

I. Introduction and The Fullness of God

If you have your Bibles this morning, let us turn back to John 1. I cannot speak for you, nor would I presume to, but I am really enjoying teaching the Gospel of John. It is a book that I have always really wanted to delve into. I have been through it probably eight or nine, ten times by myself, just laying it out and studying it. But the joy of going through it with you and having a great time and watching how it really clicks with so many of you.

Last week we talked about John 1:15-17, three key verses on our being a witness for Christ, based on John the Baptist and his witness as he showed up at the first coming. We talked about the fullness of God, the fullness of Christ. Whenever I talk about the fullness of God or Christ, I am always reminded of that great passage in Ephesians 3:17-19. Paul is talking to the church and he is laying out everything that has happened since Christ came and died and went back to heaven.

He says to that group of people in that church:

Ephesians 3:17-19

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

To me, what a great set of verses that is. God's people, you and me, having the ability to have the fullness of God in our lives. So many religions and so many Christians believe that you cannot do that, that you just get part of God, and you have to strive for the rest of your life to be worthy to get it. But that is not true. I told you last week, the moment you got saved, you got all of God that there was. The real question is, does He have all of you, giving yourself to Him?

I want you to notice in those three verses, three things that we have been preaching about.

- Verse 17 says, God dwelling in our hearts. Remember last week He came and dwelled among men.
- Verse 18 says, to comprehend the depth of God.
- In verse 19, the fullness of God.

What you take away from that in its most simplest form is that the depth and the fullness of God starts with Him dwelling in our hearts. That is where He has to reign.

II. The Depth of God

Depth is the spiritual fourth dimension of God that most people never get to. In our physical life, we have a three-dimensional world. Everything is in a three-dimensional format. You have, and it lists it there, the height, the breadth, and the length. Those are the three dimensions of life. When Christ came, He came into that three-dimensional world. Most of God's people, if they understand God at all, if they understand Christ at all, they always understand Him in that three-dimensional aspect. But most people never get the depth.

The depth is the spiritual dimension. The depth is a dimension that goes way beyond the physical aspects of Christ. In the unsaved world, they talk about the fourth dimension. To them, it is that mystical world out there that exists that you cannot see. It is a dimension on a plateau of greatness that steps way outside and we cannot see into it. Of course, they have the concept, but they do not have how it lays out in the Bible. There is no fourth dimension that is a goofy little thing where it is outside of the realm of what we know, the paranormal. But there is a fourth dimension spiritually, and that is the depth of God.

Coming to the place in your life and my life that we understand the fullness, all that God is, not just having it, but not only just understanding it, but allowing it to work through us. In the football world, and I do not know much about football, but in the NFL teams, they have what they call a depth chart. A depth chart is a list of positions and who is best at doing that. Of course, if they have a certain play or somebody gets hurt, they will look at the depth chart and see who is the next best guy to be able to do that. It shows the abilities of the players on a list of positions and who can do what, both offense and defense, and on special teams. It basically is, as they look at that, who has the best knowledge and experience and ability to get the job done. Of course, for them, it is winning the ballgame.

At the same time, I have my own depth chart. Mine is a spiritual one. We are a team here, just like any football team, baseball team. We are a team. We work together. We have a goal. We are in a race, the Bible says. I have a depth chart too. When I look at my depth chart, it is you. I look at who I can count on to cover whatever position needs to be covered with confidence that you will get the job done. It is a thing where, on whatever level you are at spiritually, some of you are just getting into this and you are being disciplined and you are working through, and you are doing great. Some of you are what I call the midline people who are really moving along. Then there are some of you who really have that depth. When I have a job come up or something needs to be done, in my mind, I constantly have my depth chart: who is able to do whatever? Affectionately speaking, I call you my go-to guys and my go-to girls. Who can get the job done, whatever it is?

In the military, you have an airborne unit called the 82nd Airborne. They were started back in the 40s. They actually were built off the All-American Division of World War I as an infantry. When they started the concept of the paratroopers, the 82nd was the first one that they formalized. It fought all through early Sicily, North Africa. They went all the way. In fact, that is their motto: "All the Way." The 82nd is still around today. Now they have the SEALs and the special forces that can do all that black ops stuff. But the 82nd Airborne is designed today as a rapid deployment battalion. The idea is to be able to take these guys who are so highly trained, highly motivated, highly ready to go, that they can drop them in any place in the world within 24 to 48 hours and they can handle any situation that may come up that they have to deal with.

I have looked at that over the years and thought to myself, what kind of guys they are that will do that? At the same time, in my mind, that is the way Christianity ought to be. You and I ought to get to the place in our life with the fullness of God and the depth of God that God can drop us into any scenario, any place, in this city, in this country, or around the world. Many of you are at that point in your life right now that I would have total confidence that if I had to put you someplace to do something, I know you would get the job done. That is part of understanding how we build that depth chart. It is basically based on that concept of the name, depth, how deep that person goes outside the natural things of this world to be able to see and understand God.

III. Grace, Truth, and Biblical Balance

We talked about the grace of God. We talked about that grace and faith. In Ephesians 4:7, it talks about grace by measure. In Romans 12:3, it talks about faith by measure. We talked about how that when you got saved, God just gave you a measure of faith and grace to trust Him. Once you get that measure of faith, it is up to you and me to develop it. My job as a pastor and the job of this church is to take you in whatever form you are once you get saved and help you develop that and hopefully get to the fullness where you experience the depth and you can comprehend it.

We talked about our stewardship of the grace of God based on 1 Peter 4:7, how there are so many aspects to grace. We actually just think about it about salvation. But I gave you a whole list of them last week. We are going to be stewards of that because grace is not only the key to your salvation, it is the key to where you go the rest of your life and how the Bible says that grace and truth came by Jesus Christ and how these two will form the biblical balance in our lives. Having faith without grace or having grace without truth will be an improper balance.

Proverbs 11:1

A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

It takes the balance of both. No grace, then you have no real truth. No real truth, you have no real grace. No grace and no truth, then you have no basis for forgiveness. I said it last week, we are so willing to accept forgiveness of God through His truth and His grace, we are just not too willing to pass it out and give it to somebody else. Honestly, as I said last week, there you have 20th and 21st century modern-day Christianity, some of the most graceless people that you will ever find in your life. Grace is not something that ever moves past the point of them accepting salvation by the measure of grace, but they never develop it. So that was last week, and that is kind of how I like to build a bridge from last week to this week to tie all this stuff together.

