

I. The Defining Verse on Baptism

If you have your Bibles this morning, we want to go back to John 1. We will be moving down through there here in a little bit. You will remember that last week we looked at the defining verse on baptism in John 1:31, where it says, Jesus being baptized by John and He was manifested to the nation of Israel. That is the defining verse on baptism in the Bible.

We saw last week that baptism will always manifest something. That is the key. It has nothing to do with your salvation. It has nothing to do with your eternal security, but it does manifest something. I told you that there were seven different baptisms in the Bible, and then I walked you through them.

Yet, here is the discrepancy. Ephesians 4:5 tells us that there is just one baptism. That one baptism, as we saw last week, has absolutely nothing to do with water. I showed you that the other six, as we came through them, will be, as the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10, an example or a sample of the one true baptism. When you come through and put it all together, you get a complete picture.

I took you back to Colossians 2, the day that you and I got saved, as the Bible says in Colossians 2:11, with an operation of God made without hands. We call it spiritual circumcision as defined in the Bible. I showed you how at that point in time in Colossians 2:12, the Bible says that you got saved, you were baptized into His death by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The one true baptism in the Bible has nothing to do with water.

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

It is a spiritual baptism of the Holy Spirit, and each one of the seven will manifest something to us in learning our Bible as you put it all together. You will remember along with that, I gave you a whole list of them, and we talked about God's systematic theology.

II. God's Systematic Theology and Learning the Bible

When God wrote the Bible, because He is the author of it, He has the right to decide how it is going to lay itself out. So He put it together in such a way that if you are really going to learn it, you are going to have to do it His way. This is totally foreign today. Most in Christianity do not want to do anything God's way, certainly when it comes to the Bible. The Bible will have its own format for us to study it and for us to learn it.

You have heard the verse many, many times. 2 Timothy 2:15 says:

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

You do not have to approve unto man, but unto God, and it has to be His way. Years ago, probably close to 25 or 30 years ago, I was traveling around the country, the world, whatever, and doing all kinds of studies for different churches. In a couple of cases, I would go in on a Sunday, get there on a Saturday, and sometimes Saturday night, but most generally we would start on Sunday morning. I would start Sunday morning, Sunday night, and then I would take Monday night, Tuesday night, and Wednesday night. People were told that it was not going to be a normal service. It was a learning session if they really wanted to learn something about the Bible. So each night I would take maybe two or three hours, and by the time I was done, they would have a complete understanding and picture of whatever I was trying to do.

I had one I did on church history, and I would go in on a Saturday and go in on Sunday morning and then bring it all the way through. I had another one that I did. I had several that I would do, depending on what the church wanted. I had another one I did on how to put your Bible together, how really to learn your Bible. I would be there for four or five days, and I would walk them through to lay it all out and give them everything that they needed to kind of put it all together before I left.

I would always start out like this because this is a great illustration. It makes a very prominent point. I would start out by telling them that I am from Kansas City, and right down the road, about on I-70, you will come to St. Louis, Missouri. I would tell them that there are actually two ways to go to St. Louis. You can go down I-70 and go east, and you will get there in maybe three or four hours, depending on how fast you drive. Or you can drive west. You can go through Kansas, go through Las Vegas, go on out to California. You get a ship and take it across the Pacific to China. Then you go to China, Asia Minor, to Europe, and then pick up a boat in England, and then go to America, New York, and then from New York to St. Louis.

I would use that illustration to show them that there are two ways that you can learn your Bible: the easy way, down I-70, or the hard way, through China. Actually, when it comes to learning your Bible, most folks take the trip to China.

I look at my job, and I take it very seriously. My job is to take those of you who really desire a depth in the Word of God. Now, when I say that, I understand not everybody wants that. That does not make you a bad person. It does not make you not my friend. But I have learned in life that you will have people, as I gave you last week out of Exodus 16, when the manna came down, some gathered more, some less. You are going to have people that are always satisfied with the status quo, and that is between them and the Lord. I will give you and help you any way I can.

My real target focus, if I can just be totally honest, is for those of you under the sound of my voice today that are here, that you really have a desire to get to the depth of the Word of God, and together, with all that we have here, to put a complete package together for you. Every one of you is different. Every one of you has different abilities and skills. It is my job to be able to read those differences and to be able to hand-cut for you what you need, and I might ask, in the

fastest possible way, in other words, going down I-70. I am not interested in going to Canton, China, when it comes to the Bible. For me personally, I saw it very early in my life, when I got into the Word of God, that I wanted the fastest way.

Now I say that, and you know as well as I do, I have said it before, there is no fast track through the Bible. But there is a faster way than going through China. For me, getting you to that level at the fastest possible way is good for me because then you can step in and help me carry the load and do what needs to be done, and that is profitable for me. We will do that, and we have done that, and are doing that by using God's systematic theology for all of us together to get the Bible down.

When you come in here and you are just in the basics, we take it through discipleship. Then we will take it through discipleship one. Many of you go through an unofficial discipleship three. Sooner or later, if you really have a desire to go that way, you are going to get into Bible Institute. You are going to meet with me and let me help you give you some designated programs. You are going to get into the people ministry because you are going to see the value of all that. In many places, that is where we really get the depth of it. That is by design.

III. Commitment to God's Word and Personal Growth

I want you to know that it takes a commitment on both of our parts. Too many times in most churches, Baptist churches anyhow, the pastor may have a commitment to give the people the Bible, but the people do not have a commitment to get the Bible. It takes a commitment on both of our parts. It takes a commitment to you by me. I have to realize and do more than just stand up and preach and then go home. I have to get to know every one of you. I have to watch you, observe you, spend time with you, talk to you. Through Thursday night Bible study and just our relationships together, I find out where you are at and get a pretty good idea of what you need. Obviously, you know more of what you need than I do. But when we get together on the thing, then I can absolutely help you accomplish that.

So it takes a commitment to you by me, that you are not just a number, that you are not just somebody in my church that we are glad you are here today and then move on with it. No, no, no. I look at every one of you. Now you may not look at yourself this way, but I look at every one of you in a direct format that I want to give you everything that I can. But then it takes a commitment from you to this church and to me as your pastor, and together we become as 1 Corinthians 3:9 says:

1 Corinthians 3:9

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

It is through that labor and everything that we do. It is through that labor that together we will build our relationship around the one lasting thing that will always keep us close together and never let anything get between us, and that will be the Word of God. When you have the commitment of the Word of God in your life, then you have everything you need, and we have everything we need that we can build through the Word of God.

