching principles within the scope of the discipleship lessons. But then we have times where we just give out the principles, and you can get a list of things and what you need in your life, and that is important too. Both of those are vital to this church, and I look at that as the upper echelon of training that truly

takes people to the endless, wherever they want to go with it, because there is no end to that.

All of those things are vitally important in moving forward now. We just have to do it a little differently than we did it before, but nothing is going to stop us or keep us from getting where we need to go.

Today we will be back in John 1 and we will finish up our first section of John, which we have started now. We have been in it for a couple of weeks, verses 6, 7, 8, and 9. This is what it says:

John 1:6

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

John 1:7

The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

John 1:8

He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

John 1:9

That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

We have been talking about John and how God sent him to the world to proclaim, in particular, the coming Christ, the Messiah, to the nation of Israel. John's famous line, which we will get to sooner or later, is, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." He saw Him. He ran six months in his ministry before Christ, heralding Him to come to the nation of Israel and, of course, to the world. I have spent a lot of time making the comparison to us from a practical standpoint, in us being sent to somebody else's life. We have used the example of Paul and Timothy, and how that is a great model for us.

John 1:6 says, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John." We have preached about that quite extensively. Today, I want to look at verses 8 and 9. The Bible says that he would bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. That is the fundamental job of every one of us. So many times, in the Laodicean mess that we are in today, we lose the real Bible definition of that. I want to try to bring us back to that today, if we learn anything out of this lesson.

John 1:8-9 says, "He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Let us pray. Father, again, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You so much, and we thank You, Father, for all that You do for us. Lord, we would not know what to do without You, and Lord, truly, You are the guiding light and the shining light in each of our lives today, and also in our church. We love You. We thank You for everything that You have given us, all that You do for us, and Your hand of protection upon us. We thank You, Lord, for the clear direction, that others may quit,

others may stop, others may do whatever, but we have to move forward, and we have to find a way. Lord, we thank You for providing that for us. We love You. We thank You now and praise it all in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it.

II. The True Witness: Lifestyle and Evidence

In these two verses here, I want to look at today. We will find the keys to answering the questions that so many people ask about how God deals with men. There is a lot of confusion on that today.

The common thought today is that we think our witness to others is about what we say to people. Obviously, we call that witnessing. My old friend Greg McClintock, who is down in Florida I think right now, and we stay in touch. He and I have been together for many, many years. He has pastored a couple of churches. He worked. In fact, we all went up to one of his churches there, did a revival, and the old pathways went. We had a great time. He used to say every Christian had a witness, and sometimes they should even use words. Of course, his point being that we go around and we tell people what God will do for them and all of that. I understand that. But that is an unfortunate trap of the Laodicean church age.

In the Bible, you will find the word "conversation." It is used in Philippians 3:20:

Philippians 3:20

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

The Bible, we know this, will be its own dictionary. In the Bible, the word "conversation" back then, in its purest form, was not just what you said, but it is connected with the lifestyle that you live, because the Bible takes the position—I am sorry, the Bible takes the position, not popular today, but the Bible takes the position—that you ought to live what you say and say what you live.

You see, the real witness of God's Light will not be just telling people what God will do for them. That is easy. The reason why most people do that today and miss the real Light working through them is because it is not about you telling somebody what God will do for them; it is about you telling somebody what God has done for you and then allowing them to see the difference. What is the evidence in your life that what you are telling them even works? I mean, you tell them to get saved and all their problems, but you have so many issues in your own life that you have not solved. It is almost like, "Well, maybe it will work for you, but it did not work for me." You see, that is what we do today. That is what Christianity is today. It is a lot easier to just point your fingers and say, "This is what Christ will do for you," than to point those fingers back and say, "But I want you to look at my life, what He has done for me."

Your witness will be simply about three areas of your life. It is not very complicated.

➤ 1.) Your walk with God. What He is doing with you, that they can actually see that you are separated from the world. The average church today is not separated from the world. They believe in social drinking. They think it is okay to

be part of the world. Their music is like a halftime show at a Super Bowl. They embrace everything in the world, and yet they will stand in the pulpit and tell people that Christianity will make a difference in your life. A difference from what?