IV. The Importance of Foundational Doctrine

Today, we want to look at just one more single verse. We got through three last week, and many are going to happen today. I do not know if you have noticed so far in the book of John, we have come across some really important doctrinal issues. Single verses or a couple of verses together that really form up a fundamental absolute truth that we all need to know that form the basis of much that we believe. Those statements that will carry the weight of incredible doctrinal teaching. Remember, the word doctrine means to teach. You are seeing, as we are just coming

through these things, verses that the whole idea of Christianity will be built on, what we call the fundamentals of what we believe in Christianity.

So it should be no real surprise to the reader that John's gospel will lay out, as we have seen so far coming through it, the great teachings on the deity of Christ and the absoluteness of the Word of God as the eternal Son of God. So it is no great thing if all that Christ is and His manifestation to man should not be laid out in these great verses. That is what He does. Learning Bible doctrine. I remember when I first got saved, and I was kind of putting it all together. I got that pounded into my head, much like I pound it into you: learning Bible doctrine, learning what the Bible teaches. Most of God's people know some things about the Bible, but they will not really know the Bible.

So far in John 1, we saw in John 1:1:

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

We dealt with that. What an incredible verse and where that leads to us. We defined what that beginning was. We talked about it. That set up one of the most amazing platforms of truth by which the rest of your Christian life, the more you learn it, it is the entryway to the depth.

We saw in John 1:3:

John 1:3

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

We saw God as Creator. We saw as it laid out in Colossians 1:16-17 that He is before all things and by Him all things consist.

We looked at John 1:5:

John 1:5

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Your whole Bible unfolds itself around that verse right there. It is just that simple. What we are facing today, it is not the Democrats versus the Republicans. It is not the saved people versus the unsaved people. It is light versus darkness. That is where it started and that is where it will end. That is certainly where we are at now. The Bible says in Genesis 1:4 that God divided the light from the darkness. Of course, what a great fundamental truth that is.

We saw in John 1:9:

John 1:9

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

We answered that age-old question, what about the heathen in Africa? How does God get the light to somebody where there is no church, where there is no missionary? Does He just leave

them? No, we know now. That is an incredible piece of information as you are trying to put your Bible together.

Then we saw in John 1:12-13 about becoming a son of God through His coming to die for you and me on the cross. The Bible made it clear, one of the clearest verses in the Bible, that it is not of works. There is nothing that you can do to earn your salvation. The will of man, you cannot get it from some man, cannot give it to you. By the will of the flesh, it is not like your car title that you can transfer over to somebody else. It is not for your salvation to somebody else. It is only for you, but of God. We saw that great truth, how that God is not willing that any should perish, but all should come to repentance, as 2 Peter 3:9 says.

Then we saw that the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. We talked about 1 Timothy 3:16:

1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

God manifested in the flesh. We talked about Him dwelling and how a dwelling, dwelling place. I took you back to the Feast of Tabernacles and showed you how that is the feast that lines up to the first coming of Christ, the second coming of Christ, when God came down and tabernacled among us. I showed you how that they did that in the Old Testament as a picture of that. Colossians 1:15 says that Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.

Last week we got into grace and truth, forming the balance in our lives, and how the law came by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. These will form key Bible doctrines for us, the standard truth by which the New Testament church has been built on. If we had time this morning, and we have done it in Institute and in other places, I would show you the 9 or 10 or maybe 11 or 12, depending on how you count them, concrete fundamental doctrines that the Bible is built on. Not just the Bible, every single thing we believe will be on those basic fundamental doctrines.

V. The Unbroken Chain of Bible Truth

It started when Paul, we know who Paul was, he got the commission from God to be the apostle to the Gentiles. He started all the Gentile churches. This church here today, if we could follow it back, we would go right back to where they were first called Christians at Antioch. That was Paul's job and that was his task. We know that 1 Corinthians 11:1 says, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." And 2 Timothy 2:2 says:

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

That is what Christianity is. Christianity is nothing more than Paul starting it back in the book of Acts as he started these churches. He gave them the fundamental truth by which the church is built on, and faithful men, faithful pastors, faithful churches, faithful Christians who would not deviate from what the Word of God said, simply passed those on down through history from church to church, to person to person, to faithful men to faithful men.

What that forms for us, and this is so vital, what that forms for us is an unbroken chain of Bible truth going all the way back through church history. What Old Paths Baptist Church here believes and teaches can be traced back through all the men, the faithful men who believed exactly what we believe today. It got passed on to us from generation to generation down through church history. Our job, my job first of all, is to pass it on to you. Your job is to pass it on to others. This church, as we are doing across this country and around the world through all of the churches that we are working with and all the people out there, we are following that, laying down the unbroken chain.

This is why the Bible is so clear that you have to be careful. You have to be aware of men who want to break outside that. You find it all the time. You will find guys out there who come up with doctrines and teachings in churches that were taught nowhere down through church history. They claim that Paul taught it in the Bible, so they will mistake verses out of context to prove their point, and they want to believe it today some 2,000 years later. But the problem is there are 2,000 years of absence of anybody teaching or believing what they believe. You have got to be smarter than the problem, and you have got to realize that what we believe today we can sit down with anybody and put church history together with the Bible believers and the Word of God and take what we believe all the way back.

You want to be careful of these guys who always come around today and they have got this revelation from God, this teaching that changes everything that we have believed for the last 2,000 years, and God only gave it to them. When you meet guys like that, follow what Romans 16:17 says. What I do based on that verse is I avoid them. Park them and avoid them because they are way outside the clear, undisputable unbroken chain of Bible teaching. I do not care what they claim, it does not matter to me. I have an absolute unbroken line of truth that I stay with.

When people get mad, and this is true of all churches, but it is true here too, when people get mad over something and get their nose bent out of joint and they leave, the first thing they say about us is, "We are a cult." The funny part of that is they do not even know what a cult is. It is a thing where we were in this church 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 years and everything was fine, but suddenly when they left, I guess they drank out of the wrong cult water fountain upstairs and now here they are. That is one of the most stupid things that you could come up with. Come up with something else. You did not like the lighting, you did not like Dell, you did not like whatever. One lady did not want to come to church here because she felt claustrophobic. Yet I went to her office one time and visited her; her office was the size of a good-sized bathroom. She was okay there, but this is claustrophobic.