I love to be around people who have a desire to learn the Bible. I like the freshness of you young men and young ladies. It keeps me young, the fact that you are always looking and seeking. I understand that in Christianity, and this is not a criticism, this is an observation of a practical truth. In Christianity, it is really easy to get stagnant. It is really easy to lose your edge. It is really easy to get complacent and not want to keep pushing on, especially the older you get.

I thank God that my body may be breaking down, but I am telling you my mind is as fresh as any 20-year-old that you will find. I always am looking for the ways to help you. I have been in this Bible a while now. I was thinking this week, this April will be 50 years since my dad died. He died 50 years ago in April. It was at that same month that I surrendered my life, that God worked through all of that, and I surrendered my life to the ministry. I have been doing that now for a half a century. It does not seem like as much until you use the word half a century, 50 years.

Yet, I have got to be totally honest with you. The more I get into the Bible, some 50 years now, the more I understand how little I really know about it. The more I become aware of what the book of Ephesians says in Ephesians 3:8 when it talks about the unsearchable riches.

Ephesians 3:8

Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

I am here to tell you today, if you spend 100 years, if God gives you the age of Methuselah, 969 years of age, you will never unearth the unsearchable riches. Ephesians 3:18, we have talked about it many, many times, the depth of God. I try to tell you how we all need to have that in our lives, but at the same time, I am going to tell you, getting to the bottom floor of the depth of God never happens. All we can do is keep striving to learn. All we can do is to look at ourselves as students of the Word of God on different levels. But the real question has to be, what kind of student are we?

Every time I come through the Bible again, I become more and more aware of what I do not know. I know you look at me on Thursday night and any question you ask, I can pretty much answer in 20 seconds or less. You think that that is because I am so smart and because I know so much about the Bible, and I do not want to bust your bubble, and I really like to keep that image before you, but I am going to blow it today. No, it is because in 50 years, I have heard all the questions. I have heard them all. What you come up with in your Bible and you say, "Oh, I got a question," I have answered that question 100 times.

One of the values of being around as long as I have is the fact that I saw the end of the Civil War. But one of the great advantages of being around so long is I have heard it all. I do not think I have been asked a new question in the Bible probably in 20 years. Now I have got some questions in there that if somebody asked me, it would take me a little while to figure it out. There are some that I just simply say, "I do not know." But I want you to know it is not because I am the smartest man in the Bible when it comes to the Word of God. That is not true. There is so much you could take what I know about it, put it in the left eye of a blind mosquito. There are volumes that I have no clue on. I am just telling you.

My responsibility and the little that I do know is to, if you will allow me, reproduce what I have learned in the Bible and through my ministry experience in you for your edification and your growth. Because I look at you as my replacement. Also this, for you to take what I give you and to do a better job of putting it all together in a much better way than I did. If the theme of the book of Hebrews is "better," and it is, we know that from Institute, then in time you should be better than me with the book.

Because of just some fundamental, simple things:

- Most of you, not all of you, in most cases, are younger than I am.
- Your minds are fresher than my mind.
- You are stronger physically than I am, and you have a better endurance level.
- You remember and retain things better than I do.

I know some of you are smiling right now, "Wait till you get 70." Wait till you get 70 and you cannot find where you put your car keys. When you turn 70 and you cannot find what you, remember what you had for breakfast. Remember when you get to the point where you cannot retain things, and your minds are fresh right now, you can memorize the Bible, retain the Bible, and hold onto those things much better than I can.

Many of you, I mean, I will just be honest, many of you are much smarter than I am. You look at your academics in school, and I know that school does not mean everything, but it does to a certain degree. You understand all the great things that they are teaching you that I do not have a clue on. Some of you took geometry, some of you took trigonometry. To me, they are just words that absolutely mean nothing. When I was in school, I had the hardest time on the planet just passing general math. My salvation came in two ways: once by the Lord Jesus Christ that saved my soul, and once when Casio came up with a calculator that saved my high school.

I will not even get into the fact that most of you are better looking than me. You ought to be better than that in time. You ought to come to the place where, because you have so much going for you now in your young age. The Bible talks about that the glory of young men is their strength, the glory of an old man is his gray head. It is a case where, listen to me, there is no reason on earth. I use the cliché in Acts 8 when Philip asked the Ethiopian eunuch if he understood, and the Bible says he joined himself to his chariot. If you will join yourself to my chariot, there is absolutely no reason why you cannot have the depth of that book and in time grow to the point where you surpass me.

Anybody else out there? The idea that there is one guy out there who has all the truth and he is the pinnacle of the mountaintop is a farce. That only happens because God's people will not apply themselves to learn over somebody else who did. So it looks like they are a lot better when in reality, they are really not. You are just a lot slower. Some gathered more and some gathered less.

There is no reason, and I see it in you. I do. I see it in you. This is why I push you and I motivate you. I was trained in a very hard way, and that is the way I train you. Some people do not like that. Some people cannot handle that. I get it. But the bottom line is I just know one way to do it,

and that is the way that I was taught, and the guy that taught me was into building soldiers, and that is what I am doing. You do not go to be a soldier and then "wah, wah, wah" about basic training and what you do not like.

That is the key. You can have the depth of that book. I am telling you, I know how to get you there because I understand what it takes to get you there. That is the key. All of you have the ability in my mind for the most part, maybe one or two of you just do not give a flip, but the majority of you here this morning and certainly listening to me, I know on our website out there, we have got some guys who really know their Bible. It is a blessing to me. In our church, we have some people, male and female, who really know their Bible, and that is a blessing to me.

You have got to realize that there is only one way that you can get there, and that is really the key. It is one thing to know how to get you there; it is something else to understand what it takes to get you there. That is really the key. But you are going to have to do the work. I know, I know, I wish there was a spiritual pill that came in a bottle of a hundred that said, "Take one of these every day and you will know the Bible." I wish there was. I wish there was an easier way just to screw off the top of your head and dump in everything that anybody knows about the Bible and then screw it back on, and you would be good to go. It does not work that way. You are going to have to do it God's way and not your way or my way. Our way has not worked for any of us. It has obviously, in many people's lives, not worked in your marriage, it has not worked in your family, it has not worked in your personal life of learning the Bible. It certainly, most certainly, will not work in really getting into the Word of God.

