

I. The Bible's Unwavering Truth

We have been in this study for a while, and hopefully we are moving through all of that and will get into chapter two here in a year or two. Today, you remember last week we talked about a section of verses, verses 19 through 28. I always like to build a bridge between the week before and this one because it all goes together to keep the continuity flowing. We looked at, without a doubt, two great fundamental questions in the Bible that every child of God within the church is faced with. We based it on John 1:19 when they asked John, "Who art thou?" Then I took you back to Genesis 3:9 and showed you where God asked Adam, "Where art thou?"

Without a doubt, those two questions leave no wiggle room for anything in our lives. They really do not. That is what I like about the Bible. The Bible, pure Bible, clear Bible, never leaves any wiggle room for any of us. A lot of people do not like that, but I think that is the best way for it to be. There is no way around last week's message that will flush us all out and expose who we really are.

I told you last week, it is not our big mouth and what we say of who we are, or actually who we think we are, that defines us, but what we do, how we handle issues in life biblically, going back to the Bible and following the protocol that is laid out within the scriptures. The Bible tells us, and this is familiar to many of you, in 2 Corinthians 4:2:

2 Corinthians 4:2

But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

What does that mean? It means simply that we use the Bible. We use the Bible. That means that we deal with issues with people openly and honestly, not behind their back, not in some closed room someplace, but face to face, dealing with the issues and finding a solution to them. I get it, sometimes there is no solution, but at least you get to lay it on the table and deal with it. We can know for sure what the truth is and how we are dealing with it.

We know that in this Christian world today, it is a pretense. It is all pretend and much in denial. In most cases, going to the Bible and sitting down and finding out what the issue is and how the best way to deal with it never happens. For almost half a century now, since I got right with God, I have watched God's people and I have dealt with God's people. I have watched them in every scenario, every circumstance, for almost half a century. I have to tell you, I have never seen a more cowardly group of people than God's people today when it comes to just dealing with the truth and commending ourselves to every man's conscience through the truth of the Word of God.

In every case in each of our lives, we must face and deal with these two questions. We cannot escape it. There is no way around it. We may pretend it is not, but it hits us square in the face. Hebrews 4:12-13 says:

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Everything that we do is open to His eyes. Everything He sees. Those two questions will manifest in our lives who we really are. At some point in life, you have to deal with it. This is why most of God's people today will never sit down with an open Bible to, as I said, fix any issues or at least find out what the real truth is so you know where you are with it.

Last week we saw James 1, the Looking Glass Verse, how that we are not to be just hearers of the Word, but be doers of the Word, and how we look into the Word of God like a looking glass and it shows us. Paul told Titus in Titus 1:9-13 exactly how to deal with situations like this and people like this.

Titus 1:9-13

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

Holding each other accountable with the Word of God, that is the number one asset that we have with each other. Lovingly, kindly, but at the same time, it is the only way that a church and God's people can function, is through the accountability of the Word of God. Not just hearing the Word, but being doers of the Word. Getting it all put together. Luke 6:46 says, Jesus Himself said:

Luke 6:46

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

Boy, there are God's people today. Well, that was last week, and we move on to our verses today.

II. Behold The Lamb Of God

Let us look at another set of verses. Today we are going to be in John 1:29-31. It says this:

John 1:29-31

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

Let us pray. Father, we ask Your blessings upon today. Put us under the blood. Forgive us where we have failed Thee and give us the ability to look down into the Word of God today and to see how all this pulls together. Lord, the Bible is an amazing book, and it does not matter if You are in the Old Testament or the New Testament, or 4,000 years ago or 5,000 years ago, today the Bible is still relevant and it all works toward a goal. We thank You for that. Because of that, we know it is a unique book. It is a book that defies the logic of this world. So help us today to see and understand this and help these people grow to be everything that God wants them to be. In Jesus' name, for His sake, we ask it. Amen.

Today you are going to get a good example of what we talked about last week, laying out the doctrinal application of things. At the same time, you are going to get a good look at what I mean when I talk about getting, when it comes to the Word of God, the fullness of God and getting the depth of the Word of God. We will break down these verses. We are probably only going to break down the first one today, and then we will, there is so much here, and then we will finish it out here in a week or two as we move on through it. But we are going to break down these verses over the next couple of weeks.

III. The Lamb Of God: A Deeper Understanding

There are a couple of different aspects here that I want to talk about. The first aspect of Christ I want to talk about is when John says in John 1:29, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." Let us talk about Jesus Christ as that Lamb of God.

That is a favorite verse for people who major their whole lives on soul winning and nothing else in the Bible. They like to quote that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, and truly He was. That is a great verse that if you are preaching and you are preaching on salvation or you are laying something out for people to get saved, obviously that is a good place to start. But there is so much more to that title that goes way beyond the shallowness of most of God's people who just use it as a catchphrase to get people saved.

When it comes to the sacrifice in the Old Testament, God regarded the shedding of blood, or He required the shedding of an innocent blood for the temporary covering of a man's sin in the Old Testament. We know that in the Old Testament, people could not go to heaven. God created a place called Abraham's bosom, and we know from places like Luke 16 and places in the book of

Psalms where in the Old Testament, when a man or a woman found God's righteousness, that is where they went. The reason why they could not go to heaven as you and I are going to heaven is because Christ obviously had not come and died. He had not shed His blood.