It is not the most beautiful place in the world. I am not sure the sprinkler systems work, so if we get on fire, use that door because you are probably going to burn up. I do not think much works

around here. The air conditioning and the heating have been put together over the years so you cannot trace anything back. This is not like Notre Dame, of course that burnt down, so what do you have there? But this is not like some big \$50 million palace that you go to, where you can sit there. People get upset. One person said, "It is too hot in here." Somebody else says, "I am freezing to death in here." So you have got to be smarter than that. So I had Darren put a thing back there on the wall, a thermostat with a sign on it, "Adjust it where you would like," but nothing is hooked up in it. So people move it where they want to and then they are happy. You have got to be half nuts to deal with God's people today.

So we always get this, "We are a cult." I think what we ought to do, and I am seriously thinking about this, they are not calling me a cult. They are calling if you are still here, you are a cult member. So I think what we ought to do is draft a certified letter. Everybody sign it, send it to them and say, "We are going to set up on Thursday night, that is a date, a time for you to come in and show us where we are a cult." You know how fast you would shut that down? So the letter is probably coming in the mail to you here as soon as we all sign it. Anyway, it is a thing where people are stupid. We have an unbroken chain of Bible truth that you cannot argue with.

VI. John 1:18 - A Battleground Verse

Today we are going to look at just one more incredible verse that carries with it probably the single most important doctrine in the Bible because if we are wrong on this one, we are all going to wind up in a lake of fire. This sets up for us why and what we believe about the Bible. Very few people today, of God's people today, really know what they believe. They are not grounded and there is no real depth to them. Those who may know what they believe, in most cases do not know why they believe it.

Years ago, this was back in the late 70s, about 78, 79, somewhere in there. Some of you were with me back then. I saw the need for helping my people get past the first stages after they got saved. I remember the first time we sat down in that old office down there in the basement, and I had just written 10 or 15 lessons on discipleship, what we would call now Discipleship One, how to bring people through and just teach you the fundamentals that are the crucial foundation of what we believe. I saw that need and I wanted to eliminate from God's people who wanted the truth to wonder how all these things came. So we had done that for years. That is what got on and it got bigger. We did it around the world. We did it in Russia. We did it in England. We did it in Germany. We did it in France. We did it in Holland. We did it everywhere. South America, Central America. It was just where God took it all over the place. It was just basic fundamental truth, why we believe what we believe. Then we expanded it and we developed a Discipleship Two, which is the next level. Now we have a Three that is even the next level. Of course, I am speaking to people here that are online and you are part of our outreach group. If you want to be discipled and you want to go through that, we are doing people all over this country by Zoom and phone and YouTube or whatever else we have out there. If you want that, just let me know. I will hook you up, get you lined up with people and we can get the process started.

There is an importance, and I cannot just gloss over these verses. There is an absolute importance of knowing the real substance and importance of verses like we are going to look at today, which

I am going to tell you again, without this verse, if this verse gets messed up, we are all done. We are all cooked. In the election, which we just came through, which we are still coming through, you heard a lot about battleground states. I am not much on politics, but I understand what a battleground state is. The battleground states were key states that, in fact, they will tell you that no president ever got elected without winning Ohio or Florida or Pennsylvania. So these become, and I do not really understand why they are more important than Iowa, but they are. It comes down to the fact that these become battleground states, and these are the states that elections are won and lost on, and they fight for them. You can see it going on right now in some of the battleground states that they are contesting.

I look at that and I think to myself, in a biblical sense, there are battleground verses in your Bible. Just like there are key states that are absolutely essential to you winning the election, there are battleground verses in your Bible that have been contested over for hundreds of years that if you lose them, you have lost everything. Most people do not understand that. When we come through the Gospel of John, we are starting to unearth some of these and learn about them and understand how they all fit together. So I will tell you, we are going to look at John 1:18, and we are going to look at a real battleground verse. If this verse does not hold true, we are all going to wind up in a lake of fire.

Let us have a word of prayer. I will read it first and then we will have a word of prayer and then we will get into it.

John 1:18

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

Let us pray. Father, we thank you and praise you for today. We thank you for the folks that are here today. Pray your blessings upon all that we endeavor to do for you today in opening up these great verses. We thank you for the Bible that you have given us, how we now know and have known for a long time that it is the absolute truth of the Word of God. We pray, Father, that you will give us the blessings today of Your Word. Let us leave here today a little richer, a little deeper, a little fuller of you, and help us to realize that these are the verses that really constitute a depth, being able to read it, understand it, explain it, and to apply it. We will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name for the sake we ask it. Amen.

VII. The Heresy of "Begotten God" and Its Origins

Without a doubt, this verse, along with many others, has been manipulated by our modern-day scribes and Pharisees and Sadducees to a point where it is really quite unbelievable. At the first coming of Christ, we saw, and we have seen it many, many times, how the religious constituency, the leaders of Israel, the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees, they hated Christ. They hated everything that He stood for. We find that in our own world today that the scribes and the Pharisees, the upper echelon of men who want to take the Bible from you, they did not die out with the end of the first century, and it is the same way today. Rule number one of the day was, of the first coming of Christ, get rid of Him. If you want to actually think that they were just in

ignorance and did not know who He was and what it was all about, you need to read Matthew 21:33-46, and you will find out that they at the time of Christ knew exactly who He was. You will see the plan that they put together to get rid of Him.

Today it is the same way. Get rid of the book. Get rid of the absolute, complete, perfect, inspired Word of God, and today in the church age, you get rid of the book, you get rid of Him. I might add that both were successful. The scribes and the Pharisees, they moved and connected with Rome, the world system, and they got rid of Christ and crucified Him. For you and for me, the crucifixion was our pathway to salvation, and praise the Lord for that. But for the nation of Israel, it was purely their rejecting Him and they wanted to get rid of Him. They paid the price for that because God held them accountable, and in 70 AD, just 40 some years after they crucified Him, in 70 AD, Titus came down and absolutely destroyed Jerusalem and the nation of Israel and scattered them to the point that they did not get back for many, many, many hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of years. That was God's hand of chastisement in their life because they rejected Him.

I will just take it one step further. You are witnessing today that we are living in our 70 AD with Titus coming down. God's people just seem to want to ignore the fact that when you disobey God as God's people, as a nation, when you disobey God as churches, as Christians in your own life, we want to think that the hand of chastisement is just some figment of somebody's imagination. We are seeing, you are seeing in America today the hand of God just like it was in 70 AD because God's people today and the nation today and the world today wants to get rid of Him. It is an unfortunate thing, but that is where we are at.