If I die before the Lord comes back, I want my legacy very simple to be that this church carry on with the men and women who together we build a depth in you with the Word of God. If I could just reproduce myself into one person, that one person can change the world. The ability to do that with a hundred people is off the chart as far as I am concerned.

IV. The Dove as a Type of the Holy Spirit

Today, again, we are going to go down deep. The books that John writes will all have a real depth to them, and that is why when you begin to study them, you have got to look beyond the surface, and you really have got to use the tools. This is why I am capitalizing on things like this, like last week and then this week and throughout the whole book. I want to give you the tools. I am not somebody that just wants to buy you a set of mechanic tools and then back up and say, "Go fix that car." I want to give you the tools, but then I want to show you how to take off the head gasket, take off the valve covers, take off the radiator hose, take off the... and I do not know what any of this stuff means, but it just sounds really neat, and be able to take it apart and put it back together. You see, when it comes to the Bible, it is not good enough just to be able to take it apart. You have got to be able to put it back together, and you have got to identify the pieces, and that is what we do here. That is what my job is, and it is just the way that it is.

John writes the five wisdom books of the New Testament, just like you have five in the Old Testament, so they are going to be deep. I want to read for you John 1:32-34:

John 1:32

And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

John 1:33

And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

John 1:34

And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

Today I want to give you another great piece of the picture puzzle of the Word of God. Back in the day, Sharon, you will remember this, I was thinking about you and me this week when I was putting this together. Honey, remember on New Year's Eve from the time we were little kids? On New Year's Eve, my mom, we all spent it together. Most of you do not know who Guy Lombardo is. He was a band guy back in the day, and he had a New Year's Eve thing that brought you up to midnight. In our family, it was a tradition. My mom would buy one of these 1000-piece picture puzzles, and she would start after dinner, and there would be a card table there, and I was just a little guy. I did not, and she would stay up all night long. I remember, Sharon, I know you remember too, I would watch her for a little while, and she would be putting that puzzle together, and my little heavy, tired eyes would close, and I would fall asleep on the couch. The next morning when I would wake up, I might make it to midnight. Midnight was a big thing because in our neighborhood, we all went out and beat pots and pans. We ruined more pots and pans than you could ever do. We would get pots and pans, go out, and we would beat on the pots and pans, and everybody around, people would be shooting their guns off, but we just beat on pots and pans, "Happy New Year!" Then my little eyes would get heavy after that, and I would wake up every morning on New Year's Day, that puzzle would be completely together.

I do not have the patience for that. It is not me. I really, and this is probably, there are a lot of things I do not get, and maybe it is just me, but I do not see spending eight or nine hours putting together something that the picture of it is on the box. But that is me.

One time before my mom passed away, I asked her, "Mom," I said, "my fondest memory is watching you put that puzzle together," and I said, "I never really asked you this, but that to me looks like one of the hardest things that anybody could ever do." She said, "Well, not really. There is a system to it." I said, "Well, what is the system?" She said, "Well, what you do is when you dump all the pieces out, you separate them, and you get all the pieces that are the corner pieces." She says, "What you do is you frame the corners with all the flat pieces. Then once you have that all done, then it is a lot easier because then you take the pieces and you work from the framework in." She said, "Then it gets much easier because as you begin to do that, you begin to see the picture emerge so you can pick the pieces based on how it fits into the picture. And before you know it, the puzzle is done."

I do not think I understood that at the time, but years later when I began to get in my own Bible, I realized that is exactly how you put the Bible together. What we do here through God's

systematic theology, the CEVN series, we build the framework. What we do here first and everything we do is we build the framework. We do it in Bible Institute. We do it in people ministry. We do it on Thursday night. As you get the pieces of the framework in the Bible together, and remember now, the Bible is like that picture puzzle. It represents a picture. On the puzzle, it may be a waterfall or a dog or somebody hunting ducks or whatever, but for you and for me with the Bible, the picture is what God is doing. The more pieces you put into that picture, the clearer the picture becomes of what God is doing.

I learned a great lesson with that, and I bring that to you. I mean, I do not know how you look at it. Sometimes we lose sight of this and all that goes on, but I could have went everywhere, anywhere in the country. God could have sent me in 1976 when I moved out here. Why did He bring me here? Well, I can safely answer that for you, and you can all take it for what it is worth. He brought me here for you. That was my commitment to you. Now what is your commitment back? The end result when we have that dual commitment is you get the Word of God together.

That is the Bible. You start with a framework, and then you build it once you get the framework in, and you start working from the framework inward, putting the pieces together, and as the picture becomes more obvious, then it goes together quickly. Along with that, last week and this week and weeks to come, I want to show you the process of how you do that. I just do not want to lay it out there and give you a sermon that you go, "Wow, that was really neat." I want to show you the process that you yourself can get to the place that you do that. I want to show you the process so you can learn how to develop it yourself.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus, and we do love You. We thank You for the folks that are here today downstairs, upstairs, and on the YouTube. We just pray that You will let this message be a blessing to them. I love them, Lord. I thank You for putting us all together, and I thank You for the friends that I have here in the Word of God and friends that love the book and people who want to learn and grow and who are faithful and loyal to the work here in the ministry, and, Lord, that they have their life commitment here. Lord, I thank You for that. Lord, I just pray, Father, that together we will make our life commitment to You through the Word of God together. In Jesus' name, we ask it. Amen.

Now, I want to give you today a workable path to follow. This is going to be a fun day today. Nothing really going to be harsh. I am not going to be mean to anybody. Kind of. But I want you to, in our text today, John says that I saw the Spirit descending on Him as a dove. Most people read that, and they really do not know what to do with it. They think it is a symbolism of something and all that stuff.

I want to lay out one of the greatest studies that you are ever going to take. I do not know what you know about the Bible. If you have been around here and hooked up to my chariot for any length of time, you know that animals and birds in the Bible, in particular, doves, form an incredible study, and it will unlock so much of the Bible.

Fundamentally, let me say this. We know from the book of Leviticus that birds in the Bible will fall into two categories: clean and unclean. There is a reason for that that we do not have time to get into today, but I will take it just a half a step further and will not even develop this, but so do

God's people. God's people, just like the birds in the Bible, you find some that are clean and some that are unclean.