➤ 2.) Your family ministering with you. I understand some of you came in here and your family had already turned a corner the wrong way. But yet you can even use that, because as long as you are following the Bible and doing what it says to reach them, you can even use that as a testimony. So many times I find so many preachers that have lost their kids, and they are some of the greatest preachers that you could ever hear. As far as I am concerned, the reason why they excelled so well in preaching is because they were trying to cover up the failure of losing their family. So they put the emphasis on preaching, soul winning, and people doing all this. I thought to myself many times, if they would have put half the time into their kids as they do trying to put out to everybody else what God will do for them... But you see, all they can ever do is tell people what God will do for them, because they can never show people what God has done for them. It is a game today. We make it America, where everybody is dying because of no next stimulus check, and the reason why the government is not coming in is because in Washington they are playing games. They do not care about you; they want to win an election, and they are not going to do anything to help you that is going to hurt them in what they want to accomplish.

➤ 3.) Your life as a living sacrifice. Now we look at that and we think how wicked that is and how bad that is, but God's people play the same games. They do it in a political theater; we do it in a religious theater. We claim to be a church that stands for the truth, yet we do not stand for the truth. We claim to have principles in our life and values, but yet they are the same values of the world. We will get up and preach a message on separation with one beer or glass of wine in one hand and the music of the world in the other. We operate that way and get away with it that way, and do not take this wrong, because God's people are so stupid. They have lost the aspect of a holy life and a separation from the world. We do that, and the end result is that now when we witness, we can never tell anybody what God has done for me to show them the example. You just have to tell them what God will do for you and cross your fingers and hope it worked, because it did not really work very well for me. That is where we are at today, and it is a shame. It is a shame. It is really a shame.

The real witness of God's Light will not just be telling people what God can do for them, but rather what God has done and is doing for you. I think in Romans 12:1-2 it is called a living sacrifice.

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

It is what you are telling them about God's evidence in your own life, that you are a living testament to the fact of the New Testament, that the principles in the Book line up with your life. I know nobody is perfect. You are going to screw up. You are going to mess up. You are going to blow it. We all do. But even that is a good thing in some respects, because it can show somebody that even though you can mess up, you can get it right and redeem the time and move on. So it all works if you just use it. Your witness will be just in those three areas.

This is where Proverbs 31, remember our great study in Proverbs 31, where it talked about the virtuous woman that made a portion for her household first, and then the others, is completely lost today. That is why 99.9999% of pastors, Christians, and their ministries are all about putting out what God will do for you. There is not one of them that could stand up and say, "Look what God has done in my life." Pass me. Their family is in a closet someplace. Their marriage is in a closet someplace.

III. Understanding God's Dealings with Man

Now John 1:9 says, "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." So a couple of things I want to touch on here as we look at this.

First of all, the true Light versus the false light. I have told you many, many times, certainly through the Bible studies and through the Institute and other places, that this all starts in the book of Acts. The book of Acts is the defining of the road signs down through church history, and we see in the book of Acts very clearly two lines developing. We really see it in Genesis 1:4, before we go four verses, that the Bible says that God divided the light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:4

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

So from that point on, you know that everything in the Bible and everything in the world is going to revolve around a true Light and a bad light; a true line and a bad line. So it is no surprise you find God's Bible in history and the devil's bible. It is no problem you find God's church and the devil's church. That has been a key thing all the way down through the book of Acts that defines church history. Everything in history, especially church history, but you can take the history of

the world, the history of America, and it will all come down to that one concept: a true line and a false line, a true Light and a false light.

Then John 1:9 will answer the age-old question that skeptics and a lot of good God's people that are young and want to learn will ask you, and you will get this sooner or later. It is the old question that you get when you try to witness to somebody and they do not want to get saved. But on the other hand, you will get it from a lot of good, sincere God's people who just want to, and they always ask, "Well, what about the heathen in Africa? What about the heathen in Africa?" You see, it is perplexing to us, and we ask the question: How does God reach people who have no church, who have no preacher, who have no missionaries, who have no choir, who have no evangelists, who have no 15 standards as "Just as you were, without one plea"? That is the military version. The Christian version is "Just as I am," but in the military it is "Just as you were."

I mean, think about deep, dark Africa. Think about deep Central America or South America. Think about Australia with the Aborigines over there. Think about how God got the Gospel to them, did He? I mean, how does God reach people with enough availability that we have today? Then I have heard it said, "Well, how does God judge those people if they have never had the truth?" You see, when a guy says that, he is saying that from his position in New Testament Christianity: "This is the church on every street corner, there are a thousand Bibles in everybody's house—nobody reads them—but all of the things that we have. You turn on Sunday morning, or Joel, or Joel, you turn on this, you have this guy. You get on the Internet, you have a thousand guys. We have it all." So we live in that, and we get so—I think the word is "occupational dominancy." You think that what is around you is the only way God could possibly do it, because that is how He did it for you. That is a very limited thought process on God, and that is clearly looking at everything that God is doing through the New Testament that we live in.