You are going to find that the Bible says that no man has seen God at any time, the only begotten Son who was in the bosom of the Father. I want to walk you through something today and I want you to stay with me. You may not even want to take notes on this because you can get it on the website later. I do not care if you do. You might just want to sit back and let me walk you through. I will tell you a story. I will try to make it as interesting as I can and not as boring as it has been for me with all the books I had to read and the guys I had to listen to to figure all this out.

You are going to find in the majority of all the new Bibles, when you come to John 1:18, it says this: "No man has seen God at any time, the only begotten God hath declared Him." This damnable heresy that Jesus Christ was a begotten God, I want to walk you through how that got into the Bibles today and how that is an absolute blasphemous statement up against the Bible that says that Jesus Christ is God. Because the idea that Jesus Christ was a begotten God is the idea called Arianism in the Bible, that someplace way back in the distant past God begot another God and a lesser God, and that was Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was not equal with God, is not equal with God, and it is a fact that He is a begotten God. So you will find that in many of your Bibles today that Jesus Christ is not the begotten Son but He is a begotten God. Let me just say this, if that is true, we are all lost and we are all dying and going to hell.

All down through church history you will find that great heresies arose to counter what God was doing, and these heresies were by design through Satan to make the Word of God of none effect.

The devil figured that if he could not keep you from getting saved, that he would let you come to the place where you would get into the church, that if you would not stay in the world you would get into a church that is a religion that would put you in the same boat and you would wind up in hell. I am telling you, the greatest doctrine which we believe that forms the foundation of Christianity is the fact that Jesus Christ was a begotten Son of God, not a begotten God. As the church grew, the devil brought up some issues theologically and they surfaced and challenged the true church and the true line and they had to be dealt with. Remember, I have told you this many, many times, that the key to understanding God's history in the Bible is simply this: God moves in a direction to accomplish His plan, the devil moves in a direction to stop it.

We see that early on when Paul was starting his churches and in the first couple of hundred years after Christianity, and most people do not even know this, we see some real challenges to Christianity that if the true line of faithful men would not have held the line, God only knows where we would be today.

- The first thing that came into question was the resurrection itself. There were a lot of people that believed that He did not raise Himself from the dead. There were all kinds of theories, and of course in the Bible you find one of them laid out that they thought that His father came and stole His body and took it away and then fabricated the fact that He arose. That was a common thing back then.
- Another one is what they call the swoon theory. Jesus Christ really did not die on the cross, He just went unconscious. When they put Him into that tomb, if you have been in a cave, you know caves are cooler than outside air. When they put Him into there, it was about 65 degrees or so in there, they laid Him on that rock, it was nice and cool, it revived Him. Then He just got up, called an Uber driver and was gone. That was very popular.
- We see that the virgin birth was called into question. We see that people did not believe that He really was born of a virgin. So that was called into question.
- We see in the first three or four hundred years of Christianity that the idea that baptism would save you. Of course that is based on John's baptism, which was to Israel. In Acts 2:38, which was to Israel, the church is not even in effect yet. But that idea that you getting baptized in water could wash away your sins became very popular. It is popular today. There are so many people in churches that teach that today.
- You are going to find that in the first four or five hundred years, you find the heresy of amillennialism and postmillennialism begins to lift its ugly head in place of premillennialism, which is what the Bible teaches and what this church believes.
- There was a time as we moved on where the eternal security of the believer came into question. The idea is that you could lose your salvation by doing something wrong. To me, I have never really understood that. You have to be brain dead to put that one in there because how can you lose something because you do not deserve it when you got it when you did not deserve it? But that is just me.
- You are going to find there was a time when predestination came into being. The fact that, "Jesus loves me, sorry about you." You are not part of the chosen few. That God looked down through eternity and said, "You are going to heaven, you are not. You are going, you are not."

You are going, you are not. No, Jan is not going." And picked at who was going and who was not.

Of course, the church had to stand up to all those. The reason why this church does not believe any of that today, and has strayed true to the line of unbroken truth that anybody can get into church history and follow the true line all the way back to Antioch, is because faithful men did exactly what Paul said. They took the unbroken chain of biblical truth and passed it down. By the grace of God, thank God, it came to us, to me, to you. Of course, the church age today, we have our issue that we have to deal with, and that is, do you have a perfect Bible? Do you have a Bible without any mistakes, without any error in it, that is from God to you exactly the way God wanted you to have it? Of course, all these issues had to be dealt with.

I need to say this, in spite of the true church, Antioch, dealing with all these things as we go down through history and following that true line, you are going to find that the heresies continued. The true church may have stayed honest with the Bible, but the devil only used that false teaching to start other churches out there that are churches that teach you that if you go to those churches and follow what they believe, you will wind up in a lake of fire just like if you were a drunk all of your life. We are told, and this is why this is so important, these will form the great heresies that the church had to deal with. You would think that the average person, if they do not have a lot of depth to them, they would think that heresies are a bad thing. In fact, based on 1 Corinthians 11:19, we are told that heresies are a good thing.

1 Corinthians 11:19

For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

What he is saying is, when you have the true line and you stay with the true line, the true line will only expose what is not true. So the church does not have to fear the great heresies that are out there that have come up through the church because when you have an unbroken line of truth, it exposes the heresies. It is just that simple.

Back in the first 300 years of Christianity, this is where the teaching began to come into being, that Jesus Christ was a begotten God. It starts at a place where, if you have been through our church history material or you just know church history yourself, this starts in a place that has a bad connotation in the Bible: Alexandria, Egypt. In the book of Acts, and I try to tell you this all the time, how important the book of Acts is because it defines everything for you. You have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and they are all the historical perspective of the first coming of Christ and how things are getting situated. Then we have the book of Acts. In the book of Acts, the word Acts means "Acts of the Apostles," what they are doing. Of course, we see in the book of Acts where God, before He ever, ever, ever gives us books that are going to teach the church anything, which Romans is the next one and then on down the line, He gave us the book of Acts because the book of Acts defines for us everything we need to look for. The book of Acts is probably the greatest definitive book in the New Testament that defines for us the road signs for the next 2,000 years.

