

# John 1:10-13

Sunday 10/25/2020

I am really enjoying the Gospel of John. I wanted to teach that book for a long, long, long time, and of course, we were in Proverbs for a long, long, long, long time. But it has always been one of my favorite books of the Bible. Last week, I do not know how you catalog all this, but we finished our fourth section of the first chapter of John. Remember, I told you that in the first chapter, verses 1 through 14 are really an opening prelude to the book.

So far, we could probably break what we have looked at down into four key areas.

1. Early on, in the first couple of verses, we saw the declaration of God and His Word being one; you cannot separate the Word of God from God. This is not some mystical, magical, unseen original manuscript that never really existed in a book form, but the book that you have in your hand through a King James 1611 Authorized Version.
2. Then we saw God giving light to a dark world through that Word.
3. Then we saw God sending a man to be a witness, that through that man, God would take His light and shine it unto others.
4. Last week, we saw how God did get His true light to every man on earth. I got so many great responses to that, helping put a lot of things in perspective for people, how God does that around the world. That is one of the major questions you are going to find when you start working with people through discipleship or whatever, just teaching them the Bible. They all want to ask that question, and that just came up naturally, so we dealt with it.

We saw that He does that because He is the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. God has done that all down through history, all down through the dispensations of time. Most people think that dispensations are a period of time. Of course, it obviously is, but it is more than that. A dispensation in the Bible is not just a period of time, but it is a period of time when God is doing something different from what He did in the last dispensation or period of time. We know now from our Bible Institute that there are 11 or 12, depending on how you count them, different dispensations that come from Genesis 1 up to Revelation 22 and then, of course, out into eternity.

So God will reveal Himself, we learned last week, through four ways to man.

5. Obviously, the Word of God. When we talk about revealing Himself, His glory, and His glory—God's glory—you want to remember this: God's glory is Jesus Christ. So when God reveals His glory to man, He will do it in one or multiple of four ways.
6. Christ Himself when He came, in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
7. In the Old Testament, He did it through the nation of Israel. In the New Testament, He does it through the New Testament church.
8. The fourth way was the heavens declare the glory of God.

*Psalms 19:1-2*

*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

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

*Psalms 33:6*

*By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.*

*Psalms 33:9*

*For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.*

God uses those four things or combinations of those, or all four of those, depending on what time period He is in and who He is dealing with. We saw that last week.

Then I showed you probably one of the greatest rules of putting your Bible together and learning your Bible, and that is when you look at the Bible, you do not look at it from a Christian standpoint, 20th century or New Testament Christianity, much too shallow. You have to step up, step back, and look at it from the whole panoramic view of the Bible and what God is doing. Never look at anything from what your perspective is. You always want to get God's perspective on it, and that is so crucially important in understanding your Bible.

Today, we see that in this dispensation of the church age, for us declaring our gospel, the grace of God, we are, as God's people, to allow God's true light that is in us the day we get saved to shine through us by what God is doing in our lives, and we talked about that at great length. Today, we are going to move into yet another section with another key area to examine and to learn from, and I am kind of breaking this first chapter down into sections so we can glean everything out of it that we need. I have already told you the book of John is one of the five wisdom books in the New Testament. They are all written by John, and they line up and match to the five wisdom books in the Old Testament.

Let us begin reading today.

*John 1:10-13*

*He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

*He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

*Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Let us pray. Father, we do thank You now and praise You for today. We ask Your blessings upon all that we try to glean out of here. We love You. We thank You for the truth of Your Word and its power in our lives. We just pray, Father, You will continue to use us to help us to grow. We thank You for the new six areas that we have opened up and how they are just flourishing. The lifeline is just over the top. The Timothy ministry is going great. The crafts. Looking forward to Bible Institute this coming Saturday and the discipleship and the principles, everything that God You have given us and just how good it is and how You are using those things in so many people's

lives. So we love You. We thank You now and we pray Your blessings upon all that we do for You today. In Jesus' name for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Now, each of these sections will obviously deal with the historical record of Christ's first coming. We know that. It is all dealing with Christ coming, John the Baptist doing his gig six months before Christ and manifesting Him, Christ getting baptized, and then He is going to start His public ministry here very quickly, and we will start to work through that.

## I. The World Knew Him Not

Verse 10 says that He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. When it comes to any book in the Bible, I obviously want to give you the historical. I always want to give you the doctrinal. But I always want to focus on the practical spiritual side of things because that is really the key for your life and my life. Doctrinal stuff is great in putting your Bible together. Historical stuff is great for understanding how God is doing what He is doing, where He is doing it. But in your everyday life and my everyday life, the practical will always be of major importance to us. I try never not to glean out of that and to give you something.

For me, verse 10 is one of the greatest verses in the Bible that shows us our need as God's people and certainly God's church to be separated from the world. It simply comes down to the reason why we are to do that in your Christian life and our church: because the world does not know Him. In the Bible, this is called the doctrine of sanctification. Sanctification is a big \$25 word that simply means "set apart." The day you got saved, God set you apart from the world.

I have never understood—well, I do, but it just boggles my mind today in the Laodicean church age—that we have a church that claims to be a born-again church with a pastor and people who claim to be saved. I just do not get you not understanding that we are to be separate from the world. I get it, the neo-evangelical crowd and the neo-orthodox crowd, that was their goal back in the 1900s when they started to bring the world and the church together. I actually thought that some of you guys would be smarter than that. It is a terrible thing today.

The doctrine of sanctification is that the day you got saved, God separated you from the world. Do you know why? Because the world does not know Christ. You trying to put your church or your life connected with the world, as Dr. Phil would say, "How is that working for you?" It is not, and it is just a complete breakdown. In the Old Testament, Israel was to stay separate from the other nations in a physical way. They could not marry them, they could not hang out with them, they could not do anything with them. They had to stay under their own nation in a physical sense. In the church age, it is a spiritual thing because it is a difference between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God. We are in a spiritual kingdom now. We are to stay away from the world and everything that the world is.