So in the Old Testament, God requires sacrifices. He requires offerings. In fact, there are six of them that Israel is required to bring. When you lay them out and study them, which we will get into today, you will find that the first three are voluntary. There is no actual requirement for you to do them. You do those first three based on your love for God and the fact that it is a great thing. It is almost a picture of what we have today, that there are things that God does not require us to do, but some of God's people will go over and above to do them because they love the Lord. That is a lot what that first three are like. Not everybody was required to do them. They are voluntary. The second three were mandatory, and everybody had to do that.

We also know that the book of Hebrews tells us in Hebrews 10:4 and Hebrews 9:22 that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. But it also tells us that the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin. It could only temporarily cover it until Christ came as the sacrifice that was the true sacrifice. The Old Testament blood of bulls and goats could not take away our sin. It only temporarily covered it. That is why they could not go to heaven and they had to go to Abraham's bosom. Once Christ dies on the cross, sheds His blood, jumping ahead here for a second, then you know that He goes down in Abraham's bosom and He preaches to them, and then He leads them out, and then they all go to heaven.

Back in the Old Testament, God called these different sacrifices for different things. Some of them were called trespass offerings. Some of them were called sin offerings. The trespass offerings seem to look like they are the offerings that somebody gave when they did something against their fellow man. The sin offerings obviously are the ones that you would do because of your sins against God. Each one of them, when you lay them out, will picture Christ's sacrifice in a different way. They are kind of like a composite of His overall death.

God also made it possible for any man on any income level to make a sacrifice. That is why you will find that people of low income could do a turtle dove, that is a bird, and all the way up the scale to somebody that had a lot could do a bull or a ram. But you are going to find that the main example back in the Old Testament in all of it will be a lamb or a sheep because there is nothing more defenseless or innocent than a lamb. Sheep too, but a lamb in particular. Everybody thinks about a cute little lamb. How many times, maybe it does not happen anymore, back in the 50s and the 60s, Mom would look at a little girl or a little guy and call it a little lamb. It was a little thing because they are so cute and they are so innocent. Who could think of hurting anybody today? But back in the day, who could think of hurting something like that? Of course, that is why it was picked. Something innocent, something that had nothing wrong with it, something that was innocent. The picture is dying, and that is how it works with a lamb.

IV. The Shepherd And His Sheep

The lambs and sheep picture two things. The lamb will always picture Christ. Sheep will always picture us, in particular the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, but us in the New Testament.

You are going to see that as we come through. The Bible lays it out, this idea that a pastor is a shepherd. I am not fighting that, and that is fine. You shepherd the flock, I get that. But from a Bible standpoint, getting down where it is, the only shepherd mentioned in the Bible is 1 Peter 5:4, and that is Christ. He is the chief Shepherd. Of course, everything is a picture of Him taking care of us as sheep.

You have God's people, and here is a little picture you find in the Gospels. You have a lot of God's people today that are worried about losing their salvation. They struggle with the aspect that they can actually lose it. In Luke 15, and it is really all through the Bible in an inspirational picture, but in Luke 15:3-7, you have a little story that in a spiritual sense illustrates our own salvation. It is the parable of the 99 sheep. You know the story. The Bible says the guy has 100 sheep and he loses one. He goes and looks for that lost sheep. He finds it. The Bible says that when he finds that sheep, he lays it over his shoulders.

The way he did that, and I have actually seen paintings and pictures, and I always thought it was pretty cool. He lays the sheep down or the lamb down, and he takes its two front paws or hands, in this one feet legs, and he puts its back legs in this one, and then he takes that sheep up and puts it over his shoulder. He walks back to the flock. Most people would not see this. Most people would not even think of this. I saw that years and years ago, and I thought to myself, "Now that is an incredible picture of my eternal security because I am over His shoulders." I know, I know, I know, we are part of His body, I get all that. But this is just such a cute story. Shut up and just listen to them. He takes that sheep or that little lamb and he puts it over his shoulders like that, and he has its back feet here and its front feet here. Now the little lamb cannot fall off because if it falls this way, he has its front paws, and if it falls that way, he has the only way that little lamb can fall is if the shepherd falls. That is a picture of our eternal security.

It is an incredible thing, and sheep are incredible animals themselves. Years and years ago, I preached at a church in Montana. In fact, Mel and I preached several times. I was out there one time by myself, and Montana is just, you have to be there to believe it. It is endless space. We think of a farm or a ranch around here, 50, 60, 100, 200 acres. Some of these ranches back there, it took them two days riding a horse to get to the upper part of it. They were so big. Millions of acres. They would have sheep on one, cattle on another, and it was incredible. They had a whole, they had bunkhouses with 20, 30 cowboys that worked, and that is what they did, that was their job.

Right there at the farmhouse was the sheep, and I actually rode on a wagon as they were going around and dumping out food for the sheep. I got firsthand to watch real sheep dogs at work, and they are the most amazing animals you ever saw in your life. As I was riding on that, watching it, I was just, it could not get, it was incredible. I came up with the understanding that Jesus Christ is the Shepherd, but we think that pastors are shepherds, and they are really not. From a Bible standpoint, there is only one Shepherd. Pastors are sheep dogs, because if you would watch these sheep dogs work protecting the sheep, it was unbelievable. As long as the sheep were in a little herd together, the dog would just lay down about 40 feet from them and he would just watch them. If a couple of the sheep would get moving out this way, then he would move around this way and get them back in. It is a thing where if the sheep got way out of line, then he would start

barking at them, and then he would run around and round them back in. If they would not listen, he would start nipping at their heels to try to get them back into the flock. It was incredible.