I have told you before, that in the Old Testament, between the New Testament and the Old Testament, you have four historical books, Genesis, the definitive book, and then you have four historical books. In the New Testament, you have the four historical books first and then you have the definitive book Acts. Really Acts ends it all because every book in your Bible other than what John writes is done by the end of the book of Acts. Then John finishes up on the Isle of Patmos in 90 A.D. but everything else is done. Most people do not see it that way. They do not realize that all the other books of the Bible outside of what John writes are all written within the context of the book of Acts this time. Of course, it is all done by then. It is a thing where when you get into the book of Acts, it shows you where this thing is going because there are no more books to follow it. You do not get like you do in the Old Testament where it tells you where everything is going for the next 2,000 years. You get cut off at 90 A.D. and there is no more revelation from God. If you want to figure out who is right and who is wrong and where it is going, you have got to get in the book of Acts.

The book of Acts defines for you three cities. These three cities are absolutely crucial. I am just telling you a story now. Just relax. Chill out.

1. The first one is Antioch. The Bible in the book of Acts defines Antioch as the hotbed of New Testament Christianity. They are first called Christians in Antioch. Paul gets sent out from Antioch. Antioch forms for us the beginning of Bible-believing churches that are going to hold the line with truth and pass it on down the line.
2. The second city we have is Rome. Rome will always be found in the book of Acts and true down through history as the greatest enemy that Christianity has ever had. It was Rome that killed John the Baptist. It was Rome that killed the Apostle James. It was in John on the Isle of Patmos. It was Rome that killed millions of Christians. It was Rome that killed James. It was Rome that killed Paul. It was Rome that killed Jesus. Why you would ever think anything good would come out of Rome? I have no idea. The book of Acts tells you that.
3. Then a third one is Alexandria, Egypt in the Bible. We know that Egypt is the type of the world. Most people do not see how it is defined in the book of Acts. The first time it pops up is in Acts 18:24, people from Alexandria are teaching the wrong doctrine. You know what they are teaching? Baptism for salvation. It is just that simple. Of course, most people do not follow it through, but they are going to find out that when little things like this, when Paul is taken down to Rome and Paul is going to be killed by Rome, the ship that takes him, this is Acts 27:6, the ship that takes him to Rome to kill him is from Alexandria. Little things like that. The first Bible college you find in Acts 19 is added from Alexandria, connected with them. They are teaching heresy. So you begin to see how important these three cities will line up.

As I said, this is just a little simple thing today. Scholarship makes it so hard. My job is to untie all the naughty knots of scholarship and make it plain and simple for you. This is just a simple story of history. I am telling you, you could go downtown to the library in Kansas City. You do not have to go to a Christian library. You can go downtown to the library in Kansas City, Independence, wherever you want to go. You could find the information that I am giving you clearly laid out. It is right there. They said one time, "How do you learn all this stuff?" I looked

at them and I said, "It is a conspiracy. They hide this stuff in books. You have got to read. You have got to get some depth to your life."

Once upon a time, around the first coming of Christ and the next 200 years, Alexandria, Egypt was the intellectual hotspot of the world from a worldly standpoint. There was a university in Alexandria that rivaled any place of learning probably since the Greeks. The library at Alexandria was known as the most incredible source of information in the known world at that time. Keep in mind, the Bible had just been completed in 90 A.D. by John. It started in Antioch and then they copied those and sent them out to other churches. Through the process of time, there were no restrictions on who could get it. Through the process of time, the manuscripts that were the Bible believing manuscripts that were from Paul and all the writers of the Bible that were found its way to Antioch found its way to Alexandria, Egypt.

In Alexandria, Egypt they had already taken a guy by the name of Philo who lived 20 years before Christ was even born. He had taken the Old Testament and corrupted it. By the time we get into 150, 180, another man now has taken over that university or is really leading the idea behind him. His name is Origen and he lives about 185. What he did is he took those manuscripts out of Antioch that he got his hands on. It would be just like you going down to your Christian bookstore and buying a King James Bible and then taking it home and saying, "Well, I do not agree with that, I do not like that." And then just changing whatever you do not like about it and making you a new Bible. So what he did with the Greek New Testament that had been at Antioch that went down to Alexandria, he went over it and did not like much of what was in it. It did not line up to what he believed and he began to change and alter the things in that manuscript that he did not like.

Let me just talk to you about a few things that Origen did not believe.

- He did not believe that you got saved by the blood of Christ. He believed that you got saved through baptism. So when he was correcting this Greek manuscript, he took all the places where the blood is out, took it out.
- He believed that you had to work your way to get to heaven, so he took grace out.
- He did not believe there was a hell. He thought there was a devil, but he thought actually that the devil and Christ would be reconciled someday.
- He did not believe that there was going to come an eternal judgment, as we know with the great white throne judgment.
- He did not believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin. So when he got back into the Old Testament in Isaiah 7:14, which says that Christ was born of a virgin, he changed that because he did not believe it. Now it says that Jesus Christ was born of a young woman. There is just a little difference of a woman having a baby than a virgin having a baby. Or maybe that is just me. He did not believe that. So when they corrupted the Old Testament, look at it. You have an RSV Bible this morning, they took out "virgin" and they put in "young woman." Isaiah 7:14. Origen did not believe it.
- Origen taught that Jesus Christ was not God, but he was a lesser God. So when he comes to our text today of John 1:18, he did not agree with that. He did not believe that. So in the Greek text he changed, "No man has seen God at any time, the only begotten Son who was in

the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him" to, "No man has seen God at any time, the only begotten God." It starts with him.

- He rejected the Trinity. So in 1 John 5:7 in your King James Bible you have the absolute greatest single verse in the Bible that tells you that God is part of a Trinity. But Origen did not believe that, so in all your new Bibles, 1 John 5:7 is taken out.

Get Philip Schaff's work, 12 volumes on church history, some of the most boring things you ever read, no pictures. Get a little book called Who's Who in Christianity, a little paperback, you could probably get that for a couple of bucks. It is out of print for years, but nobody wants it. Of course when you read about who Origen was by these guys, he is held up as the greatest Bible scholar expositor. He wrote two books a week. Endless volumes on the things that he wrote about the Bible, and every piece of it will send you to the lake of fire. He changed John 1:18 from "begotten Son" to a "begotten God." When he was done with correcting that Greek manuscript, when he was done correcting that Greek manuscript he had changed the Greek text out of Antioch that went to him. His final product, there were 75,000 changes in it. Most of those had to do with the deity of Christ and the blood of Christ.