## II. His Own Received Him Not

We always look at these verses, and we have a tendency to think that they deal only with Christ's time on earth and His rejection by the nation of Israel. That is certainly true. The first coming of

Christ, they did that historically. But there is more here. There is an application for you and for me that we can learn out of John 1:10-13. The Bible says in John 1:11 that He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.

Now, let us talk about this for a minute. In a national sense, that was His brethren in the nation of Israel. We know that. But in a personal way, this would be His own personal family. The Bible makes it clear in Mark 6:3, Psalms 69:8, and John 7:5 that Jesus had other brothers and sisters. This idea from the Catholic Church that Mary was a perpetual virgin is crazy. His brothers and sisters are listed in Mark 6:3. The Bible says that one of His brothers became an apostle, James, the brother of the Lord. But it also tells us that His brothers and sisters, outside of James, wanted nothing to do with Him.

These are His literal brothers and sisters. It boggles my mind. Can you imagine winding up at the Great White Throne Judgment knowing that you rejected God's Son when He was part of your family? That He was your brother? Or your sister? And you actually grew up with Him? You were in the same household? You watched as you spit and spat like little kids do? You watched how He grew? It brings a great principle here: not everybody in your family is going to be satisfied and happy that you are doing what is right with the Lord. The quicker you learn that, the quicker and better off you are going to be because Jesus Himself faced the same issues that many of God's people have faced. I know in my many years in the ministry, I have dealt with it and seen it all the time.

*John 7:5*

*For neither did his brethren believe in him.*

*Psalms 69:8*

*I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.*

*Mark 6:3*

*Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.*

I want you to understand this because this is a great truth, because some of you have gone through the same thing. Some of you are going through the same thing. Some of you will go through the same thing. We talk a lot about rebellious children and not doing what is right with the Lord. I probably do not spend enough time preaching on rebellious parents who do not do what is right by their children. Yet the parents, just like Jesus' family, they get an attitude because they do not want to go to church. There are some parents that, I mean, you look back at their life, their families, they have been in every church in this city. It is always, they go, they are there for a while, and then something happens. It is always somebody else's fault. They will jump from church to church to church, and it is always somebody else's fault, and they just never, never settle in.

All of my ministry over the years, I have had young men and young ladies who simply say, "Hey, I want God in my life, and I am going to stay with the Bible, and I am going to stay learning the

Word of God, and I am going to stay someplace that is teaching me the Bible." Instead of the parents correcting their error of their ways and saying, "Yeah, you are right, we need to do it too," they do not. They just add to the labor on the child. I had a kid one time that he wanted to, this has been years ago, he wanted to come to church, and his mom did not want him to come to church because she was Catholic. So he said, "Well, I am going to go to church, Mom, because I want to learn the Bible." When she found out that he was tithing to the church, she made him also tithe to the Catholic church, and the kid did it. Do you know why? Because the kid had character. Do you know why the mother did it that way? Because she did not have any character. You see it all the time.

I have said this many, many, many, many, many, many times: you give me a kid like that, and I will show you somebody that God has something special for. It is easy, and I do not take away from your children. They have got good godly parents that are here this morning, and you do what is right with them, and you train them up right, and they are doing really well, and they are doing good. I take nothing away from that, and God has something special for them. But that is the way it should be, but you know that it does not work that way in the world that we live in. Many times, kids have to come up in the worst opposition they face is their own parents, or their own parents do not want to do what is right.

This is the great principle here. Here is the man Jesus, Son of Man, born into the family of Mary and Joseph. She has other kids after Him, so He is obviously the oldest, and they do not believe in Him. They get offended by Him doing what God called Him to do, and you are going to find it is the same way. So, biblically, some kids, they just cannot, they want the Bible. Honestly, I wish that families would just all get on the same page and do what is right. Do what is right, parents, in their own lives. Do what is right with kids in their own lives, and the kids do it, but it is not going to happen. These are the issues in the ministry that you have to not only face but you have to deal with. You have to ignore them. Many times, you get clobbered for it because parents are upset because the kids want to become a part of this spiritual family more than they do their own physical family. You are going to pay the tab for that, and that is okay. You only have to pay it to the judgment of Christ, and then it will be okay.

### III. The Great Pretender

Looking back and looking through the application of comparison here, we see that the Jews of Christ's day, His national brethren, had completely departed from the Word of God, both in their attitude toward God and their action toward God. Again, the parallels are overwhelming how they just match the pattern of God's people today in many cases. The nation of Israel is as unrecognizable to what they were under David and Solomon as they are unrecognizable to the church today as it was to the great Philadelphia church age or down through the true line of Christianity.

Yet, I want you to know that even though the nation of Israel does not know God, they are as far away from God as they could be. They still had all the window dressings. This is another great lesson that you will want to learn: do not look at what people portray on the outside, because just as the nation of Israel, a lot of God's people put out the window dressing. You have to see deeper

than that. The nation of Israel, in their total apostasy to God, still had the sacrifice. They still had the priesthood. They still had the scribes. And they still had the Old Testament law. But it is completely polluted, every aspect of it. They have completely polluted themselves with the world system, which is the Roman Empire during this time. They have become part of it, and they corrupted themselves.

Malachi 2:11 says that in Israel at this time is the spirit of falsehood. Everything is real. Malachi 1:7-8 says that they are now having polluted bread and polluted sacrifices. 2 Chronicles 15:3 says, "For a long time now, the nation of Israel has been without a true God and a teaching priest." Total corruption.

On top of that, if you go back to 1st and 2nd Kings, 1st and 2nd Chronicles, you will find that God sends them the prophets. The prophets are men sent by God to straighten the nation of Israel out, just like in the New Testament, God will send you preachers who still believe the book, who preach the book. They try to get you straightened out. The Old Testament prophets nailed them with their preaching, just like the men of God who preach today do and will expose us for who we really are and hold us accountable. But nothing really changed. They hated them, just like they will hate you when you put the Word of God out.