Now let me just state the obvious, because I love being the master of the obvious. John 1:9 says that He will light every man that cometh into the world. That is a true statement. We do not have to fiddle with that verse at all. So the issue here is not, "Will He or will He not?" but rather, "How He does what He says He will do."

IV. God's Universal Light and How He Reaches All Men

Now let us start here and talk about this for a minute. Down through the Bible and the history of man, God's glory—and God's glory will be Jesus Christ, and I want you to understand that—has been revealed to man basically four ways, and you need to see this and understand this, and then we will put it into a practical work application for you.

- 1.) Obviously, the Word of God. We know that the Word of God reveals Jesus Christ and reveals the glory of God, but not everybody down through history had the Word of God, and not everybody has the Word of God today.
- 2.) Jesus. He comes in the New Testament, which is Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and He is revealed there. But you have to ask yourself the question:

Jesus' little expedition there, in 33 years of His life and then three years of His ministry, was only there in the Middle East. Nobody in Africa knew about it. Nobody in South America knew about it. Nobody in North America knew about it. Nobody in Canada knew about it. Nobody in China knew about it. It was all localized to one little spot. What about all those people?

➤ 3.) Man himself. Of course, we know that once the Bible begins to unfold itself in the Old Testament, we see God doing it through a nation, the nation of Israel, men and women. Then in the New Testament, we see God doing it through the church, you and me today.

➤ 4.) The heavens that He created. This will be found in Psalms 19:1, and it says there:

So the fourth thing that He will use in a man's life to show him God's glory will be the heavens that He created. Psalms 19:2-3 goes on and says:

Psalms 19:2

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

Psalms 19:3

There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

So there is a language, and it says down there, "There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard." So it is a universal language that is put out during the day and during the night, that a man who does not have a Bible, a man who does not have a church, a man who does not have a missionary or a preacher, yet the Bible says that God reveals Himself. He is the true Light that lighteth every man, and this is what God does and how God uses it. At any time in history and the Bible, God will use one, more, all of these, or whatever. But these are the four ways that He does it, and He says "day and night," and He also says "to the ends of the earth."

For a model of this and an example of this, of course we would go back—you do not have to turn back to it, I will just tell you about it. You are probably familiar with Genesis 15:5, where God was dealing with Abraham. The Bible clearly tells us—now remember, Abraham has no Bible; Abraham is before Moses; he is not under the law. He has no missionary, he has no radio program, he has no old past Baptist church on YouTube, he has none of that stuff. He could not even get old Joel Osteen. He cannot get anything. But it is very clear that when God wanted to give him his salvation, or I should say his righteousness, the Bible says that God took him out and showed him the stars. It was through those stars and whatever conversation that they had that God revealed to him. Whatever He told Abraham—and I think you can probably pretty well piece it together from Isaiah 9:6-7—whatever He told Abraham had to do with the stars and his seed. Did you ever notice that it really did not have anything to do with him? It had to do with

the stars and his seed. Whatever He told him, it had to do not directly with just Abraham, but with his seed. Genesis 15:6 says:

Genesis 15:6

And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

I know I have been around this all my life. I know, I get it, I get it, I get it, I get it. The average evangelical clown out there and the average Baptist clown out there, they tarried too long at the wine keg. They always say this: "Well, what he did was, God took him out, and in the stars He showed him the coming Christ. He showed him Christ dying on the cross. He showed him that Abraham looked forward to the cross. He showed him all that God was going to do by showing him the cross and where God was going." There are actually guys out there who believe that, who teach that, and I just must say to you, that is the dumbest, stupidest thing against the Bible you could ever say. Do you not know that Romans 16:25 says that the crucifixion, the church age, was something that was a mystery that God did not reveal from the foundation of the world? Are you kidding me? So you think that God violated that and then lied about it in Romans 16? Is that what you are saying? Romans 16 and other places tells you that it was never revealed what God was going to do. Abraham did not get anything looking toward the cross. Abraham got something that concerned his seed. That is Isaiah 9:6-7. It was a government. It was a kingdom.

Of course, yet the Bible says—here it comes, oh, this is where they get screwed up—here it comes. The Bible says in Galatians 3:8 that God preached the Gospel unto Abraham.