It is a thing where I watched that and I thought to myself, "Boy, that is a perfect example of what a pastor has to do to keep the sheep together." Sometimes he has to bark at them. Sometimes he has to nip the heels a little bit. Sometimes you have to run around and make sure that they stay within the flock of the other sheep. I watched that dog, he just worked, and you know what the guy told me? He said, "You know what? That dog came out of a litter of another dog, and nobody taught that dog a thing. He had it bred in him just how to do what he does with those sheep." It is incredible.

I asked him, I said, "Tell me about sheep." He said, "You know what?" He says, "Sheep are the dumbest animals on the planet." I already know that. Sheep are like the Christians. I did not tell him that, but I wanted to hear what he said. I did not want to put any thought. I said, "Tell me about sheep," me already knowing. He says, "Sheep are the dumbest animals you ever met." I said, "Amen." He said, "What did you say?" I said, "Nothing." He says, "You know," he says, "Sheep get lost. We lose them. You know how they get lost? Because they get curious and they leave the flock and they go check things out that they should not be checking out. If the sheep dog does not catch it, that is how we lose them." That is what I said, "That is amazing. That is the same way I lose them out of my church." He said, "You know what? They are totally dependent because they are so dumb and stupid. They are totally dependent on the sheep dog to keep them from getting into trouble."

He said, "You know what?" He says, "Sometimes they get sick." He says, "You can always tell a sick sheep because they do two things." I said, "Oh, I have to hear this. What are the two things that sick sheep do that lets you know that they are sick?" He says, "The first thing they do is they quit eating." I thought, "Well, that is instructive." The second thing he said they do is they start separating themselves from the other sheep. They leave the flock. Sick sheep leave the flock, quit eating. I thought to myself, "Wow, what an incredible parallel."

In the Old Testament, dealing with Christ's death as the Lamb for me as the sheep to become one of His flock, look at Isaiah 53. Here is where you see it really clearly laid out. I am going to read the first 10 verses here.

Isaiah 53:1-10

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

This is obviously talking about the crucifixion of Christ. Now watch, look at the next verse, verse six. Here is you and me. "All we like sheep have gone astray, and we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Now, verse seven, here is Christ. "He was oppressed, and was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he was brought as a lamb." There it is. You see, the sheep is us, but He is the Lamb. "To the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb." Now that does not mean he does not have an IQ. It means that he does not speak. He does not say anything, which He did. "And as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth."

"He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, and shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand."

That is Christ portrayed as a Lamb, an innocent, dumb, no speaking, did not offer any defense, brought to a slaughter, which will be the crucifixion. So when John sees Him, understanding the Old Testament passages, John sees Him coming and he knows from Isaiah 53 and many other places in the Bible who He represents, and he says, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." When we want to preach salvation, when we want to talk about salvation or how things lay out for you and for me as far as Christ and getting saved, that is how the world should view Him, our Lamb of God.

V. The Gospel According To Exodus

Last week I just gave you a brief little excerpt of Exodus 12, and I told you how that the first time I really heard a doctrinal message, Dr. Ruckman preached the gospel according to Exodus.

Many of you asked me to lay out this chapter completely, and I was kind of waiting for this passage right here because this goes right along with where we are at. Last week I kind of set you up for it, just kind of whet your appetite, but today I am going to walk you through and I am going to show you doctrinally how you look at something in the Old Testament and make the parallel to what Christ had done on the cross in the New Testament, and take that term "Behold the Lamb of God" and put it back into a biblical context that you can get some depth out of it and really learn some things about your Bible.

Let me start with this. The gospel, we know that the gospel is defined for us in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 for the church age. There are different gospels in the Bible, but the one that you and I are associated with directly would be the one in 1 Corinthians 15. It says:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

That is the gospel that is given to us through Paul that we preach as the gospel of the grace of God for the church age, and this is the definitive passage on it in your Bible. If you do not have that marked.

There are three things about the gospel or three aspects to it that you want to see.

1. The fact that Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures. So there is a biblical process of understanding how He died for our sins according to the scriptures, not according to your priest, not according to your church, not according to some man, according to the scriptures. If the man that you are talking to does not go along with the scriptures, then there is no truth.

I remember I went to Bill's sister's funeral here last week or so. He was in a Catholic church, and every Catholic church will have stations of the cross. There are, I think, 12 of them, 14 of them, something like that. Every one of them is a different thumbnail capsule of Christ's crucifixion. It has Him before one picture, He is before Pilate, and then He is being beaten, and then He picks up the cross, and you walk through it. They are numbered, I think there are 14 of them, and you look at this one, and then you walk around and you look at this one, and you walk over and you read this one, and it kind of is a picture of Christ's death on the cross.

In the Bible it tells you that Jesus stumbled and He fell, and that is when they put Simon of Cyrene with Him to help Him carry the cross, and that is up there in one of the stations. Then it has where Jesus falls the second time, and then it has where Jesus falls the third time. Now, the

second and the third time are not in the Bible. The Catholic church puts them in there. I guess they needed to have more room to take up on the walls, I am not sure.

My old buddy Alex Dunlap, who died many years ago of cancer, he had a ministry to Roman Catholic priests and nuns. He had the greatest burden on the planet for Catholics that I have ever seen in my life. He would come into town and he would go to the Catholic church and he would talk to the priest. I was just young then, and he was preaching at the church there in Canton, and he took a group of young guys, and with Mel, we were going to go to the Catholic church, and I just went because I wanted to see how he operated because his goal was to give a priest an opportunity to trust Christ and leave the Catholic church. He had a safe house for them that when they did that, they went and they disciplined him and worked with him.