When it comes to the devil and his demonic horde, he will be likened to the unclean birds. Revelation 18:1-2 says:

Revelation 18:1

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

Revelation 18:2

And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

There is a place where the unclean spirit, the demon, devils as we know them, are likened to birds. You will find it again in Matthew 13:19. You will find it again in Ezekiel 31:6. You will also find it again in Isaiah 34:10. In fact, it is all through the Bible.

The second thing, you are going to find in Deuteronomy 32:11, and then again in Isaiah 40:31, and then in Revelation 12:14, that God the Father is pictured as an eagle. He is pictured as an eagle that is soaring high above, and a study of eagles are incredible themselves as a type of God, incredible. But here in these passages, He is watching over the nation of Israel like a mother eagle fluttering her wings over her young.

The third thing, and here in John 1, the Holy Spirit of God is likened to a dove. For just a second here, if you do not want to turn to it, you can just write it down and look it up later, but Job 12:7-10 is a great key to all this.

Job 12:7

But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:

Job 12:8

Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.

Job 12:9

Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?

Job 12:10

In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

You see that? That tells us that beasts, fowls of the earth, and fish will teach us something in the Bible. That means that everything you find them in there, you need to stop and look at it because it is a gateway to a depth of a study. This is why, and we will talk about this next week, this is

why the first men that Jesus picked as apostles were fishermen. God's hand teaches us in all of these things, "the hand of the LORD hath wrought this." So in the Bible, when you come across the animals, it says they shall teach thee, and they are going to tell you something, Job 12:7.

Today I just want to stay with our text and I want to talk to you about the dove as a type of the Holy Spirit of God and how that will teach us. We are going down deep today. You are not going to be wading along the shore. You are not going to be in knee-length or you are not going to even have a scuba diver where you are going around 40 or 50 feet. We are all going to become hard hat divers today, and we are going down deep. I saw this week in 2019 a Victor Vescovo. He got into a bathysphere and descended in the Marianas Trench over there in the Pacific. He set a world record by going down 35,859 feet under the ocean. That is seven miles, a world record. All I can say to that is, "Get out of the way, Vic, because we are going deeper than that."

In our world today, we know from the world standard that the dove is a picture of peace. Of course, that is because of John 1. Originally, Christ with the Holy Spirit of God is called the Prince of Peace. You will find that out in Isaiah 9:6-7.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:7

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

So even though the world does not believe the Bible, they have adopted what is the standard that they just cannot get away from, which is the Word of God. In the world today, the dove is a sign of peace. You will find that we as God's people, when we make our peace with God, Romans 5:1 says:

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

You get the rest of our soul according to the Holy Spirit of God at salvation. Like we saw last week, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit becomes our rest. In the Old Testament, not that the believer is the point, but in the Old Testament, this was the rest that God wanted to give to Israel, which was the millennium. Israel never got it in the millennium, Hebrews 4:9 says:

Hebrews 4:9

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

But she is going to get it when Christ comes back. The rest in the Bible will always go back to the Holy Spirit of God, and that is so key for you to understand.

V. The Dove in Song of Solomon: Relationship with Christ

Allow me to show you how you use pictures and types to illustrate truth in our lives of what we should be. You have heard me say many times that we need to become more like Christ every day of our lives, getting His mind. For just a few moments here, let me take you on a journey through the Word of God and God's mind, and maybe out of this something will spark you. I want to talk to you about the dove. Let me talk to you about our relationship first with Christ. Let us start with that before we get into something really, really, really deep, not that this is not deep.

The book of Song of Solomon. There is no other book in the Bible that will show us what we should be with Him more than the book of Song of Solomon. I am going to say this, and probably 99% of people out there will not agree with it, but it does not really matter. It is true anyhow. Most of God's people today who claim to have a relationship with Christ that is a really working relationship is based on bad information.

It goes along like the book of 1 John, where every preacher out there will tell you that the theme of 1 John is the word "love." So we take from that that we love God. But we know from our Bibles that the real theme of 1 John is not love, never has been love. I think it is 27 times in five little chapters the key word is "to know."

This is what we do as God's people today. Listen to me very carefully. This is not a criticism. Listen to me very carefully. We try to love God before we know God. That is where most Christians are at today. Your love is based on your love for, like, your dog. Now I know we all love our dogs, and I am a dog lover, but how in the world, I mean, you love the dog because they look cute, they dice it out, they are good, they snuggle with you and all that stuff. But how do you have a love with a dog that cannot talk to you? Your dog does not understand anything about you but what you conditioned him to do.

Go home and put the test to it. You have got a dog, a Lab, a Doberman, whatever your dog is. Sharon has got Dobermans. I have got a Lab, and we have got a Border Collie who thinks she is a human being. But I have done this test before. I will come in the basement, and Daisy is laying on the couch, and she has got a little stub of a tail. She had to get it cut off because she got gangrene in it. I know you did not need to know that. That little stub is flubbing on the thing there, and she is looking at me, and you can see it in her eyes. If you do not give her enough attention, she barks at you. Then you have got to go over and hold her and snug her a little bit. But she is conditioned because I could go down there and I could say, "Daisy, I am going to take a ball bat, and I am going to beat your brains out. I am going to break both your legs, all four of them. And I am going to beat you senseless with a big ball bat, and I am going to throw you out in the street and let the garbage truck run over you. What do you think of that?" Those tails just wag. She looks. I could say, "Daisy, I love you. You are the greatest." Tail between her legs. Cows down. She has no understanding. You have conditioned them. You know what the work done with most of God's people? It has conditioned you to have a love for God that is not real. That is 20th-century legacy in Christianity.

I am just going to show you here. When you look at the book of Song of Solomon, there are three vital aspects to this book:

1. It completely explains how Christ looks at me. So now I understand how God sees me. So I do not worry about losing my salvation. I do not worry about going through my life thinking that God is standing around a corner there waiting for me to screw up and going to say, "Okay, cancer!" I understand how He looks at me. I understand what He thinks about me.
2. It shows me how I should look at what I should think about Him. Now that, if my relationship, forget you, if my relationship is not based solely on understanding of those two things, then I really have no relationship. I am like Daisy. The world has conditioned me. Nobody has conditioned me.
3. Once I understand those two, it is how I should see and understand the Christian world and the world in general around me.