VIII. The Corrupted Line of Bible Translations

Let me fast forward here. Come up 300 years, 300 AD. This is not hard. They want to make it hard, I want to make it simple. 300 AD. Roman Empire, Constantine the Great is on the throne. Constantine is given the notarization by all the writers of bringing an end to pagan Rome and bringing Christianity to Rome. That is what the scholars will tell you, that is what Philip Schaff will tell you, that is what all the writers will tell you in history. Let Bob tell you what happened. He put an end to pagan Christianity and he started a Roman Catholic Church. He went from pagan Rome to papal Rome. That is all he did. He called the council in Nicaea in 325 AD to bring all of his kingdoms together and when he went back to Byzantium, which is modern day Istanbul, which was called Constantinople, which means Constantine's city, he was a very humble guy. He put a bishop on the throne and left him in Rome, which became the first pope.

Now Constantine is starting his own religion. He himself claimed to have a vision from God. He is fighting a battle in 313 AD at a place called Milvian Bridge. He says that he had a dream that night that God met him and spoke to him and told him that if he put crosses on all of his horses, the shields, and gave God the honor and glory that he would win the battle. Well, he gets up the next morning, runs down to True Value, gets about 50,000 cans of spray paint and everybody has a cross on them by noon. He wins the battle. Based on that, he now claims that he is a Christian. He launches this great, great, great, and again, going out to the Kansas City Public Library, it is all there. If you think this is just my heresy and this is the cult, we will see you Thursday night. He goes, launches this great soul-winning program to make everybody a Christian and he says, "If you become a Christian, we will give you 30 pieces of silver. If you do not become a Christian, we will kill you." Needless to say, conversion records were high. He starts and what he did was bring all the pagans into the church and all the teaching.

Now, he started this and he says, "Okay, now I am going to need a Bible." Here it comes. "I am going to need a Bible." There was a church father that was a pastor by the name of Eusebius and

Eusebius worshipped the ground that Constantine walked on. So Connie calls up Eusebius and says, "Look, if we are going to have a legitimate church, we are going to need a Bible." So he charged Eusebius with getting a Bible. Now, here it comes. That is easy. You know what Eusebius did? He ran down to Alexandria, Egypt and ordered 50 copies of the New Testament from Origen in Alexandria. In the British Museum, they still have the letter that he sent down to whoever to have them UPSed up as fast as they could. 50 copies of the New Testament of Origen's New Testament that had been corrupted in over 75,000 places. That becomes the official Bible of Constantine, which in time becomes the official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church. You find it first popping up in 400 A.D. with Jerome's Latin Vulgate. In 1582, it is translated again and it becomes the Douay-Rheims. By 1900, it becomes translated into the American Bible or the Jerusalem Bible. What we have now, clearly in church history, is not only two lines of churches, but now we have two lines of Bibles.

Here it comes. In time, every new Bible on the market today, I do not care, will now come from the Greek text that Constantine got from Alexandria, Egypt. Here is how it happened. It is a simple story. It is just a simple little story. You could go down to any library in Kansas City, Independence, Raytown. Well, Raytown, you could not, but Raytown does not have a library. They have the Redneck Bar and Grill down there, but you could pick up a lot of good stuff there if you go down and just listen to what they talk about.

Anyway, in 1489 in the Vatican, they are knocking down some walls making a recall for the pope or something, I do not know, and they found this secret room that nobody had even known for a thousand years. Of course, the Vatican has been built over a thousand times, and so they knocked this wall up. Here was a room. It was stacks of Greek New Testaments. A little bit later on in 1850, a guy by the name of Tischendorf, he is a German archaeologist. He is in the Sinai Peninsula there at St. Catherine's monastery. It is a cold day in St. Catherine's. It is on a mountain. That is Mount Sinai. That is where Moses saw the burning bush. They still have the burning bush. It is just out of gas. It does not burn anymore. But you had to get in a bucket, and they had to pull you up because it is on a mountain. So he is up there, and it is cold. He is bopping around talking to all the monks and seeing how things are going. He looks over here, and it is wintertime, and he sees some monks lighting a fire, and he thinks that that looks like manuscripts that they are doing that, and he runs over there and voila. You know what he finds? He finds the Greek manuscripts that nobody has ever seen. When you compare the two together, to make a long story short, there is no question about it. They are the ones that Constantine got from Egypt, and they had been lost all those years. Now they have been found. It is an amazing thing.

Now all the scholarly world goes crazy because these manuscripts, here is the key. These manuscripts date now that they found, they say, to 300, which is Constantine's time. They say because they are the oldest manuscripts that we find, they are closer to the original. That is the party line that you get. So fast forward a little bit. Around 1888, you had two Roman Catholic guys, one by the name of Westcott and Hort. Both unsaved guys. In 1888, they worked 20 years on taking the Greek manuscript from Vaticanus, which is now what it is called, and Sinaiticus, which is now what it is called, Tischendorf, and put together a Greek New Testament that the

scholarly world thinks is closer to the original. They dump the text that your King James Bible came from. These are King James Bibles. The Textus Receptus, as they say, is 1200 AD. So these are much, much older. So they have got to be much, much closer. In 1888, they published the first new translation, the RSV. In 1901, they come up with the ASV. Up to this day, every translation that has come out, comes off Westcott and Hort's manuscripts based on the Vatican, based on Constantine, based on Alexandria, that has changed in 75,000 places.

I always make it an easy illustration like this. You have heard this before, but it illustrates the point. Back in 1700, if you walked down the street and you looked up there and you saw the old Christian bookstore, and you went in there and you said, "Hey, I would like to buy a Bible," the proprietor would say, "Well, come on back here. We have two. We have the King James 1611 Authorized Version, or we have the Douay-Rheims." That is all you had to pick from. That is all you had, guys. That is all you had. I am sorry. That is all you had. One or the other. You either took the Bible out of Antioch, that the true line was following, or you took it out of the Roman Catholic Church with 75,000 changes in it that was corrupted with Origen.

Now, fast forward again. This afternoon, we are going to have a bus out here, and we are going to put you all in it, probably take a couple buses, and we are going to take you over to a Christian bookstore. I am going to give you a little test. We are going to go in there, and I am going to say that a guy, we all want a Bible. He is going to walk us down the aisle, and you are going to see on both sides of the aisle, what, 500 translations of the Bible. You are going to be able to get whatever you want. You are going to be able to get the Black Lives Matter version. You are going to be able to get the Jewish version. You are going to be able to get the gay version. You are going to be able to get whatever you want. Five hundred New Testament Bibles or Bibles out there that you can have your pick from. RSV, NIV, whatever, Living Bible, Good News for Modern Man, Bad News for Modern Man. Now here is the point. The truth of the matter is, you still only have two Bibles to pick from. You have the King James Bible, which comes off the text of Antioch, or every other translation now has come off the Sinaiticus or Vaticanus, which comes from Constantine, which comes from Alexandria, which came through the Roman Catholic Church. You only have two. It just looks like you have a lot of choices. You have a lot of choices of a Bible off a corrupt text is what you have. That is all you have. Most will teach you the heresy that Jesus Christ in John 1:18 was the begotten God. I cannot emphasize to you how important it is to understand how all of Christianity, these are battleground verses.