So we go in there, and Alex, he was an incredible guy, he really was, and he is talking to the priest, and all along the station of the cross, and Alex says, "What are these?" And the priest says, "Oh, those are the stations of the cross." And he says, "Oh, really?" And he says, "Yes." And he said, "What do they?" He says, "They picture the different phases of Christ's crucifixion." And Alex said, "Well, that is amazing." And he says, "How about this one here where Jesus falls the second time, and then Jesus falls the third time? Are they in the Bible?" And the priest said, "Absolutely, they are in the Bible." And Alex said, "Where at?" And he says, "Well, I do not remember for sure, but they are in there." And Alex said, "Well, could you look it up? We have time, I would like to know." Well, the guy could not find it.

And Alex said, "Where is the one that has Him stopping at Gino's hot dog stand?" And the priest said, "What?" He says, "Where is in the crucifixion that He stopped at Gino's hot dog stand?" And the priest says, "Well, I think you are being irreverent." And the priest had told him when Alex pushed the issue that they were not in the Bible. And so he says, "Well, just because they are not in the Bible does not mean that they could not happen." So that is when Alex asked him about the Gino's hot dog stand. When the guy said, "You are irreverent," he says, "Why? Just because it does not say it in the Bible does not mean they did not stop there and eat." Of course, the priest did not know what to do with all that.

The bottom line is, it says "according to the scriptures." The Bible is the only book we follow when it comes to Christ's death on the cross. Everything else is just man-made stuff that they put in there to try to foster some kind of idea that is not true.

2. The second aspect is that He was buried.
3. The third aspect is that He rose again the third day, again, according to the scriptures.
Because if Jesus did not die, it is obvious He would not be buried. But if Jesus did not die and He did not rise out of that tomb, then your salvation is in vain. So it has to be according to the scriptures.

That is the gospel. Just to throw this in from a couple of weeks ago, it said "according to the scriptures," not "according to the originals," because the originals were not scripture. All through the Bible, doctrinally, you will find pictures of that gospel in the Old Testament scriptures. Every book in the Bible will in some way, shape, or form, in some place, you will have the gospel according to Genesis, you will have the gospel according to Isaiah, you will have the gospel

according to Daniel, you will have the gospel according to 1 Samuel, 1 Kings, Joshua. There will be stories in those books that will picture the very gospel of Jesus Christ that you and I believe, even though we are in the Old Testament under a law. That is doctrine, being able to see those, being able to understand those, being able to connect the dots and lay those out is where you really get a depth to the Bible. The picture of Christ as the Lamb of God is much more than just your little cliché that you use when you are trying to win somebody to Christ. Our sacrifice, yes, but there is much more to it in the Bible that lays that out.

In the book of Exodus, I want to talk to you for a few moments about the gospel according to Exodus. We will turn to Exodus 12, and this is a picture of what John was declaring in John 1:19-31. John understood this. John understood the Old Testament to a degree because he told us that Christ was the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. He just did not make that up. He is running back to the Old Testament in places like Exodus 12. So let us read it and then allow me to show you what is real depth when it comes to the Bible.

Exodus 12:1-14

And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover.

For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

You want to get to the place in your Bible when you can read something like that, and the Old Testament is filled with them. Every book of the Bible, it ought to just jump out at you when you spend time learning the keys to opening up your Bible and getting to the place in your Bible where these things are right there and just like falling out on the ground where you can pick them up. I want to break down for you, if you will allow me, the idea "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world" from the gospel according to Exodus, and I want you to see the parallels. I hope that this will do for you what it did for me 50 years ago. I never got over it. It lit a fire in my heart to learn the Bible, to get it down.

There are a number of things here I want to look at.

4. Look at Exodus 12:1-2.

Exodus 12:1-2

And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

I do not know what you know about the Bible, but up to Exodus 12, when the Jews had their new year, where it started the new year, it was at the Feast of Tabernacles, which is in September back then. It was around September 20th through the 24th. That was the Feast of Tabernacles, and that was based on God creating everything back in Genesis 1. The Feast of Tabernacles was where they began their year, and all the way up to Exodus 12, the nation of Israel observed the beginning of their year from the Feast of Tabernacles in September. Now it all changes. Now the beginning of their year is going to become a new month. Now it is going to be our April, and it is going to be now based on the Passover, where before it was based on the Feast of Tabernacles.

Now there is a new beginning of the year, and it is based on this right here, the Passover. That is a picture of the Bible laying out in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, all things become new. It is a picture of the new beginning of your life the day you trust the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. It is just that simple. This Lamb will be a picture of Christ dying for us and shedding His blood. In 1 Corinthians 5:7 it says:

1 Corinthians 5:7

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

Jesus Christ's death on the cross for you and me is our Passover. He is our Passover Lamb, and it goes right back to Exodus 12. It is just like when God started this out and He says, "I am going to bring you out of Egypt," a type of the world. "And when I bring you out of the world, I am going to give you a new beginning." The day you left this world by trusting the Lamb of God to taketh away the sin of the world, you got a new beginning, and now you are a new creature in Christ Jesus. Old things are passed away, all things become new. See how that works? Incredible.

5. Look at Exodus 12:3-5. I gave you this last week because I remember when he laid it out, this is what got me right here.

Exodus 12:3-5

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

I remember tonight that he laid this out, and I gave it to you last week, three aspects that you have to have about the Lamb.