Now watch this. Look at Song of Solomon 1:15. Here we have Christ talking to the bride, me. He says in Song of Solomon 1:15:

Song of Solomon 1:15

Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes.

There it is. There is the dove. Now that sounds like a romantic thing to say to the love of your life. That is all the farther that most of God's people can ever take it. It is a poetic view of the church, the bride of Christ. You will probably find something like that in your notes of your study Bible that you bought, that you wasted your money on because the best study Bible is your own. But doctrinally, it is much more than that.

Now we flip over to Song of Solomon 5. In Song of Solomon 5, we have the bride, me, based on what I have learned about my relationship with Christ, the love of my life, me and Christ. Now I say some things about Him. Let me pause here for just a second and say this, and I jumped on this a little bit Thursday night. There is a great pretense in Christianity today. I am telling you, take it for what it is worth. You will never love God the right way. You will never know God the right way. Or you will have a right relationship with God until you understand and apply the book of Song of Solomon. It is God's love letter to you. It is God telling you what He thinks of you, but then allowing us to see how we should think and say it to Him.

It is like, how can you have a relationship with—I said this Thursday night—how can you have a relationship with somebody if they write you love letters and you never read them? Now you just get together and go out to eat, and what do you talk about? "How is your job going, this or that?" There is no intimacy to it. Thursday night somebody asked a question, "What are the seven things that pleases God?" Yet when we answered that, we could go on and we find in the Bible that there are seven things that God loves. Then we go on in the Bible and find out that there are seven things that God hates. If you want to go a little bit farther in the systematic theology, it talks about the seven things they rejoice about in heaven.

I do not mean to bust your bubble, it is not the Super Bowl. It is not, "Did you win the lottery?" It is not about you got a new car. I am not saying those things are not important. The winning

lottery certainly is, especially if you believe in tithing, I am all for it. But anyway, you see that we are pretenders. We are like my little baby doll Daisy, the world has conditioned you into reflexes that you call love for God. Yet the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 8:3:

1 Corinthians 8:3

But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

Hey look, this is not a criticism to anybody, and I am certainly not trying to beat you up today. I am just trying to show you something. You have to make up your own mind. I have nobody in mind when I am saying this. I am just teaching it across the board trying to show you how this dove concept will work into your life. Listen, you cannot have an honest, real relationship with anybody, let alone Christ, without really knowing these four things about them:

- What pleases them?
- What they love,
- What they hate, and
- What really makes them happy.

Try to have a marriage and a relationship with anybody without doing those. Yet at the same time, this is the pretense. Everybody here would say amen to that when it comes to your wife or your husband, but you are silent when it comes to God. Yet God's people could not give you a clue. They do not know. These things form the basis for an intimacy in a relationship, a sensitivity. This is what is missing in relationship with God.

Now, having said that, look at Song of Solomon 5:9-16. Here we describe Christ as we know Him and love Him, or we should, based on 1 John and knowing Him. Here is what he says:

Song of Solomon 5:9

What is thy beloved more than another beloved, O thou fairest among women? what is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou dost so charge us?

Song of Solomon 5:10

My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.

Song of Solomon 5:11

His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy, and black as a raven.

Song of Solomon 5:12

His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set.

Song of Solomon 5:13

His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.

Song of Solomon 5:14

His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires.

Song of Solomon 5:15

His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.

Song of Solomon 5:16

His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

Now, you see, this brings up the question for all of us. Do we really have a relationship with Him? Are we conditioned by what we have been taught, believe, and that the world and Christianity has given it? Do you really know Him? That is the key.

In the verse here that I just read, there are seven things about Him as they apply to you and to me. Tell me, O spiritual one, define each of one of these for me because each one of them means something in my relationship as I look at Him. Let me ask you a question in Song of Solomon 5:10. "White and ruddy," what does that mean? That is two opposites. White is different than ruddy, but yet He is white and ruddy. Song of Solomon 5:11 says His head is fine gold, but His locks as black as a raven. That is two different things too, two extremes. Song of Solomon 5:13 says "cheeks bed of spices." Song of Solomon 5:14 says about His hands and His belly. Song of Solomon 5:15 talks about His legs being like marble. Song of Solomon 5:16 talks about His mouth. What are those to you and to me? Each one of those means something.

If we would just take that and put it into a world's compology, and we would take His head and His cheeks and make Him a bed of spices and His hair like a raven and come down and have two legs like pillars of marble, it would be a monstrosity. But that is not what it is talking about because each one of these represents something that you and I should know because we love Him so much and we know Him so much that this is how we see Him.

Now look back to Song of Solomon 5:12. I left this one out on purpose to come back to it. "His eyes are the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters washed with milk and fitly set." You see? His eyes are the eyes of dove. We are to have the eyes of dove. That simply means that in my relationship with Him, in your relationship with Him, we should see everything through the eyes of the Holy Spirit of God. We have the same 20-20 vision. Seeing as God sees, not as we see. Seeing as God sees instead of seeing what we see will produce doing an action the way God wants it done versus just doing it the way we do it. Not as you and I see it, but as God truly sees it.

Am I spiritual? Are you spiritual? Come on big boy, are we spiritual? Are you? Well then, based on your deep abiding relationship with the Son of God, tell me. Why is it in Song of Solomon 1:15 it says "thou hast doves' eyes," but in Song of Solomon 5:12 it says "His eyes are the eyes of the dove"? Why the difference? What is the river of waters? You say, "Well, it is Him crying." Really? Is that all the farther you get with it? What does it mean when it says "washed with

milk"? What does that mean? Is it skim milk, whole milk? Half and half? Oh, here is one I love. What does it mean when it says that His eyes are "fitly set"? God's people today have no clue.

The deception of God's people today is simply, simply, simply, simply, simply: you have been conditioned, I have been conditioned, to love Him based on not what the Bible says out of Song of Solomon, but what everybody has told us it should be. You got your picture of the crucifixion from your Easter messages from your pastor out of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, but you never saw the price that was really paid in Job 30, Isaiah, the book of Psalms that really made it personal to you. Your love for God, my love for God, is simply based on my understanding without ever knowing Him. When you love somebody without knowing them, you fall in love with them, but then a short time later, when something better comes along, you fall out of love with them. Do not kid me, man.