Galatians 3:8

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

So there you are. You see, when you are so stupid with the Bible that you think every time you have heard the Gospel it refers to you, your Gospel, and do not understand that the Gospel simply means "good news," do you not think that was good news to Abraham that God was going to make his seed like the stars of heaven, and God took the time to lay out Isaiah 9:6 that the government was going to be to no end? Now that is some good news to a guy like Abraham. So it is a gospel, but it is not the Gospel of 1 Corinthians 15 that you and I got. That is Paul's Gospel. Nobody got that according to Romans 16. Nobody got any insight on that until Paul showed up. See, the Bible is not a hard book. You just have to be smarter than sub-plant life. It is just tough for some people.

We get so locked up in the church age that we live in and viewing everything down through history from our standpoint. You can forget that there are what, 12 dispensations where God did things differently? We lose sight of the fact that God gave His Light. He gave it to men before the law. He gave it to men during the law through the law. He even continued to give it through the 400 silent years, if you could read your Bible, because somebody got it during that time that showed up from the East, knowing where Christ was going to be born. They got the Light someplace. Then He gives it in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and then refines that Light in the book of Acts. Then you get the Light given to the New Testament church, and then you get Light

given to the people in the Tribulation period, and then you get a Light given to the people in the Millennium.

Now let us stop and think for a moment. Let us just put our thinking caps on, as your old third-grade teacher used to tell you. What about the rest of the world during this time? The Bible never mentions America, North America, Central America, South America. It never mentions Canada. It never mentions Russia by name. It never mentions Australia. You cannot find Greenland anywhere in there. You cannot find the South Sea Islands, the New Hebrides. You cannot find Guadalcanal. You cannot find Okinawa. You cannot find Japan. You cannot find any of it. What is going on? Let us just take this one point in time. What is going on around the rest of the world when Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem and begins His public ministry, John 1 here, for three and a half years? What is going on in the rest of the world? You see, it is hard for us to imagine, because some of you are listening to this and you are in Holland, or you are in France, or you are in England, and all you have to do is click on the Internet, hopefully, and here we are. But what about the first coming of Christ? Well, they did not have that. What about the people over there that are in places that Jesus never got to?

I want to tell you something else. The real first bonafide missionaries did not even start until what, 1200 years after Christ? Did God just let all them die and go to hell? I mean, while He is established in the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, does He just forget everybody else when He is guiding on the cross and all of that? Is He just forgetting about North America, South America? Does He not have a subscription to National Geographic? What was He doing with man in the other parts of the world?

Now the Bible says that He is the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. We are going to take that at first face value as truth. But how did He do that? The Bible says over there in Hebrews 4 that the Word of God—which is God, John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," so they are one and the same—that He discerns the thoughts and intents of a man's heart. It also goes on to say that every creature, every creature—now that word in the Greek, it really helps us, it means "every"—every creature is manifest in His sight.

Stepping outside our culture in the church age here, we can see it more clearly. It is God's responsibility, God's obligation, to reveal Himself Light to every man. We know that from John 1:9. Where there is no church, there is no Bible, there is no witness, there is no missionary, there are no Christians, then He will, through His creation, allow man to see a glimpse of something that is bigger than he is. We already know from Romans 1:19-20 that the invisible things of Him from the creation are clearly seen and understood by the things that God made. We already know that the heavens declare the glory of God. We already know that by the Word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth, where He spake and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast. We already know that the heavens and the Word of God are one and the same. You also want to remember Romans 2:15 will tell us that God's law is already written on the tables of man's heart, whether he is lost or whether he is saved.

So when God made man in the beginning and created it, and all these indigenous people out there around the world, they may not have a missionary to work with, they may not have a church to work with, they may not have a Bible to work with, but they have on the tables of their heart the Word of God written already. We already know from our study in Proverbs, thinking back all the way to Proverbs 20:27, that "The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly."

So now we are getting a little picture of how God will do this. God will deal with a man on his conscience through his spirit and test that man's attitude of heart about the Light that God gives him. If a man receives that Light that God gives him in a measure, then God is obligated to give him more Light. Then if he accepts that, then God gives him more Light. Then it comes to a point between that man and God where God is satisfied with that guy, and then God, like Abraham, works out the process by which God gives him his righteousness. You say, "Can you explain that process?" Not in your life. I do not know how He does it. I just know that God does it on the basis of every man's attitude of heart, how he responds to the Light. I know that He is the true Light that lighteth every man. So He gives that man Light. When a man takes that Light, then he moves forward. When he does not take that Light, then he moves backwards.