- Verse 3 says "a lamb." Because the first thing that we need is something innocent to die for us, and we need a lamb.
- Verse 4 says "the lamb." You need a lamb, but not just any lamb will do. The lamb of the Buddhists will not work. The lamb of the Jehovah's Witnesses will not cut it. The lamb of the Mormons will not get you there. The lamb of the Charismatics will not help you at all. You need the Lamb.
- But then verse 5 it says "your lamb." See, you can know all about the Lamb. You can even have the right Lamb. You can see it and understand it. But until you take the Lamb and make it your Lamb, you are not going anywhere.

Now you look at that. I remember Dr. Ruckman saying, stopping from drawing it out, he looked around, he said, "Now what kind of mind do you think was behind a book like that that said 'a lamb,' next step 'the lamb,' next step 'your lamb'?" Then he laughed and he said, "You got the right book," and went back to preaching. That is an incredible thing you got there, making Christ's sacrifice personal to you.

6. The third thing in Exodus 12:5, you will want to look at this. "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out of the sheep or from the goat." There are three things here you will want to see.

- First of all, it says "your lamb shall be without blemish." It could not just be any lamb. It had to be a lamb that did not have any spot on it, did not have any blemishes, because it is representing Christ, our Lamb of God, and He is perfect in every aspect of His life. In fact, the Bible says in 1 Peter 1:18-19:

1 Peter 1:18-19

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

There it is. That Lamb represented the Lamb of God that was coming down to die on the cross that John was going to see. So He says, "You have to have a lamb, but it has to be perfect."

- Then the second thing He says in there, it has to be "a male." No female lamb. It had to be a male because Christ was a male. He was the Son of God. He showed up as the Son of Man, God, perfect man.
- Then the third thing here, which I think is quite incredible, is the fact that He says, "your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year." In other words, it had to be the first one born in that year. It could not be a second. It had to be within that first year. That is an interesting thing because if you study the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was our Lamb of God, you know that He was a man of firsts. He did things that nobody else ever did or accomplished before, and whenever He did something, nobody else ever did it. So it says here that it has to be out of the first year. In Revelation 1:5, Jesus is called the first begotten of the dead. He is the first one. When He died on the cross, the Bible says that He was put in a tomb that never a man had ever laid in before. He was the first guy in that tomb. When He rode into Jerusalem, over there in Mark 11, the Bible says clearly that He rode upon an ass that never a man had ridden. He was the first one to ride that animal. When He came into the world, He came in through a virgin that had never known a man or had a child, so when she gave birth, He was the one that was the first one born of that woman. Everything Jesus did, He was the first one to do it.

Now we have a lot of guys running around today saying that you have to worship Mary. No, no, no, no. I do not worship Mary. Jesus Christ was a man of firsts. Just as I would not worship the ass He rode in on, I would not worship the woman. He had to be taken out of the first of the flock because Jesus was first in everything He did. I always thought it was interesting, a little preaching here, Jesus was always the first in everything that He did. He was the first of that tomb. He was the first for Mary. He was the first on the ass He rode in. He was the first begotten of the dead. Jesus is first in everything except most of God's people's lives.

7. The fourth thing, Exodus 12:6.

Exodus 12:6

And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

There are three things here.

- The Bible says that they killed this lamb on the 14th day of the month. You go back and look at Mark 15 and look at the crucifixion. Mark 11 through Mark 15 are the greatest chapters in the Bible that show you the crucifixion day by day, almost hour by hour, the last week called the Passion Week. You will find that when Jesus Christ is crucified back there in Mark 15, you will find that He is crucified on the 14th day of the month, just like the lamb back in Exodus. The 14th day of the month was Wednesday. The Catholic Church teaches you that He was crucified on Friday, so they have Good Friday. It was not Good Friday, it was Bad Wednesday. He is killed on Wednesday the 14th. The last week of His life, from His triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the crucifixion, is almost laid out, almost, as I said, every hour, the chronological order of events is right there, Sunday to Sunday.
- The second thing I want you to see is it says that "the whole congregation of Israel kills it in the evening." So you are going to find in Acts 2, when Peter in Acts 1 through Acts 7, Peter is preaching a series of messages that Stephen winds up finishing out the revival, and he is preaching to them about what they did to Christ, and he says to them in Acts 2:36:

Acts 2:36

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

So back there in Exodus, you know what it says? It says "the whole congregation of Israel kills it," because they did. They killed it back there, and they killed the Lamb of God when He showed up in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

- That is not all. "In the evening." Christ dies on the cross on the 14th day at six o'clock in the evening. You are not going to beat that Bible. This gives a whole new dimension to the Lamb of God. Everybody wants to talk about it, but there is so much to that God's people never get to that depth. "Kill it in the evening." Mark 15:42, He dies at 6 PM in the evening, and He is taken down off the cross. Behold the Lamb of God.

8. The fifth thing, Exodus 12:7.

Exodus 12:7

And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

This has to do with the blood. Here is how it went. They got the lamb that was a male of the firstlings of the flock without blemish, and they killed it, and they took that blood and they put it into a bucket. Then they got a hyssop branch, and they took that blood, and just so you get an illustration what it is, the front door of the house was like that where people went in. They got that bucket of blood and they put blood here, they put blood here, and they put blood here: two side posts and on the top.

Now, why not just put a big X on the door? Why not just put a big circle on the door? I will tell you why. Because whoever wrote that saw Calvary. Whoever wrote that saw one thief over here

and one thief over here and Christ here. Now He is numbered with the transgressors, but He is dead and He is higher than they are. Whoever did that saw Calvary. Whoever did that saw one thief over here, one thief over here, and Christ numbered with the transgressors, but Isaiah 53:12, but He is higher than they are. He is deity.