The term "thus saith the Lord" is a powerful term in the Bible. Every prophet of God that was a true prophet, before he said anything, and you want to mark these in your Bible, before he said anything to the nation of Israel in any shape or form, he always prefaced it with "thus saith the Lord." In the Old Testament, when you do not find that, then you know the guy is not a prophet of God. But I am telling you, "thus saith the Lord" was no more popular back then than it is today. God's people just did not care.

*2 Timothy 3:5*

*Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

They had married themselves to the world, just like the church has done today. In fact, it is so bad that the daughter-in-law of Phinehas, back in 1 Samuel 4:21, when she saw that the Philistines, who are a type of the world, had taken the ark, which is a type of Christ, and Israel loses the ark, do you know what she does? She has a child, and do you know what she named that child? Ichabod. Now, I know we all know the name Ichabod from Halloween coming up with the great story of Sleepy Hollow and Ichabod Crane who got chased by the headless horseman and all that stuff. But Ichabod is a biblical name, and she gave that boy the name Ichabod because Ichabod means "the glory of God has departed." She saw that because they lost the ark, which is a type of Christ for you and for me, that the glory of God that was in that ark had departed, and it was a mess.

So will it be when you go to the first coming of Christ. People ask me, "Why did you call this 'Operation Remnant'?" This whole thing we put together, it is based on the Bible because you realize that at the first coming of Christ, the only ones who recognized and knew who He was was a small remnant. He is born in Bethlehem. Three guys show up. Three guys studied their Bibles like the whole world should have had that had a Bible. Every Jew had the same

information that these three guys had over here in the East, but they did not bother. Do you know why? Because they did not know Him anymore. Out of the whole nation of Israel, just a remnant shows up for the first coming of Christ. Do you know what that tells me? I do not mean to belay your lack of intelligence, but do you know what that tells me? The second coming of Christ is only going to be a small remnant to find out where He is coming. That is just the way it is. You cannot beat the book. That book lays it out, boy.

It is not that God's people do not like the Bible. They would love the Bible and like the Bible would just let you alone. But that book will not let you alone. That book will crawl off your coffee table while you are watching TV or while you are sleeping at night and get all over your face. Remember the early movies, Alien, which was always good, that thing popped out of that big egg and got on your face and stuck something down inside you and hatched out something. That is what the Bible does to you. You have to realize that it is all biblical stuff. You just have to put the dots together. Here is this egg. It has got a seed in it. Hello? The moment you walk into the room, it goes and opens up. So it does not get into your face until you walk over and you are curious. "Wow, that is what that is." So what do you do? You walk over, "Wonder what that is." You walk over and you stick your face down into it. That is all He needs on your face. That is exactly what God did with you. You walked into the room today, and it opened up, and now you are stuck here, and you are looking into it, and it is going to get all over your face.

Do you know what the Alien movie was? He put a seed in them, and then the aliens reproduced themselves through you. That is exactly what God wants to do. He wants to put the seed of the Word of God in you. Then He wants to reproduce Himself in you, except He is not going to bust out of your chest. The Bible says that He wants to be the true light in your life that gets to others. When that ark was gone, the glory was gone. They had come to the place where the Philistines, the Philistines now had Jesus Christ, the ark. They had all the window dressings of everything. If you had walked in there, but it was not real. You go into churches today, and they have all the window dressing. They have pews. They have hymnals. They have people sitting around with Bibles. They will have music and all that stuff, but it is not real.

When you look at the Laodicean church right before the Lord comes back, it was a remnant. It was a remnant who figured it out and was ready and looking for Him. Now, I am not saying all those people that we are talking about today in the church age, I am not saying they are lost by any stretch of the matter, but what I am saying is this: you do not know Him. Because the Bible says He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.

Now, I am just going to tell you something here. The nation of Israel had taken the Word of God, and they added to it, just like we do. If you go into a Jewish field today, you would find they have the Talmud, they have the Torah, and they have the Midrash and several other books. Now, why do they need that? They need that so they can get out from under the prophecies in the Bible. A priest does not teach from the Bible anymore. These are interpretations of the Bible. This is what he preached from. Do you know why they did that? Because they did not want to, they had to get out from under the truth of who Jesus Christ was. They do not want to know Him. Do you know why you get an ASV, an NIV, or whatever godless piece of trash they are using

today? Same thing. You really do not want to know Him. Because you cannot know Him through those books or those Bibles. I apologize for even calling them Bibles.

Their leaders had added now the Pharisees and the Sadducees to the mix, and they are not biblical, they are not found anywhere. There is nowhere God authorized that. But because they are doing their own thing, God intended the nation of Israel to be run through the scribes who had the custodianship of the Word of God and the priesthood. Both the priesthood in the Old Testament and the scribes in the New Testament are transferred into the body of Christ, the New Testament, the church in the New Testament. But do you know what they did? They forsook that, just like we did. They came up with the Pharisees. They came up with the Sadducees, two non-biblical groups who ran it all and told everybody what the Bible said. We did the same thing with Bible scholars. We took the Word of God out of the common man in the church and put it into the universities and the Bible colleges and all seminaries, and now the Sadducees and the Pharisees of our day will tell you what the Bible means.

I will tell you this up and up: by the time Christ shows up, the scribes had corrupted themselves. By the time the priesthood had corrupted itself, and by the time Christ shows up, clearly they do not know Him. They could not see who He was and be ready for Him at the first coming of Christ, even though the Bible had just laid it completely out. God's people today will no more see Him and be ready for Him at the second coming of Christ or the rapture of the church than they were back then. Do you know why? Because in both cases, we have corrupted ourselves. We do not know Him. We have all the window dressings and all the pretty little fluff and all the stuff, but we really, today in the Laodicean church, outside of a remnant, we do not know Him. So it will be like that today at the second coming of Christ. It will only be a remnant. Brother, that book lays it out. It is no wonder so many people, like Israel, hate it, all the while they pretend to love it.