V. The Choice to Follow the Light

Let me give you a good example. You have a guy that likes caves. I hate caves. I am scared to death to get in caves. I am not claustrophobic, but I just do not like caves. I have seen too many movies where there are little guys in there that eat you. So I hate caves. My worst experience with—I mean, I like going down to Branson and going to Marvel Cave because that is like going to a Holiday Inn, it is big. But they have places sealed off where guys went so far and laid that out that they actually had to squeeze through rocks with air tanks on underwater. You have got to be kidding me.

We were one time down someplace, this is years ago, down in or around Branson or someplace, and we were staying at a camp, and they had a cave, but you had to crawl in on it. I am thinking to myself, "Oh, I am going to check this out," and everybody said, "I can do it." I went in that cave, and I am in there about, I don't know, 60 or 70 feet, and I turned my light on, and the whole ceiling was covered with wasps. Yes, I am in the Guinness Book of Records for backing out of a cave faster than any man on Earth. That is done. I do not need to kill any cave, but I am telling you. I do not know what that story had to do with what I was talking about, but I just wanted to tell it.

But anyway, it is a thing where—oh, I know what it was. So here you are, you are a guy in a cave, and you go way back in the cave here, and you have your flashlight, and you are back there, and it is easy to get lost in a cave. You go down and you go up, and then you get way down there about two miles, and your light goes out. If you have never been in a cave with no light, you cannot see anything. I was down in South Africa one time, and they took us down into a diamond mine. That diamond mine was four miles down, and it was shut down at that point in time, but they took us down there and they showed us that they turned the lights off. I am telling you what it was: you could not see anything. You know what they do? Just so you can find your

way out in case there is some kind of catastrophe, if the light goes out, up there are the air pipes, and all the bolts are facing one way. So in the dark, you find that, and you find the end of the bolt, and that is the way out. Pretty ingenious. I mean, I would not have thought of that. I did not just put it up there with duct tape, and you would have to find your way out.

But anyway, you are down there, and your light goes out. You have been down there for two or three days, and man, you are getting hungry and you are scared. Suddenly, way down that passage, way down there, you see a Light. That Light is moving towards you, and you know that Light is a rescue team coming to find you. You know what you do? You move toward that Light because you want to get out of the darkness. You want out of the cave; you have had enough of it. You are moving toward that Light so you can get out of that cave, and pretty soon you will match up, and they will take you out.

Now, just reverse it. You just robbed the bank and killed nine people. You are driving along, and you know they are after you, so you ditched the car, you got the money, and you found a cave, and you go head back into that cave to hide out. You have been there now for two or three days, and suddenly you see a Light. You know they are coming after you. You know what you do? You go farther back in the cave to get as far away from the Light as you can. That is the way it worked here. God gave a man a Light; when he moved toward it, God gave him more Light. He moved toward it; He gave him more Light. Pretty soon they met. The unsaved guys, the people that do not want it, they see the Light coming; they just go farther back in their darkness. It is simple.

Somebody says, "Well, what about the heathen in Africa?" What about the heathen in Kansas City? There is no big difference. We think there is a difference because you are not wearing loincloths today, thank God. They think there is a difference because you drove here today; you did not walk. You think there is a difference because you are going to go get lunch this afternoon instead of going out and eating monkey. You think there is a difference because of our culture. There is no difference. Human nature does not change, whether it is in downtown Kansas City, Washington and the White House, or down in the deep, dark part of Central and South America. It is just the way that it is.

I want to tell you something. When God interjects that Light, you have to remember this too: no young kid growing up, or nobody who has never met with God, who is as dumb as a stump like people in a primitive lifestyle, they do not believe in evolution. They look up at the stars, the starry night, and they think there is somebody bigger up there, and they wonder why. You have to be educated out of the Bible to believe in evolution. Man has to destroy that concept of God. It is like your family. Your kid did not grow up where they are at now without God, drinking and running around and doing all they did. When they were young, they were pliable and workable, and you could have molded them any way you wanted them to go. It is the same way. You get somebody over there that gets the Light. He has to be educated out of that Light. Many times those guys, they just go follow that Light.

I mean, did you ever see this—most people miss this—down in the deepest, darkest tribes of Africa, Central America, South America, where they have never seen a white man? When

somebody kills somebody, they know that it is wrong. When somebody takes another man's wife, they know that it is wrong. When somebody steals—in the African places, you steal one time, they tell you not to steal; you steal the second time, they cut your hand off; you steal again, they cut the other hand off; you steal again—I do not know how you do that other than with your teeth—but then they kill you. Now these guys have no Bible, no truth, but they have a law. You know why? Because the law of God is written on their hearts. So every man forms the basis of right and wrong. God uses that, and He deals with them on that basis through the spirit and through their conscience.