I want you to see this. It says, "And they shall take of the blood and shall strike it on the two side posts of the upper door of the houses wherein you shall eat it." Now the spiritual application is simply this: Is everybody in your home under the blood? We saw this in Proverbs 31, did we not? The making of garments for the family. Yet Isaiah 61:10 says the garments of salvation that God made for Adam, that the fig leaves were not any good. He had to kill some innocent to cover their sin. Is your home, is your family, is your house, everybody under the blood? Paul makes the same point in 1 Timothy 3:5 when he says, "If you do not have any rule over your family, you have no business being in the ministry." So when you come back here, even though it is an Old Testament story, it is following every New Testament principle that you are going to find. That is amazing.

9. The sixth thing, Exodus 12:8-10.

Exodus 12:8-10

And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

There are a couple of things here.

- First thing I want you to see, verse eight, it says "in that night," a picture of the church age.
- Verse eight says "roast with fire." Verse nine says "no water." To go back under the law of Deuteronomy 16:7. You want to find Christ dying on the cross and Him roasting on the cross, it will be Job 30:8-31, and you will actually see it in great graphic detail. He is roasting on that cross. It says "no water," so in John 19:28 He says, "I thirst."
- Now verses eight, nine, and ten will be a reference to the sixth to the ninth hour when He is on that cross, when God turns His back on Him, the sun refuses to shine, and the devil literally on the cross brings hell to Him. You will find in Job 30 where He is roasted alive. You will find in John 19 that the roasting is so bad that His bones are burnt black with heat, that His bowels are boiling, and He cries out, "I thirst." A little different from your little putty-duddy gospel thing you always put out, is it not? Now you are in depth of the Bible. Now you are down where it is really getting into the doctrinal things of the Bible. Most of God's people can never get to this point. This is where God turns His back on His Son and He cries out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

- Verse nine says, "You roast with fire his head, his legs, and the purtenance thereof." And nothing, verse 10, "to be left till morning." Why? Because God's sacrifice was a total, complete sacrifice, and every part of that lamb has to be burnt, consumed by fire, because Christ's death on the cross was a total, complete sacrifice for you and for me. Behold the Lamb.

10. The seventh thing, Exodus 12:11.

Exodus 12:11

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover.

After you eat this lamb, or when you are getting ready to eat this lamb, you need to be ready to move out and do something for the Lord. You will notice that there are three things here. This thing was written 4,000 years ago, and yet it is all relative right down the line to the patterns of a progression of how you grow spiritually today when you get saved.

- Notice the first thing He says, "loins girded." That will be Ephesians 6:14 where it talks about having your loins girded about with truth in the armor of God. It says you need to get God's truth down first.
- Then you take it, "your shoes on your feet." See, God wants you to move out and do something for Him, but you have to get the truth of God's Word first. We do not need any more people running around out there who do not really understand a lot about the Bible and just want to put out the little bit that they know. That will get you in trouble. If you do not have a depth to yourself in the Bible, then just hold up until you get it. Do not take, that is what it says. It says, "Have your shoes on your feet." Ephesians 6:15 says, "Feet shod, feet shod, feet shod." What is the word? "With the preparation." You need to be prepared before you put the shoes on. This thing will kill you. This thing was written 4,000, 4,500 years ago, and it all lines up with Ephesians. We do not need any more God's people running around with just the gospel. We need God's people running around with the Bible depth, fullness of God, being able to lay out that book. How do you get there? Study to show thyself approved. You kids in Bible Institute next Saturday morning, you know what you are getting. Your guys are coming along. It is so evident in your life that you are getting that kind of stuff, that you are seeing it. Most of God's people on Saturday morning are sitting on their couch, not on their fudge sickle, watching Bugs Bunny. There is more to it than that.
- He says, "Then this shall you eat it with your loins girded." You have to get the book down first before you put on the shoes and your feet. Shoes on your feet, get ready to move out. God wants you to go someplace. God wants you to do something, but He does not want to send you out there unprepared. "Preparation, loins girded about with truth" is number one. Then it says, "having your loins girded about with truth," and then it says, "shoes on your feet," and Ephesians 6:15 it says, "feet shod with the preparation, the preparation, the preparation of the gospel of peace."
- Then the third thing it says, "staff in your hand." That is the shepherd's rod. You know there are two of those in the Bible. Most of God's people do not even know where they are at.

There are two staffs, two rods in the Bible. One of them represents the law, the Old Testament, Moses. That is the one he carried. The other one is called Aaron's rod. That is the priestly rod that represents you and me in the New Testament church. It says, "your staff in your hand." That tells me before you ever go out there to have your feet shod with the gospel of preparation, the preparation is to understand what God was doing with Israel, what He is doing with the church. Understand those two rods. Aaron's rod budded. Moses' rod was the rod of judgment. Aaron's rod was the priestly rod. Two different rods in the Bible.

11. The eighth thing, Exodus 12:3-4. Going back up to this.

Exodus 12:3-4

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

Here is what you do when you get the blood on the door. Here is what you do when you get the blood of the lamb on the door. Once you get saved and once you move out, the next thing you do, you share the Lamb. You share the Lamb. But there are two things here. I do not want you to miss this. This is going to be tough. Two things here.

- The first thing about that Lamb is it had to be shared with your own household. It had to be shared with your household first because you have to make sure your house is under the blood.
- And then, and only then, do you share with your neighbor. You make sure your household gets the Lamb, and then after that, you make sure your neighbor gets the Lamb. Share the Lamb with your neighbor.