VI. The Dove in Genesis 15: Sacrifice and Sealing

I will show you another one. Come back to Genesis 15. This came up a couple of weeks ago in Bible study, but not everybody was here, and people out there, I will go through it again. Here is a good one. Let me show you how this works for you with the dove. Read Genesis 15:9-13. This is God speaking to Abraham.

Genesis 15:9

And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

Genesis 15:10

And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.

Genesis 15:11

And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

Genesis 15:12

And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.

Genesis 15:13

And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

That is talking about going down to Egypt, by the way. Now in this chapter, this is where God takes Abraham out and shows him the stars, and Abraham believes God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. Then Abraham is told to make a sacrifice, and I want you to see this. He is told to take a heifer three years, a she-goat three years, and a ram three years, but a dove and a young pigeon. I will just stop here and ask you, O wonderful one in the Bible, why does a heifer

three years, the she-goat three years, and a ram three years, but when it comes to the dove and the pigeon, there is no age requirement? Do you catch things like that? I mean, that is a significant thing.

In this sacrifice, he divides, cuts up, the heifer, the goat, and the ram. But the dove and the pigeon, he is told not to divide or cut up. Here is a picture in an Old Testament, long before the events ever take place, that shows you how God never violates His own principles, and how accurate the Bible is. I want to tell you, we have not went to one Greek concept yet. I left my Greek lexicon at home and my Hebrew lexicon at home, so I am going to have to just trust my Bible this morning. We have not went anywhere outside the Bible. You do not need to either.

Here is how accurate your Bible is and how God never violates His own Word or His own principles. The heifer, the goat, the ram, are all pictures of Christ at the crucifixion. On the cross, Job 30, Matthew 27:46, Job 30:20, Job 30:26-31, shows you that on the cross, God divided Himself. He separated Himself from Christ on the cross. So now you have in an Old Testament story a picture of the New Testament principle, that on the cross, a ram represents Christ, a goat represents Christ, and a heifer represents Christ. When He cut them up, He separated the pieces. It was a picture of the sacrifice that Christ made from the sixth and the ninth hour when He was set apart and sanctified, and God turned His back on Him. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Ah, but the birds. The birds are not divided because they are a picture of the Holy Spirit of God, and Christ, though He was separated from God on the cross, He was never separated from the Holy Spirit of God. Hence, "into thy hands I commend my spirit."

You know what the great picture is for me and for you? Come on now, let us dig down deep. Adjust your oxygen, do not get too much nitrate in there, you will blow up like a bubble. Go up so fast to get the bends, stay down deep. We found that, now let us just take it one step further, apply it to you and me. You see, I may get separated from God because I get out of fellowship with God based on sin, and I get separated from Him from my fellowship, but no matter how bad I get, I will never get separated from the Holy Spirit of God because I have been sealed unto the day of redemption. See that thing? Ephesians 1:13 says:

Ephesians 1:13

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

See that? No Greek, no Hebrew, just a King James 1611 Authorized Version. This shows you how the Bible uses doves. One place it shows you in the Song of Solomon how we are going to look at everything as Christ sees them through the Holy Spirit of God. Here we see the great picture of the crucifixion, how that the sacrificial animals were divided and separated out in pieces, but not the birds because Christ was separated from God on a cross, but never separated from the Holy Spirit of God. What a great fundamental inspirational picture for those of you who are afraid of death that you can lose your salvation. Yes, you may get separated from God

because of sin and lose your fellowship. You will never get separated from the Holy Spirit of God. You are sealed with it.

VII. The Dove in Noah's Ark: A Picture of Biblical History

Let us look at one more here. I could do this all day. Genesis 8:6-12 says this:

Genesis 8:6

And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made:

Genesis 8:7

And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth.

Genesis 8:8

Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground;

Genesis 8:9

But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: and he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark.

Genesis 8:10

And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark;

Genesis 8:11

And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth.

Genesis 8:12

And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more.

I will be honest with you, what is the point? Why do I need to know all that? Just tell me. Sent the blackbird out, it did not come back, the dove came back a few times, and then you knew the water was going down. There is more here than that.

This is an example of how you use words and you use a story. You start with understanding that God put every word in here for a purpose and a reason. You start that everywhere in your Bible with whatever you read. There is no "oh ho hum" with God. There is no, when it came to your Bible, "Well, I got some space, what do you want to fill it with?" God has a purpose and a direction and a teaching behind everything He does and says.

Okay, here we go. This story takes place at the end of the flood, Noah's flood. The water begins to recede, that means it goes down, and Noah begins to check to see how far it has gone down. So he goes out of, and in this same chapter in Genesis 8:18, they go out of the ark, the water is all the way down. In this story, you will find Noah uses two birds. We already know from the book of Job that birds will show us something. I already showed you that there are unclean birds and there are clean birds. Here we have got one of each. The raven is an unclean bird, and the dove is a clean bird. One is a type of the devil, the black raven; the other one is a type of the Holy Spirit of God.

What you have here in this incredible story, if you are a Bible student, if you are learning and adopting and pulling these things together like my mom used to do with that picture puzzle, letting me and our relationship build the framework for you through Bible Institute, through people ministry, through our one-on-one time together, through the discipleship and all the investment that people put into your life. Through this story, what you have here is an incredible picture of the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Some book you have got in your lap today. Again, no Greek, no Hebrew.

For me, when God would show me something like this or I would learn it, and I probably saw this, what, 20 some, 30 years ago, maybe longer than that. When God would show me something as I was really, really, really trying to put it all together, it just would motivate me beyond belief. I just could not stop. I could not put it down. For me, when God would show me something like this, it motivated me to keep digging and realizing that nothing on this planet for over 50 years, almost 50 years now, half a century, nothing on this planet is better and more profitable to me than digging out the gold in His book.