VI. Historical and Current Manifestations of Light and Darkness

For an example, let us take for a minute the American Indian. You have all kinds of tribes: you have the Sioux, you have the Cherokees, you have the Comanches, you have the Osage, you have the Blackfoot, you have the Shawnee, you have the Pawnee, you have the Crow, you have the Washington Redskins—you have all those groups. They are all out there, and back in the day, you had peaceful tribes and you had terrible, warlike tribes, just like today. Not really changed. I mean, in this own city, you have the same thing. You have gangs roaming the streets; they are not the good guys. And you have people out there that are great people. You are talking around the road at two o'clock in the morning, and your tire goes flat. Somebody may stop and help you, and that is great because there are good people still left in here.

I remember just a couple of weeks ago, maybe a couple of months ago, Barbie came down and said there is a police officer at the front door. Well, I am thinking, "Alright, what did she do now?" That was my first thought. No, it was not. It was a fireman. He was a captain. He said, and I said, "Yes, sir, may I help you?" He says, "Can I see your driver's license?" I said, "Yeah, let me go get my wallet." He said, "Never mind." He said, "Here is your wallet." What had happened was, I went down to Quick Trip, which is five or six miles down 350, and my credit card did not work. It really ticked me off, and I lost my senses. I burnt down three gas stations, and it just went crazy. But it would not work, and I was frustrated. So I put the credit card in my pocket, but I left my wallet lying on the bumper of my Jeep, near the back tire, got in, and drove off. That wallet went all over the road. Money flowed everywhere. All my other stuff went out. A garbage truck guy found it and turned it into this fire chief who brought it to my house. All the money was there. All my cards were there. Everything was just the way I found it. I thought to myself, "That is a good guy." And then the trash guy, that is a good guy. I wish I could have found those guys. I would have thanked them beyond belief. But if the wrong guys would have found that, it would have been so long. I would have been getting all these things from MasterCard about somebody buying Chevy pickup trucks and everything and all that stuff. But I am telling you, there are good people in the world and there are bad people in the world.

When you have the American Indians, some of those tribes were peaceful tribes; some of them were not peaceful tribes. Yet, the American Indian, they are like the black folks in my mind; they have gotten a bad rap down through history. I mean, the American Indians have just, I mean, they have been treated terribly. All history, all history portrays them as savages. Every Western you

ever saw, they are called "redskins." They circle the wagon trains. They scalp people. That is kind of hurtful. What do you think I keep my hair short for? If it ever goes back to that point, Zach, you are in good shape too; you just take your hat. But anyway, it is a thing where they got a bad rap.

When we were kids growing up, you played cowboys and Indians. Indians were always the bad guys. Of course, you look at it, and you see the movies, they always portray them as the bad people. Yet, I am telling you something, and it is a great truth that you ought to learn: the winners of history always get the right history from their perspective, and they get to decide who are the good guys or the bad guys. Obviously, when you win, you are one of the good guys, and that is the way it works. Yet, they get upset and get into Indians because they are killing the white man. They are killing wagon train people coming West and killing all those people, and we make them out to be bad guys. But I want to tell you something: if someone broke into your house at two o'clock in the morning, would you just stand by, or would you not defend yourself? You would shoot them.

Jamie had a problem last night out there. She tried to break into her house, come into the garage, and she called the police, and she said it took 15 minutes for the cops to get there. Well, a lot can happen in 15 minutes. I fall back to rule number one of protecting your house: it may take 15 minutes for a 911 call, but it only takes 1500 feet per second for a 9 millimeter. So you can figure that one out for yourself. But I am telling you, the white man was invading their land. That would have been their land forever. Now we are coming in because we are Americans, and we are going to take their land, and we treat them terribly. They are defending themselves, and because they defend themselves in their home, like any of us would do, they are the bad guys. See? That is fastly moving in your world. You remember that couple over in St. Louis that they were going to try to burn down their house and threaten them, and they came out with an AK-47 or AR-15 and a handgun, and they got arrested. They never did anything to the people going to burn the place down. It took the governor stepping in and pardoning them. Praise the Lord for that.

I am telling you, for the American Indian, that was their home. The white man was breaking into it. I love history, and one of my—I have always wanted to go there, and I probably never will—but I always wanted to go to the Little Bighorn, where Custer's Last Stand was. The only one I ever get to is the one on 291 out there where you get ice cream, as far as I have made it so far. I tell you, that has been an amazing thing to me. There are some really good documentaries. The idea in history is they were this brave, they fought, they died in 15 minutes or less. All the evidence is they broke and started to run before they all got wiped out and massacred. It is an incredible thing.