I will be honest with you, as a pastor or somebody who studies the Bible, how do you miss that? Did I lay anything out that was complicated this morning? Did I lay anything out that was hidden? It is just following your Bible. So maybe that is the answer: you do not have one.

Looking at His time, first of all, His own brothers and sisters did not know Him other than James. Judas, the one that betrayed Him in Matthew 28, he did not know Him. The soldiers in Luke 23 who put the nails in His hands and His feet, they did not know Him. The Roman government and the rulers of His day, Acts 4:27, they did not know Him. The religious leaders of Israel, the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the priesthood, they did not know Him, Matthew 12-13. The whole world knew Him not. What does that tell me as a New Testament Christian? Stay away from the world in your own personal life and in your church.

May I just add this as a little postscript just to agitate people a little bit farther? Yet there is a day coming when He will return to favor at the Great White Throne Judgment. The world says, "I do not know Him. I do not want to know Him." So there is a day coming when He will stand there before the unsaved world, and He will say, "I never knew you." There is a saying we all use in the world that really comes out of the Bible. It is that old saying, "What goes around comes around." There is no truer statement than that. Two of my favorite phrases is that one, and then

the other one that is not directly in the Bible, but it is taught in principle form, is that if you sit by the river long enough, the body of your enemy will flow by. That is why you just let God take care of those things. It is an incredible, incredible thing, knowing Him.

I have always shown you the great truth, long before we started this, that the book of John's Gospel is about how to know Him as your Savior. So I told you when we started, 98 times you find the word "believe," and then the great chapter verse at the end that tells you that the reason the book was written is to get you saved. Then I have also told you that he writes then the book of 1 John. Whereas in the Gospel of John, he shows you how to be saved, and in the book of 1 John, he shows you how to know Him after you are saved through that fellowship. So 26 times in just five short chapters, you find "to know Him." I mean, how simple could it be?

Now, putting all of this into a 20th, 21st century spiritual application, and yes, I hate the 20th, 21st century, we see the same thing that destroyed Israel also destroyed the church in New Testament Christianity: becoming one with the world and losing or forsaking the doctrine of sanctification. The more you allow the world system into your church, into your family, into your own personal life, the less you will know Him, and then one day you will wake up and not know Him at all. You are still saved, but you have just lost touch with who He really is. Just like the Jews at the first coming of Christ, you are saved. But wow, you miss Him.

This is fact: God's people have been as unprepared for the pandemic or the coronavirus that hit this world, and you were not ready for that, they will not be ready for the meeting with the rapture of the church. It will catch them totally by surprise. Today in 2020, I wish we could see that clearly, but we cannot. Today, as we approach the end of the church age, which is rapidly coming our way, the gap between the world and Christianity should be 100 million miles wide. But instead, it is all now together. Like the Pergamos Church back in 325 AD, which means "much married," the church has been married to the world.

The real issue today for you and for me and for this church and for every church out there, just one little simple verse:

*Amos 3:3*

*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*

And you cannot. God's people today are the greatest pretenders you will ever encounter. Back in the 50s, on my couple of my Jeeps and my Ford Ranger, the radio does not work. I like the 50s music, so I got me some 50s CDs that have the old 50s music on them. One of them, I just play it over and over again. I do not know who did it, but back in the days in the 50s when I was just a kid, I have heard it all my life, but it is a song called "The Great Pretender." You older folks, you know that song? You do, don't you? You want to come up and sing it with me? "The Great Pretender." I have to confess, every time I listen to that, I think of some of God's people. I think of Christianity in general.

We are supposed to believe the Bible, we are supposed to use the Bible, the Bible is supposed to be everything to us in our God life, and yet you have a problem with somebody or somebody has a problem with you, just try to sit down with them and open up the Bible and solve the problem.

They are not going to do it. They do not want to do it. They do not want to fix the problem. What could not be worked out between two of God's people with an open Bible? But they do not want to do it. They will do it behind your back to somebody else, but never with an open Bible. Now, I wonder why that is, and I am going to tell you the answer: because you are a pretender. You are like the people that Jesus talked about in Luke 6:46, where He said:

*Luke 6:46*

*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

Why would you claim to be a Christian and claim to be right in a situation, and yet you will not and you refuse to sit down with somebody, open the Bible, and solve the problem? Answer: you are the great pretender. You are the great doo-wah, doo-wah, doo-wah, diddy. You are the great pretender. Ichabod, not just over the church, but over you, God's people. Today, there is no difference in churches and Christianity than the world. The Bible says He came, the world knew Him not. The Bible says He came unto His own, and they received Him not.

The book of Colossians is what I want to teach you at some point in time. I love that book, and it is the definitive book on the Laodicean church age. Everybody thinks it is the book of Revelation. No, the book of Revelation is filler material for the book of Colossians. If you know anything about the Bible, you know that the word Laodicea is mentioned five times in the book of Colossians. So it is a book that, it is a great book to study in that sense. The breakdown of the book is incredible because in chapter one, you find where he begins to redefine in every aspect. In chapter one of Colossians, he begins to redefine who Christ is. Do you know why that is? Because in the Laodicean church, we have lost who He is. We do not know Him anymore. So that first chapter, he goes through and lays everything out of who Christ really is. In chapter two, then he shows you the issues that we all face. It is all summed up in one verse. We will look at it in a moment. Colossians 2:8, the issues that have destroyed the church today and destroyed Christianity. Then three and four is positive to me and you because in verses three and four, he tells us as New Testament believers who believe what we read, our response to the Laodicean church age. Incredible stuff.