Today we have in our world Jehovah's Witnesses. We have Mormons. We have Church of Christ. They all teach that Jesus Christ was not God. They all teach that Jesus Christ was the begotten God. The Jehovah's Witnesses up until about 1950 was saddled with the King James Bible. Around 1950 they got a new Bible off the corrupt manuscripts called the New World Translation. The New World Translation fit into their theology much better because in the New World Translation it said that Jesus Christ was the begotten God, exactly what they believed. They had to get rid of the King James Bible because the Baptists were kicking their rear end so much trying to believe this doctrine when the Bible was pointed out to them that He was very God. So they had to get their own. Is it not nice when the Bible does not fit what you wanted to believe? You just write your own Bible to get it to fit what you want to believe. That is not the way it

works. You do not change the Bible to fit your belief. You fit your belief to change to the Bible. That is the way it goes. Along with that, we got the neo-evangelical crowd and a lot of the Baptist crowd that follow the same thing. All the deaths that reject the text.

In 1973 the NIV was published. If you would take an NIV and place it next to a King James Bible you will find that there are 64,000 changes between the two. Your Bible as you have right here in front of you who have a King James Bible has 788,280 words in it. When you take an NIV there are 64,596 words, phrases missing. That is enough to make almost 20 books of your Bible. That is not going to be taken out. The writers in the Greek text that they used was the same ones that they all used. So in 1 Timothy 3:16 where your Bible says "God was manifested in the flesh." In the NIV it says "He was manifested in the flesh," takes God out. Some people are okay with that. I am not. That takes out the blood in hundreds of places. It takes out the deity. It takes out the word "begotten." In Isaiah 14:12 it takes the place of Jesus Christ, the title for Jesus Christ and gives it to the devil. In Luke 11 we have what we call the Lord's Prayer. If you get an NIV you will find that exact prayer in the NIV is found in Madame Blavatsky's book on doctrine of black magic and witchcraft, the exact same prayer that they pray to Satan. And God's people are okay with that.

I do not think it is the fact that God's people are okay with it. It is the fact that God's people are just stupid. They do not read. They do not study. They do not care. "Just give me your Bible. I am not going to read it anyhow. I need it on my coffee table to make me look like I am somebody." They do not study. They do not read. So they get caught up in this. The devil's greatest tool that we give him that helps him mess our life up is our own stupidity, our own laziness. The fact that we will not get into that Bible and find out the battleground verses and find out why. There were people that gave their life down in the Dark Ages, the Waldensians, the Albigensians, the Huguenots, the Paulicians. They gave their life over John 1:18. We just blow it off today. We do not care. In Colossians 1:14 in your Bible, the King James Bible, it says:

Colossians 1:14

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

The NIV says, "the forgiveness of sins." They take blood out of it because Origen did not believe any of that. Because it is the same text that is out of Alexandria, Egypt that makes Jesus Christ a begotten God somewhere back in eternity. Origen rejected the doctrine of Christ being a begotten Son.

We look at the liberals today and we look at the socialists and all that and we know that they want to destroy our country with a radical ideology. Yet we get all upset about that but we do not even understand that Bible scholars in their colleges already did that. When it comes back where Marxists started and communism started with Lenin and Trotsky and those guys, where did the communist movement start? Where did it hit Central America? Where did it hit South America? Where did it get into Europe? It started in the universities and the colleges. We find that we just forget about the fact that our own colleges have come to the place with their own radical ideology that you do not have a perfect Bible and Jesus Christ was a begotten God. We are okay

with it. Yet your King James 1611 Authorized Version tells us that He was not begotten as God in eternity past.

IX. Reconciling "No Man Has Seen God"

Let me show you how the Bible always interprets itself and you do not have to worry about it. In Acts 13:33 and Hebrews 1:5-6, it tells you clearly that it was not an eternity and it was not a begotten God.

Acts 13:33

God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

He was not begotten someplace in eternity. He was begotten in day. That is time. You want to see that defined?

Hebrews 1:4-6

Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

"Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee." Now watch how the Bible defines that day for you. Verse 6. "And again, when He bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world." Jesus Christ was not begotten one day before He was born in Matthew 2 and 3. He was begotten as the Son, eternal Son of God when He was brought into this world. You cannot get around it unless you just do not believe what you read. That is a battleground verse. Absolutely crucial. That is run rampant today with God's people because one, they are ignorant, two, they just do not care about the credibility of their Bibles.

The next part of that verse in John 1:18 says, "No man hath seen God at any time." Yet we find numerous times in the Old Testament where people do see God, do we not?

- Adam saw Him in Genesis 2-3.
- Jacob wrestled with Him in Genesis 32:30 and in Hosea 12:4. He wrestled with Him.
- Moses saw Him in Deuteronomy 34:10 and the Bible says He spoke to him face to face like a man speaking to his friend, Exodus 33:11.
- In Exodus 24:9-10 the 70 elders were with Moses. They saw Him.
- Isaiah 6:5 saw Him. He says, "I saw the Lord lifted up."
- Joshua saw Him in Joshua 5:13-15, captain of the Lord's host.
- Peter, James and John saw Him at the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-8.

- Paul sees Him in Acts 9 on the road to Damascus when he gets the commission from God to start churches.

This is where the Bible can become confusing for young Christians when you are trying to put it all together. But when you add John 1 and you keep the thing moving then it all lays itself out. Here it comes. You want to learn your Bible today? Here we come. What heresy is this? Show up on Thursday night. We will give you a shot at it. Here it comes. "No man has seen God at any time." Really? Okay, here we go. How do we reconcile that?

Jesus Christ throughout the Bible has at least 9 different bodies from Genesis to Revelation.