I like to collect memorabilia from history and all that stuff. I was at a military show a couple of years ago, and I would have—I would have died—but it was like \$200,000. Back in 1910, a guy excavated the Little Bighorn. This is only—I mean, the Little Bighorn was in what, 1876, so it was just 20-some years after it happened, 20 or 30 years. He must have had 500 artifacts that he had dug up from that battlefield, and not just had them on a board. He had taken pictures of them finding it, and everything was documented with photographs. It was incredible. I thought to

myself, "What a piece of history!" We look at that thing, but the truth of the matter is, Custer went down there with 268 soldiers up against 5,000 Indians, and they massacred the 7th Cavalry. Again, it was a fact where a white man had broken every treaty with them that he signed. When a white man came in, he took their land from them and put them on reservations where they treated them terribly. They took away everything of dignity that they had. They had enough. So all of the tribes got together to try to defeat the white man. Of course, it did not work, but that is how Custer got killed.

People get upset about that and they think, well, I just say this to you: let us see how well you do in the next coming years, because of your stand and your Bible. You wait, you wait until the socialistic liberals take over this country. I am going to tell you right now, Bernie Sanders and his crew and the socialism—I am going to tell you right now, people do not know anything about history. You go back to Lenin and Marx and those guys; they all were socialists. I am going to tell you right now, socialism is just a stepchild to communism, and that is where this country is headed. You look at Romania, you look at Russia, you look at all of those communist countries back in the 60s and the 70s. How did they do that? How did they take over the world? How did Adolf Hitler take over all of Europe? It is always the same. You know what they start with? They start by taking your guns. How do you think the SS would have fared in Warsaw, Poland, when he started rounding up the Jews, if every Jew met him at the door with his family and was armed to the teeth? The first thing they did was take their weapons away. The first thing the socialists are going to do when they get into power? They are going to take your weapons away. If you do not think you will not wind up in a camp, you do not know much about history.

America can talk about the German concentration camps all they want, and they were a horror, but America put them in concentration camps in 1948, 1947, with what they got in the land. Do not tell me about concentration camps; we just like to call them internment camps. During World War II, every Japanese American whose boys were fighting in Europe in a battalion made up of Japanese for America, their moms and dads went into camps. Do not tell me right now when the illegals come across the border—and I am not for letting illegals come in—but you know where they put them? In a camp. Give this thing another five or ten years if Jesus Christ does not come and this thing goes south, and they take over, and they take away your guns, and they take away your Bible, and you do not want to give it up, and you are a liberal radical. See, in camp, maybe it will give us a t-shirt, "I went to camp."

Now see, when you talk like that, it scares a lot of God's people. Some of you out there are thinking, "Oh yeah, that could not happen." Well, you hope it could not happen. It has just happened all down through history, but you are so fearful. When I look at it, hey, I do not think it is a good thing, but this whole world is not my home. You say, "What will you do?" I will just find a camp ministry. Do you want to help me with it in camp? The whole world is changing.

So you see how that thing worked down through history. I know this: some of those tribes had a belief system. I know history skews it all, and you cannot get it right, cannot see it. But some of those tribes, some of those tribes, they revered what they called a "Great White Father." They revered what they called the "Great Spirit." Now I do not know how you can get that out of Matthew 17, Revelation 1, or Revelation 19, because those are the exact same two titles the

Bible gives God and the Holy Spirit. How did they get that Bible truth? I mean, when they went out on a hunting party, they killed a deer. You know what they did? They laid that bow down or whatever they killed it with and got on the ground and thanked the Great White Father for bringing that deer to them for food for their family. Some of God's people will run out of here this afternoon and go eat someplace, and you will stuff your face with food and never once thank God for it. And they are the heathens?

I mean, they go out on hunting parties. Our guys do that all the time here. Deer season comes around in November. They all go, they have their little camps, they go down there, which I think is the greatest thing you can have; it is a fun time. But I will give you a little key. If you want the key in the Bible to good deer hunting, it is in Genesis 27:3. Just throw that out to you. The Bible even covers your deer hunting days.

Genesis 27:3

Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison;

And when a white man showed up on the East Coast around what, 1628 somewhere in there, a tribe from what is now Oregon, called the Nez Perce tribe, came 2,000 miles to the white man to ask him if they had the book that told the story of the Son of the Great White Father. God's people today will not drive 20 miles to come to church. What about the heathen of Africa? What about the heathen in Kansas City? There is no difference.