Every time I get on Sunday morning, Thursday night, or any time I am preaching to you, whether it is here, upstairs, or on that thing, my invitation is, "Come and join me. Let me show you how to do that, just like somebody showed me." That is why God sent me here in 1976. He could have put me anywhere. I know some of you get mad at me and you do not like me. Blame God. He is the one who sent me here for you. You are the one who did not want it. I did not have any say in it. If I had had my say, I would be Wheeling, West Virginia. You say, "What is in Wheeling, West Virginia?" I do not know. It is probably better than a neat place. I would be in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Now, that is a neat place. I mean, why Kansas City? When I first came out here, back in '76, I flew in on a Saturday night, and He put me up at where Benjamin Stables used to be. It is all gone now. A lot of you guys worked there in that Cerner place, but that used to be a horse stable up there called Benjamin Stables. There was a big hotel right across the thing there from it. I remember, I got up early in the morning, and I had no idea this. I am thinking, Kansas, and everybody did Kansas City before. I am still thinking there are cowboys and Indians out here. I got up that morning and walked out my little balcony there and made me a little cup of coffee. Lo and behold, right in the back of that thing came a cowboy in a cowboy hat riding his horse down the back. I said, "The cowboy is out here." He was some dude from Benjamin Stables going horseback riding. But God could not have pulled me anywhere. I would like to tell you sometime the process that got me here. But I can cut it all down to this, whether you like me

or you do not like me or you care about what I preach or not, He got me here for you. You are stuck with that fact.

Now the storyline here, there are 10 things I want you to see. We will go through them quick. First of all, you have got Noah. He will be a type of God the Father. You have got the raven. He is a type of the devil. You have got the dove who will be a type of the Holy Spirit of God. Here we go. Take a big deep breath, turn up your nitrate, your oxygen. We are going down way beyond 35,000 feet.

Genesis 8:6 says, "And it came to pass at the end of 40 days that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made." I do not know what you know about the Bible, but that ark is a type of two things. That ark is a type of the universe, and it is also a type of Christ. You see, when Noah went in there, there was salvation in that ark. That ark was a type of Christ. The way you got in that ark, where you got in Christ, was the door in the side. When Christ was on the cross, the way you got in and what killed Him was the Roman soldier put the spear in the side. So there is a hole in the side of that ark just like there was a hole in the side of Christ. That is how you got in. There are three levels of that ark: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. But when you take that and put it into the concept of the universe, there are three heavens. Paul was caught up to the third heaven. Which one are you going to?

When you get over in Song of Solomon 2:9, Genesis 8:2, 1 Kings 7:19, you will find that up there in the universe there are windows. There is also a door, John 10. So you have got windows in the universe up there, literal windows. Now I do not know how to explain that. I know what a window is. Somebody said, "Well, do you think it is really a window as we think of windows?" Well, it is called a window. In Song of Solomon, Christ is looking through it at you. That is a good one. He loves you so much. He cannot wait to be with you so much that right now before the rapture of the church—and you say, "Well, I do not believe the rapture anymore." That is good for you because you do not want to go in it anyhow with that attitude. But He is looking through that window just catching a glimpse of every one of us.

You see, the Chiefs' guys do not play today, and somebody will make a touchdown, or somebody out there will kick a field goal. God could care less. Do you think God is looking down, watching a ball game and saying, "Come on now, come on, give him a little extra power, let him get that through the uprights. Come on, they are chasing him around out there, letting him fling that ball, giving him that"? He will give you the honor and glory for it. You are kidding me. I will tell you what He is doing. He is looking, getting a glimpse of every one of you. He is looking at you. He cannot wait to be with you. Maybe it is just me, but I think we ought to return the favor. We studied the universe in Bible Institute in Hebrews 8 and 9, remember? I laid that whole thing out for you as a pattern. You should have these things right now. We have the cast of characters, and then we have the ark as a type of the universe here.

Then look at Genesis 8:7: "And he sent forth a raven which went forth to and fro until the waters were dried up from off the earth." Genesis 8:6-7 will be a picture of the time in your Bible of Genesis 1:1, and the devil, typified by the black raven, leaves the presence of God, Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14, and never returns. He never comes back to God. I am sorry, Origen, who in your

messed up theology taught that someday God and the devil will be put back together again, but you did not know your Bible very well. He may get out in the Greek and the Hebrew too much. He is not coming back.

I want you to notice, and this is how you put it together, I want you to notice here that it says he does not come back until the waters are dried up. For a Bible student, you will note that the devil gets his end in Revelation 20:10. He gets dumped into the lake of fire in Revelation 20. In Revelation 21:1, it says that when God comes down right after that and renovates the earth with fire in the great first and second heaven, it says clearly after that in Revelation 21:1, when the devil goes into his final abode in the lake of fire, "there was no more sea." The water is gone, just like here. You have got to catch things like that.

For the obedient Bible student, again in Genesis 8:7, the phrase "to and fro," that is a great key because when you go in Job 1:7 and Job 2:2, and the Lord asked the devil where you have been, you know what he tells God? He said:

Job 1:7

From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Job 2:2

From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Key words. Key words and phrases in the Bible.

Then look at Genesis 8:8. Also at the same time, he sent forth a dove. We know that is a type of the Holy Spirit of God for himself. Genesis 8:9 says:

Genesis 8:9

But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: and he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark.

That will be a picture starting in Genesis 1:2 and actually going all the way up to, through Adam and through the beginning of the law of Moses. You will find in Genesis 1:3 that the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Genesis 1:4-5 divided the light from the darkness, but to find that there was no rest for that Holy Spirit of God. So it goes back to God. That will represent from Genesis 1:2 up to, through Adam, the patriarchs up to Moses.

The thing I want you to see in Genesis 8:10 and also Genesis 8:12, he waits seven days between sending this dove out. Somebody says, "Well, why is that?" The key to that is in 2 Peter 3:8 where it says:

2 Peter 3:8

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

He is showing you there that the plan of God is going to run from Genesis to Revelation seven thousand years. No Greek, no Hebrew, just manna God dropped around my tent, some gathered more, some gathered less. You would have done better to pick it up instead of trampling under your feet that morning, but some gathered more and some gathered less.

Now look at Genesis 8:10-11. Then in Genesis 8:10, after seven days, he sends the dove back out again. But a dove came into him in the evening, and lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off. So Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth. This will show us Israel under the law up to the captivity, that time period. How do you get that? Because of a couple of key words, three as a matter of fact. Because the Bible unfolds itself around key words. When you have the key words of the Bible, it opens up the chapters and the stories.

First of all, in her mouth was an olive branch. That tells me that this is sometime after Moses and the law up to the captivity of 606 BC and is dealing with the nation of Israel because in the Bible, Revelation 9, Revelation 11, Israel is an olive branch off the olive tree. So this dove comes back with an olive branch in her mouth. Picture now the Holy Spirit of God dealing with the nation of Israel.