4. In Genesis 1:1, Romans 8 says that He is brought forth so He has some kind of body there.
5. Adam and Eve in Genesis 2-3, He is walking through the garden in the cool of the day. He is obviously meeting with them. He had to have some kind of body then.
6. In the Old Testament, Galatians 4:14 says He shows up as the angel of the Lord. He has somebody there.
7. He is Christ at the first coming of Christ. He is the Son of Man. He has a body there.
8. After the resurrection in John 20:17 they come up and He said, "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father." And they could not touch Him. But in 3 hours later or 4 hours later in Matthew 28:9, they hold Him, they touch Him and He has got no blood. Body is different there.
9. In the church age, He has a body, the body of Christ, you and me.
10. He has a glorified Christ at the second coming. He has got a body there.
11. He is on the throne with David in the millennium. He has got some kind of body there.

Study to show thyself approved. You realize I have not used any Greek or Hebrew to figure all this out yet? When it says "no man has seen God at any time," that is true because John 4:24 says:

John 4:24

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

You cannot see a spirit and God is a spirit so you cannot see God. But God needed to manifest Himself to man to communicate with man so He did it through a person by manifesting Himself in the form of Jesus Christ. So throughout the Bible you have Jesus Christ in different forms. All God manifesting Himself to man, in a different manifestation. Colossians 1:15 says Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.

When He came to Adam and Eve and He is walking into the garden in the cool of the day in Genesis 3, that is one manifestation. In the Old Testament with Jacob and Moses it changed now and He is the angel of the Lord, Galatians 4:14. Some kind of pre-incarnate appearance of Christ who represented God when He met with those guys. When He is the begotten on a day at the first coming of Christ, He comes as the Son of God and the Son of Man in a physical body. He is rejected and crucified. Now we come into the church age, you and I. We are Christ's body. The church is called, you are called the body of Christ. He lives inside you. He dwells inside you. You now manifest God or you should be. Know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy

Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own, you are bought with a price? You see, you are His body so He gave you His mind so you could get the job done. See how easy that was? I am telling you, you could not find five pastors in this city and probably a handful of Christians that could even begin to lay that out for you. It is not that I am so smart, it is that I am so stupid that I just believed the book God gave me. There is no intelligence in here. Not much at all. There is no intelligence in here. I am just stupid enough to believe that God gave me a book that is His mind that if I want to get a depth with God, which I do not have, but if I ever want to get that depth, that is where it is going to be.

X. The Father-Son Relationship as God's Perfect Model

There is something else here. When God and His plan decided to reveal Himself to man, let us be honest, He could have done it any way He wanted to. Every raindrop that came down could have busted open and the little voice would have said, "Turn to Jesus." Why? The birds are the greatest singers in the world. He could have had birds out there in your backyard chirping, "Jesus loves you, this I know." He could have done it that way. Did you ever notice how He decided to do it? He decided to pick a father-son relationship. He decided to take God the Father, manifest Himself as a Son. Jehovah's Witnesses will never get this. There are two reasons He did it that way.

12. Because in Exodus 4, the nation of Israel is God's son in a corporate nation.

13. In the church age, you and I are God's son as individuals in His body.

So by God who was a spirit manifesting Himself as a Son, He provided for Israel and us a perfect model of what our relationship should be as God's son with the Father. I get it. There are many good examples in the Bible of men and women who have a great relationship with God and we can learn from them. Abraham, are you kidding me? Abraham, one of the greatest models anywhere in the Bible of a relationship with God. Moses, come on, Moses is probably more written about Moses than any other man in the Bible. He had a relationship with God face to face. Are you kidding me? Job, you want to go through some suffering? Job. Isaac, are you kidding me? Greatest picture of the crucifixion in Genesis 22. Are you kidding me? Joseph, the greatest type of Christ in the Bible is Joseph. David, you want to learn the Word of God? It is David. Daniel, you want to learn how to stand in this world? It is Daniel. John the Baptist, he is a witness. John the Apostle, greatest picture of what your life and my life should be. Peter, a great example of what I need to be in my life. Paul, how to reach the world. They are all good and you can learn bucket loads from them, but they are not perfect. They all failed somewhere along the line.

So by the invisible God wanting to connect with me and you, forget everything else I have given you now. The invisible God wanting to connect and commune with you and me. God is a spirit. You cannot see a spirit. So God had to manifest Himself in a form that would not only allow Him to communicate, but be a perfect model of what He wanted us to have. So God manifested Himself as His own Son. Because there is only one perfect man, Ephesians 4:13. That is the Lord Jesus Christ, who in all points are tempted like we are, Hebrews 4:15, yet without sin. No other man in the Bible could say that. So He became our perfect model through that manifestation. He

became that perfect model for grace, for forgiveness, for ministry, for fellowship, for obedience, for prayer, for giving, for loving people, for loving God, for loving the brethren, for long suffering, for patience. He became the perfect model. We learned everything so much from everybody else, but they all failed. We needed to have a model that never failed. The only way God could give us that is through Himself. So He manifested Himself as a Son. Through that was obedient unto death.

The Bible says in Ephesians 4:14-15:

Ephesians 4:14-15

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

It does not say growing up unto Him. It says growing up into Him. You see by the perfect model, by you and me being the body of Christ, by us having the Word of God which is His mind, which protects His deity and the blood, which is perfect, we now have the ability to grow up into Him. You know what happens when you grow up into Him? You still keep your old body. But it is on the inside that grows. The inside will control the outside. You grow up into Him. Then you enter in at some point into that fourth dimension that you have the depth of God and then you are able to comprehend that depth and it leads to the fullness of God in your life.

You are His body. Most of God's people are His body, but they are a mindless zombie body. Because being His body without having His mind is worthless. He gave us His body in you, Christ in you, the hope of glory. Then He gave us the mind in a volume of a book. In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. You have it in your hands today. We have the mind of Christ. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. When you do that and you take it seriously and you begin to build those things in your life you grow up into Him. Through God Himself giving us the perfect model through the manifestation of Himself, through the Son of God and through the Word of God. We might have the fullness of God in our lives.

There is no reason for us to be in the state that we are in today. There is no reason, if you are listening to me, there is no reason for you to be in the miserable state of Christianity that you are in with all of the problems and the issues of your life that you have got in there because of your own disobedience. There is only one way you are going to turn that around and that is simply growing up into Him and allowing that perfect model to be the model by which you build your relationship with Jesus Christ. You take that verse out of your Bible and make Him a begotten God, we are all in hell tomorrow. He was the begotten Son of God, begotten when He came into this world for the purpose of setting the model and the example for you and for me. All right, we will hold up there, that is a power.