Now, how do you explain that 4,500 years ago, 4,000 years ago? I mean, come on. How in the world do you explain that? It is just, it is, that is the Bible. That is what makes the Bible the most supernatural book this world has ever seen. The gospel according back to "Behold the Lamb of God."

12. The ninth thing, Exodus 12:12-13.

Exodus 12:12-13

For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

The ninth thing is when you get the Lamb yourself, your house gets it, you take it to your neighbor, you know what you tell them when you share the Lamb? There is a coming judgment of God. God will execute His judgment. Verse 13 says, "And when I see the blood, I will pass over you." Notice it did not say, "When I see your baptism." Notice it did not say, "When I see your good works." "When I see your church membership." It says, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." No simpler verse in the Bible that tells us that nothing can wash away my sin, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

People have such a tough time with that. There it is. Where do you go? This year was Thanksgiving. Had about half as many fly different places from KCI, but there were almost 200,000 people that flew out of KCI. If you were going to fly out this week, you are going to go up there and you are going to do all your work and get everything, and you are going to go there to the gate. They are going to call the gate. When you go through there, you are going to show them that little thing, and they are going to check your ticket. What do you think about a guy to be up there and he would be standing in line, go through all that stuff, and be out there and he would be moving up the line, and she says, and the lady says, "Hi, can I?" He said, "I need to get on this airplane here." She said, "Well, that is good. I need to see your ticket." He said, "Well, I do not have a ticket, but I want to get on this airplane. I want to go wherever this plane is going." She said, "Well, you have to have a ticket." And he said, "Well, wait a minute, you left so and so on that plane. There are all these people in that plane." He says, "But they all had tickets." You said, "Well, I need to get on this plane." She said, "Did you have a ticket?" "No, I do not have a ticket." No ticket, no plane. Now you understand that. Okay, no blood, no heaven. Not complicated. He said, "When I see the blood." Open up your hymnal, I think it is 232. "When I see the blood, I will pass, I will pass, I will pass over you." No ticket, no plane ride. No blood, no heaven.

13. The tenth thing, Exodus 12:14.

Exodus 12:14

And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

He tells you that this Passover, this picture, you and me getting saved by the Lamb, our Passover Lamb, Christ. Now He tells us the last thing here that it is going to be, it needs to be a memorial from generation to generation. You need to pass that down. For you and for me, that is the Lord's Supper. Paul, while writing to the church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 11:23-34, he talks about that Christ is to have a memorial, a day of remembrance. "As often as you do in remembrance of me," He says, verse 24. A time when we stop and reflect on our Passover Lamb. Just as the Jews from year to year to year kept that feast and brought their children up understanding that, churches today have the Lord's Supper, communion, a time where we stop and reflect of our Passover Lamb and teach our children how important that is, the death of God's Son, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. He says in 1 Corinthians 11:24 and again in verse 25, "As often as you do in remembrance of me." It is a memorial. Behold the Lamb of God.

You see in Exodus 12 every aspect of the gospel that you and I got saved by is laid out in a type, in a picture. This is what John saw, what he understood. He may not have understood it all. He probably did not have near that you got from it today because he did not have a New Testament. But he knew that Christ was pictured as the Lamb back in the Old Testament. So when he sees Him come, and he says, "Behold the Lamb of God," every aspect of our salvation laid out clearly and completely. The gospel according to Exodus, reading and studying your Bible through God's eyes and seeing the Passover Lamb.

VI. Application And The Importance Of Bible Study

Yet, we think because that was 4,500 years ago and they were in bondage in Egypt, we think that people back then, because they dressed different and they did not have buildings like this, they did not have automobiles, they did not have a Thanksgiving turkey this week, they did not have any of the stuff that we got, we actually get in a mindset that we think that they were different from us. They were not different from us. Human nature is always the same. I do not care if it is 4,000 BC or 2010, 2020, human nature never changes. Clothes change, cultures change, discoveries change, medicine changes, everything changes, communication changes, human nature never changes. People back then are just like the people today. They are, and it has not changed that much. God's people are still God's people. I do not care if it is the Old Testament nation of Israel going out onto the blood of a lamb that started a new year for them, or our God's people today that got saved and got a new beginning in life, it is all the same.

When you look at this story, the thing that really overwhelms me that I love about it, there were three kinds of folks back then that had to deal with this night, just like there are three kinds of God's people today that have to deal with where we are at today. You realize that some of the nation of Israel back there did not put the blood on the door. They thought, "I am not going to listen to that preacher. I am not going to bother putting the blood on the door." "That is stuff you have been hearing about a deliverer for. We have been down here for 400 years, and now we are going to put blood on the door? You think some animal blood on the door is going to, how is that going to get me out of Egypt?" Just like some people today say, "You are talking to me, I have to get saved by a dead Jew hanging on the tree to shed His blood that has enough remission of sin?" Just like back there if there were Jews that did not put the blood on, there are people today that do not put the blood on. In fact, you want to get technical about it, I will tell you real clear that night, of the people who did not put the blood on the door, there were 22,000 homes that did not put the blood on the door. 22,000 firstborn Jewish babies got taken that night because moms and dads did not believe in putting the blood on the door. Okay, where did you get that number? It is in the Bible. It is in the Bible clearly. You have just been dinking around every place else. 22,000 babies, firstborn kids, firstborn teenagers, firstborn adults, killed that night because mom and dad did not believe in the blood. They are probably like a lot of God's parents, God's people's parents, they say they believe in the blood, but when they come to their own house, they really do not. They are good at sharing the Lamb with everybody else.