Your second key word would be "plucked off." You would not think that that is much of a word to open up your Bible, would it? But when you go to Jeremiah 12:15, Jeremiah 31:40, Zechariah 3:2, and Luke 17:6, you will find that that is always a reference of God dealing with the nation of Israel. He plucked them out.

The other key word will be the word "evening." You will notice it has not been used before this time in our story, but now it suddenly pops up with the plucking and the olive branch because we are now dealing with the nation of Israel and the Holy Spirit of God establishing Israel when they come out of Egypt as the olive branch off the true olive tree that later on got plucked off and we got grafted in, Romans 9 and Romans 11, and now we are dealing with the Holy Spirit of God establishing the nation of Israel when He starts that He begins their day. Here it comes in the evening.

How hard is that? Are you telling me that anybody in this room cannot put those little things together? Some gathered more, some gathered less. Deep, man. Do not you just love that book God gave you? I will tell you what, when I got into that and started seeing these things, I could not put it down. I told you it has been almost 50 years. I can guarantee you 40 of that has been a search and destroy mission. What do you mean by that? Searching that book and destroying everything in my life that would keep me from getting it. It comes down to the words, folks. It comes down to you getting into a church that believes the Bible, that teaches the Bible, linking up your chariot with a man who knows a little bit about the Bible, and then let the Holy Spirit of God walk us through that thing, and then everybody gets to define themselves. Some gathered more, some less. Where are you at? Do you love Him, or have you just got that mindset that you have been conditioned like my little baby girl, Daisy? Now I am going to talk about her, and actually she is probably watching this one. I have to go home and love her up a little bit. Deep, man. 35,890 feet. You do not have a clue, man. We are going down a lot deeper than that.

But again, Genesis 8:11, the dove came back again, and he waits another seven days. Ah, Genesis 8:12. Here we go. Do not miss this. "And he stayed yet another seven days and sent forth the dove," type of the Holy Spirit of God, "which returned not again unto him anymore." Ah, the dove, type of the Holy Spirit of God, finally found a place to rest. In this timeline will be the church age, you and me. What? 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says:

1 Corinthians 6:19

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

1 Corinthians 6:20

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

The Holy Spirit of God and the church age finally found a rest. It is in you. Sealing you. Where the Holy Spirit of God now dwells in the New Testament believer and has found rest in us with Christ. We have a song in there, "Our Haven of Rest." "Anchored my soul." "The Haven of Rest." The Holy Spirit of God finally found a place to rest in the church age.

VIII. Conclusion: The Importance of God's Word and the Local Church

That is how the Bible will lay itself out. One of the key verses you will need to have and know and begin to understand is Romans 1:20 where it says:

Romans 1:20

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Everything that God made in His creation is a picture of something in the Word of God. When you put the picture puzzle together, starting with the framework, and then going from the outside in, the picture will emerge, and someday, I certainly do not have all the pieces put in my picture. But I have got just enough to see most of the picture. That is what God wants to do for you.

Come on. Why are you so against allowing that Holy Spirit of God? You are already better than me and nine other older preachers around this country. You are already smarter, stronger. You have better retention in your mind. Why are you so adverse to just getting settled into a church and gleaning out of somebody what God has given them for almost a half a century? You think there is no value in that? It is because we have this diluted mindset that the world has conditioned us that we love God, but it is in our own definitions. Certainly not now as we have been through this out of the Song of Solomon. God's people, for the most part, probably some of you here who did, but for the most part across the board of Christianity, God's people could not lay those things out of what pleases Him, what He loves, and what He hates. Yet they would

stand up and just rip you a new one because of the fact that you would even say that they do not really love God. But when it comes to the book, that is why they do not ever get into the book with somebody. That is why they do not want to sit down and deal with issues in the Bible. The Bible reveals who they really are.

Remember this, it is always easier to leave a church than it is to stay and fix your problems. But that is no solution. If the book is good enough to save you, then the book is good enough to fix all of our problems. Amen? Amen. The book, human nature. I have got a quote here I want to read you. Somebody said this one time, it was a very wise man: "Real Christianity is never by the example of our power, but rather will be by the power of our example." That is where we are at. It is not about what we say. It is about when push comes to shove, does the Bible carry you through?

Two areas that God's program, the local church, will do for you:

4. If you come into this church and you are unsaved, you can get saved here, and you can become one with Christ at the point of your salvation.
5. If you are already saved and you come to this church, then you become one with the Word of God through your spiritual growth.

It is just that simple. In both cases, it has to be God's way and not our way. I have never understood, well, maybe I do, I have never really understood the mindset that we think that we can solve problems in our lives with the same thinking that caused those problems. We always talk about New Year's that we make New Year's resolutions. For most of God's people, you do not need a New Year's resolution. You need a New Year's revolution. You need to throw off who is sitting on the throne and put Christ back on it. It comes simply down to the place of the reality of the honesty. "Hey, I am not where I need to be. Today really showed me I am saved. I am on my way to heaven, but my whole concept of loving God is not based on that." If it is not based on that, then it is not based on nothing. You are like Dirty Harry said to that lady one time or that guy, "You are a legend in your own mind."

It comes back to the book and letting that book be everything to you and realizing that whatever you have with Christ has to be based on the Song of Solomon. How He sees you, but most certainly how you see Him. And learning the intimate things of what He loves, what it takes to please Him, what He hates, and what He rejoices over and make those things our things.

We will hold up there. That was deep today, boy. I will tell you that is what that book of John does for you. We are only breaking the ice circles on it. Make sure that you sign up for the New Year's Eve gig, and I will see you Thursday night. Remember, we are going to alternate the questions, and we are looking forward to having a good rest of this time up to Christmas, and in New Year's, we are going to knock the socks off of it, and we will have a great night that night, and it will be a great time. I am really looking forward to it.

Let us pray and we will be dismissed. Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We do love You. Ask Your blessings upon everything that we endeavor to do for You today. We just thank You, Father, for the book You have given us and how it makes it so clear. Lord, it is so

clear that it only leaves one alternative, that we just do not want to do it because there is nothing hard about it. There is nothing complicated about it. It is just simply getting back to that book. We love You. We thank You for all You do for us now. Give us a good rest of the day, good rest of the week. Bring us back Thursday night and let us tell each other how much we love each other today. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name for a sake we ask it. Amen. God bless you. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.