The greatest example of this is Acts 8 with the Ethiopian eunuch in the Bible, and how God gave him the Light back in his country. You do not get any details on this because God does not want us to know. He just wants us to know and believe the verse, but He does not. Somehow He gave Light to this Ethiopian eunuch, and then somehow He gave him a page on Isaiah 53. Then this guy is traveling to Jerusalem under the wrong pretense, because he has heard back in his own land how the Queen of Sheba went to see Solomon; he thinks that is still in place. It was God who interjected him and intercepted him and gave him Philip. You know why He did? Because that man followed the Light that God gave him, and it was God's obligation to get him the truth. He was not running back in the cave; he was running toward the Light.

God will deal with every man in his spirit, in his conscience. It will give that man Light as he goes. To some point, God is satisfied with that. Then He will deal with that man, however He chooses to deal with it, and like Abraham, will give him his righteousness. It is just the way that it models in the Bible. Because He is the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. At any point, just like today with us, if a man rejects the Light of God, God is not obligated to give him any more Light. You see, we think because we live in America that all these chances you get to get saved is the way God does it. That is grace, and that is the way it works. But you want to know the bottom line with God: He gives you the Light one time, and you reject it. He is not obligated to give it to you again. Now thank God that He does, but He does not have to.

VII. The Remnant and Future Outlook

That is how He does it. God is Light. That is understanding. The Light shineth in darkness. God will always have a witness of that Light, and it will always be a remnant. Right now, in our day, we are that witness. We are that remnant. It does not matter what or how the world changes. Society changes, our way of life changes. Real Christianity, real Christians, will always see the opportunity, seize the opportunity, and focus on the opportunity and not the opposition. The world is going to change. Society is going to change. Life is obviously changing. But I have some good news for you. Hebrews 13:8 says:

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Praise the Lord for it! We get shut down one way, we will just find another way. Real truth will always find a way. You will lose some people. That is okay; that is biblical too. John 15:2 says that you have to go through a purging to continue to grow. I mean, it is just the way that it is. You do not get an attitude about it; it is the biblical process.

John 15:2

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Every state park and every federal land game management understands the same issue of thinning out the herd, so the herd will keep going. Every landscaper and tree guy in this city understands that process: that you have to trim it back to get more fruit. You see, fear and confusion have no part in Bible-based ministry. It just does not. Why? Because "perfect love casteth out fear" (1 John 4:18), and "God is not the author of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Because a real witness of God's Light is not telling people what God will do for them, but showing them by their own life and their example and everything in their world what God has done for you. This is why I am interested in building powerhouse families. This is why I am interested in people getting back, if they have lost their kids, a process to be able to get that back. This is why I am interested in taking all you young couples and training you and giving you everything you need so you can move on forward, and when you have kids, as many of you are, that that unbroken chain begins to go through your life, because you have no real witness without it. You are just a Laodicean Christian that goes around telling everybody what God will do for them because He has done nothing for you.

Of course, simply being more excited about what God is doing in your life than the fear of the world is for today. Today, for the most part, Christianity is just an empty witness. You have a million of them out there, but it is all about what God will do for them, not what God does for you. Yet I want to thank God for the remnant. I thank God for the 900 people on our website out there who faithfully watch us and support us, and this is their church. They send their tithe into us because this is where their church is, because they cannot find one out there. I get it. I understand it. But now God has opened up the greatest opportunity we have, that we can minister to you, be fellowshiping with you and our own people here, and then helping you do a better job wherever you are at, and we will just reach them that way. You become our missionaries. You

become the people that are extended out of us, that we can continue to do what God wants us to do. This thing never stops.

You do not have to worry about social distancing. You do not have to worry about coronavirus. You do not have to worry about all of that stuff. But I want to tell you, there are bigger things coming you are going to have to worry about. I would say today, just so you would know and understand, the vineyard here is in great shape today. God took chaos and gave us order. He took confusion and He gave us clarity. He took fear and He gave us courage. He took a change in lifestyle that produced opportunities. We all had a choice. Everybody has a choice across this country, across this city, even in our own church. Everybody has to make their own choice, and I totally understand that, get that, would never criticize you for your choice. That is between you and the Lord. But I just know this: I did not start this church to end it in fear. I did not start this church to fold it up because society is now changing. What are we going to do? We will find a way. We have found a way. The same God that led us here, the same God that got you through your life and saved you, the same God will take you home if you will just stay with the same Book that got you here. That is what we are going to do. Well, we will hold up there. Next week, again, we will be back in the book of John.