In Colossians 2:8, we see that what the issue is today is the same that Israel faced in John 1. It is the same that Israel faced in 606 B.C. He simply says:

*Colossians 2:8*

*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

The church today of Laodicea is built on these four things and the rudiments of the world. Let me be crystal clear: you can lose, without losing your salvation, you can lose what you have with Christ as far as your relationship with Him, and it is so subtle that you do not even know it because it is a very slow process. Remember the old biology class when you used to have a frog, and the biology teacher would say, "How do you boil a frog?" Well, if you get the water really hot and throw the frog in it, he jumps out. But if you put the frog in a pan of water that is not heated but you put it on the stove, put him in there, and he is swimming around a little bit, and

then you turn the heat up, it gradually gets hotter, and he does not realize it, and pretty soon you have delicious frog legs. He is dead. That is what the devil has done to the church. He did not throw us in a pan of hot water. He put us in the water and then just turned the heat up slowly, and you wake up one morning, and you do not know Him. You are saved. You are on your way to heaven, but you have no clue about anything in the Bible. Everything in your world is upside down, yet you pretend it is all okay. You get mad at the church. Well, you get mad at the last church. You get mad at the last five churches. You get mad at the last ten churches. You are a pretender. Why do not people change? It is so subtle.

The greatest example of this or the model of this is found in the New Testament of Luke 2:43-47. It says there that Jesus and His family, His mom and dad, are going someplace traveling. The Bible says that they look around and realize that He has not been with them for two days. They went all this way. They have traveled this thing, and suddenly, I mean, how do you do that? How do you not know that one of your kids is not with you? I guess it happens if you are not paying attention. But they have been traveling for two days. Do you not think when they all went to bed at night, they thought, "I wonder where He is at?" Do you not think that He had not had a meal with them for two days? You might scratch your head and say, "I wonder what happened to Him?" How can a family, that family, get so out of touch that they did not even know for two days that He was not even with them? Then suddenly, at the end of the second day, somebody said, "Hey, I do not think He is with us anymore." They went and found Him, and they found Him on the third day.

Now, doctrinally, we know that that third day is a picture of the second coming of Christ, and it is a picture of the nation of Israel and the church losing Christ for 2,000 years and then finding Him on the third day. Raptured church, second coming. But the point is incredible. It shows you that many of God's people today think they know Him. They pretend they know Him, but they lost Him and did not even know it. So subtle it was that you just let the world creep in. You did not do what was right with the biblical principles that God gave you so it does not keep the world out. So just like water rising up in your basement on a flood rainstorm, the water seeps in, and pretty soon you wake up some morning, you do not even know Him anymore. You are saved. You are on your way to heaven. But He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.

I love those two verses. The first one says, "He was in the world, and the world knew him not." The next one says, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." The world never knew Him, but His own brethren knew Him. They just would not receive Him. God's people know Him, but they will not receive Him. There is the problem. You know who He is, but you reject and you do not receive what He has for you, and you do your own thing, and you let the world creep in, and bang, some morning you wake up, do not know Him. Hence, Laodicean church. Hence the churches.

I will tell you this: as He came into the world, and the world knew Him not, He came into His own, and His own received Him not. They knew who He was, just like God's people know who He is today, but the problem was they did not receive what He did for them. The closer you get to the world and you let it into your life or into your church, the less you will know Him as the

fellowship and the walk. Light versus darkness. In His way and His light, there is no darkness at all.

Churches today are just completely gone. We talk about the music all the time. The music is just, you could close your eyes, you could be in a nightclub. You could close your eyes and be at a rock concert. The greatest question that I ask today is, "What is the difference between the church today?" Most churches social drink. Most churches now have wine tasting parties. There is a church here in town that has a gambling ministry based on poker, whatever poker your us or poker your eye out or whatever the case may be. They all get together on a night and set up four or five hundred poker tables, and everybody plays poker. Of course, the winnings, whoever wins the money, has to donate it to a ministry. But then I am told that they practice their little poker games at home where they drink their beer and they keep the winnings there. Once you open the door, where does it stop?

I just ask people, "Okay, you want to say that is okay. Oh fine, you want to have a gambling ministry, that is fine. You want to have homosexuals come into your church, that is fine. You want to do this, you want to do that. You want to have drinking, that is fine. You want to have social drinking, that is fine. If you want to take the position as long as you social drink, and you do not become excess, it is okay." If that is what you want to do, that is okay. Now that would be hard to have a ministry for alcoholics. I had a lady one time that I knew for years and years and years, and she goes to another church now, and she is into that social drinking crowd, and she blatantly said, "When they legalize marijuana, I am going to be smoking it." I am not fighting it, I do not care, I just got one question: "What are you separated from? Anything?" You say, "Yeah, we are separated from your church," that is a good thing. But honestly, what are you separated from? What are you separated from? The answer is nothing. Do you know why? Because the church today has married the world, and you cannot, "How can two walk together except they be agreed?" You cannot be part of the world system and walk with Him.

So you say, "What are you saying?" I am saying you are a pretender. I am saying you are just like the nation of Israel. You have got the window dressings. You have got the big auditoriums. You have got the big sound systems. You have got lots of people that come, and you get up there and you give them whatever you give them, but at the end of the day, God is a hundred million light years away. Do you know why? "How can two walk together except they be agreed?" And you cannot go four verses in your Bible before God separated the light from the darkness. In Him is light, and there is no darkness at all. You can justify it any way you want. You can go to the verses and anything you want, but the bottom line is you are a pretender. You pretend to be separate from the world when you are not. I am just telling you right now, you cannot live your Christian life that way. That is what has gotten so many of God's people in trouble. They think they can. They carry their King James Bible, the thing they have got all kinds of notes in it, but when push comes to shove, you do not go to it. When you have got an issue with somebody, you do not follow it. When you have got personal problems in your own life or with your kids, you do not follow it. We are pretenders. This is the state of the body of Christ in the 20th, 21st century. Worldly preaching with worldly music with a worldly lifestyle will produce worldly Christians.