Then you had the second guy. I can just see this guy, he is pacing up and down, smoking a cigar, pacing up and down, all looking at his watch, all worried, thinking 12 midnight, because the

Bible says in verse 29, at midnight they are going to come over. He is pacing up and down, sucking on the stogie, saying, "Man, I will tell you, that is driving me crazy, man. Oh, 12 midnight, man, it is 10 o'clock, two hours." He is just pacing up and down and worrying. His wife says, "George, what is the matter with you?" He said, "Well, I am just all nervous and upset about all that is going on here tonight. It is just, I am just, I just cannot, I am just so anxious, and I have taken some of my Xanax and all this stuff, I just cannot get it under control." And she says, "Well, George, did you put the blood on the door?" "Yeah, yeah, yeah, I did, I did. I put the blood on the door. I would not quit worrying about it." He says, "Yeah, but what if I did not put it on right?" She says, "What? Come on, George." "Well, what if I did not use enough blood?" She says, "George, really, come on." He says, "Well, you know, he said, 'Put the blood on the door.' Did you put it on the door?" "Yeah, I did, I did, I did, I did. But what if He passes over and He cannot see it? Maybe I have to go out there and make sure He sees the blood on the door." You see, just like God's people today, some of you, you got the blood on the door, and you just cannot enjoy it, can you? Always worried about something, always anxious, anxiety levels up to the max, always fretting over things. People never change. He just could not rest and relax in what God had told him, and yet he put the blood on the door, but he is worried about, "Did he get it on right? How many times I have talked to some of God's people, 'Did you really ask the Lord to save you?' 'Yeah, I did.' 'Well, then you are saved.' 'How do you know? I did not ask the wrong way.'" See, he is worried about, "Well, maybe I did not get it on right. Maybe I did not get enough blood on it." Oh boy, something never changed.

Then you had the third family who was next door. Dad sitting down there reading the family Egyptian magazine. Mom is packing the suitcases, putting the clothes in there. All the kids were running around, saying, "Daddy, Daddy, are we really going to leave tonight?" He put down the magazine. He says, "Yeah, kids, come on down here, let me tell you about this." "Have a little Bible study with the kids. Get ready, kids, because at midnight, at midnight the angel is going to come through and he is going to take us out tomorrow." And the little kid said, "Daddy, I heard that you had the blood on the door. The firstborn, Daddy, I am the firstborn. Did you put these?" "I got the blood on the door, son. It is okay." And he just sat around there. They just enjoyed the evening. They talked about the Bible, what God had promised. They talked about that Lamb and the blood, how that it went back to Job. He offered sacrifices. How that Noah, when he came out of the flood, he offered one. All the way back to Adam. Dad told him a little Bible study story about that little Lamb. You see, some folks just enjoy and rest in the Lord, and some folks just cannot, and some folks just take care of nothing about the blood on the door at all.

So when John sees Jesus coming, now maybe it makes a little better understandable format, a little more sense to it. When John sees Jesus come and he says, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world," a whole new meaning. Not your little goofy little thing that you put out there to talk about people getting saved. It is one thing to be able to quote that verse and talk about Jesus being a Lamb of God. It is quite something else to be able to go down into the Bible and lay something like that out. But that ought to be your goal. When John sees Him coming, he knows the Old Testament. He knows everything that happens, and he looks at Him and he says, "Behold the Lamb of God." He was not just some neat thing he said. It was based on

his understanding of that Lamb all the way through the Bible. That is a statement doctrinally, is one of the deepest in the Bible to study and to lay out that most God's people have no clue today.

It brings to mind the importance of learning your Bible. It brings to mind the importance of learning your Bible. It brings the importance that there is an order of doing things once you get saved, getting prepared first. This church is about winning people to Christ. It certainly is. Most of you, many of you got saved here through a Bible study or somebody else, and always first and foremost, we want to do is win somebody to Christ. But before that, even before that, before we even try to open up the scriptures and win somebody to Christ, there is the preparation. The reason why some of you are so successful in dealing with people and winning them to Christ is because you have prepared yourself. You can answer any question. You are not limited to just the shallow stuff of the Bible. You have a depth to you, and it has come because of the fact of the things that we have tried to build into your life here from Bible Institute, through the people ministry, through the one-on-one, and all of the things, and Sunday mornings and Thursday nights of always going back and showing you the depth.

My goal simply, and I know I am not such a fool, I am not under any illusion that everybody under the sound of my voice is going to become a class A Bible student after today or any other time. I know that is not possible. I know that will probably never happen. But I am a realist, and I understand that if I just get one, if I just get two or three, if I would be so lucky to get 10 or 11 young men and young ladies, they would say, "You know what? Do what it did for me back home 50 years ago, 1972. You figure it out." Ignite a fire into your heart that you are going to get everything out of the book that you can. You are never going to be satisfied, and you are never going to make excuses. You will always do whatever you have got to do to make that book everything that God wants it to be in your life. Then through the preparation, "have your feet shod, staff in your hand, preparation gospel of peace, shoes on your feet."

We will hold up there, and next week we will get into the baptism aspect and look at that. That will be quite interesting. But let us have a word of prayer. Do not forget this week, Bible study. Send your questions in, and we will have some good times in the book together. Glad you had a good week here, good week with the church. Everything went well here. I am just glad everybody that got out got back and got safely. Let us have a word of prayer and then we will be dismissed.

Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. Thank You for all You do for us. Thank You for Your love and for Your mercy and for Your kindness. Thank You for today. Thank You for the great truth of that book, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. For His sake, we ask it. Amen.