## IV. Power to Become the Sons of God

Then He says in John 1:12:

*John 1:12*

*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

To them gave He the power. I have said it many, many times, another thing that we do not know is when you get saved, the power that you have inside of you. The power we have as God's man or God's woman. We have, I quoted a little while ago, Psalms 33:6 and Psalms 19:1. The Bible says in Psalms 33:6:

*Psalms 33:6*

*By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.*

He spake, and it was done. He commanded, and it stood still. Do you know how much power that is, that God just spoke the whole creation into being? Now let me just say this, do you know you have the same power that He did now within you today? You do. The problem is you do not know Him, so you do not know the power. It is just that simple. Learning how to control and use that power correctly that God, and even recognize it.

Your car is a combustible engine car. Combustible engine means that it is combustible. You put fuel in it, the fuel gets ignited, and then it is all kept within that cylinder block, and it fires the engine up, and it runs. Enjoy it. The government is going to make you buy an electric car. Sooner or later, they are going to do away with the combustion engine because they are worried about air quality. They are worried about the green stuff, the trees, and the ozone layer. Do you know that? I mean, I have got news for you, the Lord is going to fix all that. But you are going to lose your combustible engine. So buy them while you can. Keep them as good as you can because sooner or later, they are all going to be gone, and you are going to have to plug it in every night. It is crazy, but that is where it is going.

But right now, you have a combustible engine, and it runs on gasoline. Now, I know, you think that because we talk about a gas well, you think that octane gas just comes up out of the ground. No, it does not. Do you know what they do? They dig an oil well, and they dig the oil, and they get the oil out. It is called crude oil. Then what they have to do to make the finished product, to make your car run, is they have to send it to a refinery. In a refinery, they have these big tanks, and they refine it and bring it down. What comes out the other end is gasoline that makes your car run, that makes everything go the way it needs to be. But that crude oil, being translated into the power to run your car, has to go through a refining process. It is called a refinery.

I am telling you, when you get saved, you have the power of God, but it is all in the crudest form you could ever imagine. Do you know what He has to do? He has to put you into a Bible-believing church with a Bible-believing pastor with other Bible-believing people who will help

the process of taking the crude stuff and refining you into the power of God to make your engine run. This church is a refinery. You come in here, some of you are very crude, very, very, got to knock off the rough edges. Everybody has got issues they have to work through. This church is like the refinery. It refines you. It takes the principles that are God's Word, and it molds you and makes you and refines you into what God, the finished product. Through that process, you come out on the other side as gasoline, which runs an engine, which is a power supply for a combustible engine. God wants to take every one of you and refine you to the point where He can reveal that power, and more importantly, you learn how to use it. It is just how it works.

It is a thing where, look at Philippians. Turn over to Philippians chapter 3. I get some of you must hate the book of Philippians by now. We have been going through that thing, and it has just been beating us senseless. It just, do you know why? Because it is a church that does not have any pretenders in it. Christians who like to pretend will never like a book where there are no pretenders. In 1 Corinthians, you have pretenders. In Thessalonica, you have pretenders. In Romans, you have pretenders. In Peter, you have pretenders. All through Paul's books, you have pretenders. In Colossians, pretenders. In Ephesians, pretenders. But when you get to Philippians, there are no pretenders. It is a thing where a real church filled with real Christians. That is why you find those 10 incredible verses, and this is one of them. Philippians 3:10. It is incredible. It is incredible.

There are three areas here that you look at in understanding God's power. The first thing it says is:

*Philippians 3:10*

*That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

"That I may know Him." Really? Do you know Him? Really? You say, "Well, yeah, I am saved." I know you know Him as your Savior. But, oh boy, here it comes. Do you really know Him? You want to see the next two steps? "That I may know Him."

*The power of His resurrection. Now that is salvation. When you got saved, you got the power that came through the resurrection of Him coming up from the dead. So that I may know Him. And there are three areas to this.*

*Power of His resurrection.*

*Fellowship of His suffering.*

*Being made conformable unto His death.*

Now that verse, as it stands alone, will separate the men from the boys right on the spot. Now watch the pretenders. Let us back into it. The end result for all of us will be conformed to the death of His Son. You may not know what that means. That means that you become, through the life that God gives you, you now become dead. Dead to the things of the world. Dead to the things of self. Dead to what people say about you. Dead to what people think about you. When you know that you are doing what God has called you to do. Dead to sin.

### *Colossians 3:3*

*For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

This little thing that just, the little things that upset so many of God's people. People get upset because of little stupid things. Most people who leave churches, and they have a major issue that they have made up in their minds. Sometimes they are right, but when they are not right, the fake things that they pretend things that they have. Do you know where it all started? It all started by not taking care of the little things. You do not take care of the little things in your life, then the big things are going to reign over your life at some point. It is a thing where you see that. You get an attitude toward people. You get an attitude that you like this person, you do not like that person. People say, "I do not like this. I did not get invited to this. Well, I did not get this or so and so got to do this, and why did not I get to do this?" God's people today get so upset over the stupidest stuff that in the big picture of what God is doing, does not mean anything. Do you know why? Because you never learned that the end result of your life is to be conformed to His death.

Now, I will give you an example. You have all been to funerals. I have done my share of them. You go into the funeral, and things change now today. They do not bury people as much as they used to. There are no caskets, no viewing. You have a little jar of ashes there for the person. Sometimes a person dies, and it is months later that they have them cremated, and you have a service. Nothing wrong with any of that. But I am just saying, in the old days, when you died, you got embalmed, and you got put in a casket. I have been to many of them. They are all the same. Before you get into the service, people get to go up and do the viewing. They call it a wake. I do not know why they called it a wake because the guy never does wake. He stays dead. But they call it a wake. Back in the old days, you used to have them in your home. Do you know that? They used to bring the vat in the casket in there, and people come into your house, and they all do the same thing. They walk up there and they say, "He really looks good." Next person. "Boy, he does not look like himself." "Boy, he lost a lot of weight." "I always said he had the biggest nose you could ever see in your life." Hey, Sharon, remember Mom years ago, her favorite saying was when she saw a guy with a big nose, "I wish I had that nose full of nickels." Remember that? They go up and say, "You know what? Boy, she was ugly in life, and she was ugly in death." Somebody else goes up and he says, "Well, you have got what you deserve." Somebody else says, "I never liked you. I tell you what, I am glad you are dead." Yeah, plenty of people say that about me when they are dead.

But anyway, do you know what the great key is? None of that matters to the guy. Do you know why? He is dead. You can tell him how ugly he was, how rotten he was, how big a nose he has got. You can tell him, you can say anything you want to say about him, and it does not affect him. Do you know why? He is dead. I am going to tell you something. When you ever get to the place in your life that you become conformed to His death, then what people say about you will never matter because you are a dead man. It does not get to you. It may get into your head, but you never let it get into your heart. Do you know why? Because I am dead. I mean, that is the end result for all of us. Why can we not do that? Why are we so fickle about the little things in life that really do not matter? "Well, I do not like that person." Do you think what would you like

if God was up in heaven looking at you and saying, "Well, I do not like her. Well, I do not like him." You see, when you are dead, the things that people, when you are doing what God has called you to do, when you are dead, whatever people think, could people get jealous? People get jealous of what you are doing that they do not get to do. People get their nose bent on the joint because they do not get invited to something that you did, you do. People get all kinds of petty stuff. If you do not think the devil does not get into those details, I guarantee you he does. That is why the Bible says the end result for every one of us is to be conformed unto His death. You are a dead man. You are a dead woman. Somebody says, "Well, you know, you are a dead man." I am dead to those things. I am dead to the world. I am dead, and my life is hid with Christ in God. Most importantly, you are dead to the things of this old world.

Now, you get the power of God at salvation, and the end goal is to be like Him and be conformed to His death. There are two key words in the Bible in your Christian life. One of them in Romans and the other one here. In Romans 12, it says that we ought to be transformed. That is salvation. The day you got saved, God transforms you. But then the second word is found here, and it is the word "conformed." You see, once God transforms you, then He has the ability to conform you. The transformation or your transforming is when you got saved. That is John. But your conforming, that is the work and the fellowship and your walk with Him, 1 John, and learning to know Him. You do not want to forget that. Dead to the world. Somebody said, "Hey, how did you sleep last night?" "Oh man, I was dead to the world." Every Christian ought to say that when they ask you, "How is the world doing you?" But the only way you will do that is through fellowship. Book of 1 John. I am not talking about fellowship at Culver's or Jason's Deli. I am talking about the fellowship of His suffering.

You see, we all want the power of God, but we do not want the suffering of God, but the power of God only gets defined and refined in your life through the suffering. Do you know how you make a diamond? You take a piece of coal. Then for maybe a million years, you put that coal under a hundred million tons of pressure. After a long period of time and all the pressure, you open it back up, and there is a diamond. Do you know how God makes diamonds out of you, lumps of coal? How God takes you as an old dirty piece of crude lump of coal and in time processes you and refines you into a diamond through pressure. He does not make you by everybody telling you how great you are. He does not make you by you having all the good things in life. He makes you through the fellowship of your suffering of what you go through for Him and through that refining process. Makes you into a diamond fit for the Master's use.

I do not know that this is true, but I like to think it is true. When we get to heaven, we get married to the Lord, and we have a marriage supper to the Lord. I know that wedding rings are not biblical in the Bible. I know that they come in with Constantine and all that stuff. But I would like to think that if the Lord, as His bride, gives me a diamond ring, it would not be a diamond ring with a lump of coal in it. They would symbolize the refining process in your life and my life of the fellowship of His suffering.

Yet the Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:11-12:

*2 Timothy 2:11*

*It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:*

*2 Timothy 2:12*

*If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

He does not know you as far as the suffering. When we get out of a church that is separated from the world, which is God's accountability structure for you, the first thing you lose is your walk with God, and then the hand of God in your life, and then the book goes, and then the things of this world will just begin to creep back in. In time, you will know Him not as to the fellowship of His sufferings. When tough times come into your life, you will be hiding under a rock. When you get cancer or you get some debilitating disease, you will be scared to death of it. When the pandemic hits, you will be scared to death of it. When all the things in your world go crashing down around you, you will fear those things more than you fear the suffering with Him.

Then you get comfortable. When we get comfortable, because this is true the older you get, Penny will tell you this, she is 70 this week. The older we get, the less we like to be moved out of our comfort zone. You young kids, you do not mind, you will roll with the punches, but you get to be 70 years old, 80 years old. You do not like change. You do not want to get up and walk the dog. You do not want to get up and walk because it hurts too bad to get out of the chair. You do not like things coming in your world. You like it nice and easy, don't you? You like getting up in the morning and just smooth sailing through life. Then when the waves start rolling, you do not like it. You can never make it in a ministry that way because the ministry is too tumultuous. I am not sure what that word means, but I think it means complicated. It is a thing where you are always, you just cannot get comfortable because when you get comfortable, then you begin to coast. Then the little stupid things bother you. The little people. People will annoy you. There is no question about it. People will annoy you. You say, "How do you deal with people who annoy you?" Oh, I just think of how many times I must have annoyed God. You see, we get so self-righteous in ourselves. We think that we are so perfect with God that we have never annoyed Him. That we have never done something stupid. That we never made a bad decision. That is because we are not going through this fellowship of His suffering. You get coasting. You just kind of move through life like, "You know what, I am just coasting through this thing." You get comfortable. Little stupid things now bug you. Very slowly, like the frog in a pan of water, all these four things that are in Colossians 2 begin to move back in, and pretty soon the rudiments of the world are right in your life, and you have lost your fellowship of suffering with Him. You do not even know it. Now you are with the King James Bible. A church that you either go to or another church that you do not go to. Now you are the great pretender.

## V. Born of God

Lastly, there is a great verse here on salvation itself. John 1:13 says:

*John 1:13*

*Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

This salvation that the Gospel of John has for man, that is the true light that can only come through God Himself, His Son. In 1 Peter 1:23, it says:

*1 Peter 1:23*

*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

We know now you cannot separate God and a book. It does not come by man. It does not come through your family. It does not come through any religion. It certainly does not come through yourself. Only through God's salvation comes through His Son.

Then one of the greatest verses in the Bible in 1 John 5:11-13, it says:

*1 John 5:11*

*And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

*1 John 5:12*

*He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

You see, that is true. The greatest verses in the Bible that says either you have Him or you do not. It has to come through His Son. If you have Him, you have life, and if you do not have Him, you do not have life. Then he says this:

*1 John 5:13*

*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

He has given you a record. That record is for you and I to know for sure that you are saved. Do you know why? Because there are times that you are going to have to put it all on the line for Him, and if you are not sure He has got your back, you are not going to do it. There will be times that your life may be called into question of what you have got to do. If you are not sure of your salvation and He has got your back, you will never do it. If you do not know that you are saved and you have that book, and the only way you know that is the power of His resurrection, the fellowship of suffering, and then being conformed unto His death, the process of being conformed after you are transformed, you will never do it.

## VI. The Reckoning: Should vs. Shall Bow

In the first four verses of Genesis 1, God divides the light from the darkness. We know that. That is the first mention of separation in the Bible. From that point on, God separated everything that He was from everything the world was. It works down through the Old Testament, and then it works into the New Testament. It works into the church age, into God's people, God's church. We are to be different in the world. The world today that is popular is an alternative lifestyle. That used to be a term back in the sixties and the seventies and the eighties for a Christian. Now it is a term for the gay and the lesbians. God's people are just like the world. There is no difference. We

have lost the definition of an eternal lifestyle to the world because we are the world, and now the sinners of this world have their own eternal lifestyle. John 1:10 is the first verse in the New Testament that tells us that Christianity and the world have no place together.

As we close out the church age, as we close it out right now where we are at, we see at the rapture and the second coming that Christianity and Christians are in the same mess that Israel was at the first coming of Christ. They did not have a clue of who He really was. They were pretending, just like the church is pretending today. They were pretending, had everything there. They had a form of godliness, but they are pretending because they did not have the power. God's people have the big churches, the big buildings, the steeples, the choirs, everything they have got, but they are pretending.

Tonight, one of the greatest questions and greatest insights into the Judgment Seat of Christ that anybody would ever probably see was laid out when somebody, when they asked a question about the two verses, about bowing your knee and your tongue confessing. Of course, the two aspects to that:

9. The bowing of your knee, that is your lifestyle. That is you ceasing to go with the world, and you are bowing your knee. You walk with your legs. Now you are on your knees. You are going to go through life on your knees.
10. The other one is the confessing of the mouth. That is what you are going to say that comes out of your mouth now that you are on your knees and have given your life to God and made Him Lord of all.

As the old song says or the old saying says, "If He is not Lord of all, then He is not Lord at all," and you are pretending.

*Philippians 2:10*

*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;*

The question was the discrepancy between Philippians 2:10 and Romans 14:11, which both verses are dealing with the Judgment Seat of Christ. In Philippians 2:10, it says that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow."

*Romans 14:11*

*For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*

He wanted to know the difference between why he would say "should bow" and then says "shall bow." I laid it out, and I will be honest with you, I had never seen it before. It just kind of hit me like a ton of bricks. Boy, I went home that night and got it into my Bible. I preached that concept many times, but I never saw a really good example, and there it is.

You see, right now, in your knowing Him, your knee should bow to Him in your walk. You should make Him Lord of your life. You should not be the great pretender. You ought to be the

real deal. But most of God's people are not going to do that. They are going to pretend. In the church age that we live in and the way it is, we do not do that. We are pretenders. So most of God's people pretend, and they will not really do it. So he says in Philippians 2:10 that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow." But then there is coming a day when, in Romans 14:11, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, where you will bow. Because there it says, "For it is written, every knee shall bow."

It is not a question of whether you will bow your knee to Him or not. The question is simply when you will do it. You will either do it now in a relationship with Him because you love Him, and He loves you, and you walk with Him, and you know Him, and you understand that knowing Him and the world cannot be together, so you separate yourself from the world, and you bow your knee to Him now and make Him Lord of your life, and then the things that come out of your mouth are the things that confess what He is doing in your world, or you will be a pretender. You will go through your life, your Christian life, church to church to church, problem to problem to problem. You will have every downside of thing in this thing, and you will just keep going your own way and pretending, pretending, and everything in your life that is down will always be somebody else's fault. Where right now you should bow, and you will not, when you stand before Him, you will bow. You either accept Him now under a God of love and grace and bow your knee and confess to Him now, or you will do it in that day when the reality sets in that you are a pretender.

It is not a matter of whether you will or whether you will not, folks, it is just a matter of when you will. You will either do it now or you will do it there. My advice to you is to do it now. Reap the blessings, reap the warmth of your family, reap the blessings of doing what is right in your life and separating yourself from the world. Whether you are a Christian listening to this or a pastor in your church, separate yourself from the world. Do not pretend you can have both because of the day coming, if you do not do it now, you will do it then. The Judgment Seat of Christ is going to be the great reckoning of everything in your life and my life, and it is going to be very clear at that point who were the pretenders and who were not. It is already clear, but in that day, you will bow your knee, and your tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and I guarantee you, I bet at the Judgment Seat of Christ, without a doubt, there will be millions and millions of God's people out of the Laodicean church that will beg God for just to go back in time for just five minutes, ten minutes, thirty seconds to do what they should have done in life, but they did not, and you will not go back. When it is done, it is done. That Bible says that I may know Him, power of His resurrection through the fellowship of His suffering, and then God conforms you unto the death, not the person, not Christ like the other principle. This one, you are conformed to His death, and a dead man goes through life not letting anything bother him because in his life from God, he has become dead to the world and people who live like the world.

We will hold up there. Please do not forget if you are going to help me with the trunk retreat.