

John 1

Sunday 12/20/2020

Well, if you have your Bibles this morning, I'd like to invite you to turn back to John chapter 1. You remember last week we looked at the Dove in John and saw it in the Bible, how it's descending on Christ in John 1:32-34. We went through what I would consider one of the great studies of the Bible: how the dove is a type of the Holy Spirit of God in the Scriptures. I gave you a couple of other clues on the eagle and birds in general.

I showed you what I think is one of the most revealing verses in the Bible. You're going to find when you come through the Bible, you're going to find verses, good verses, verses that mean something to you personally. But then you're going to find verses that I call revealing verses. In other words, these particular verses will open up many, many things in the Bible. Job 12:7-10, as I gave you last week, is certainly one of those that talks about how God uses animals in the Bible. He talked about, "Ask the beast, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee." He talks about the earth and the fish. Fundamentally, he talks about God's hand all through His creation and how, as Romans 1:19-20 tells us (we looked at this last week), everything in God's creation is not only there for the creation as we know it, but also serves as a model or an example to teach us many things and to show us and to teach us.

I showed you how, by keywords—no Greek, no Hebrew, just keywords—you'll always be able to unlock the Bible, and that is so, so crucial. I showed you how, by keywords, you will always be able to, like I said, find out into the Bible. It's the pathway to the depth of the Bible and getting down deep through, as we talked about last week, God's unsearchable riches.

Now, Deuteronomy 29:29 is a favorite verse of mine; it always has been. I came across it many, many years ago, and it's a great personal verse, not only for me but for all of you if you would choose to claim it. That's where he says:

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

It basically is saying that there are some deep things in there that God doesn't give to everybody, but when He gives them to you and He gives them to me through our relationship with Him—God giving you the deep things of the Bible, the secret things that He will only do, like we talked about last week, that relationship with Him as the book of Song of Solomon so clearly lays out through the intimacy of having a relationship with Him.

I talked last week and I took you through three key places in the Bible that really illustrate what God is doing down through the history of the Bible and showing you incredible things through the picture of a dove. First of all, we went to Song of Solomon, and we talked about the concept of the eyes of a dove or dove's eyes. We simply talked about that means you and I see things as God sees them through the Holy Spirit of God. We'll develop that a little bit more today.

Then I took you to John 15:9-13 and that offering that Abraham made back there. There are a number of things how Christ was separated from God and across, but the birds were never separated—the Holy Spirit of God, He never got separated from that. But more than that, I showed you that's one of those great hidden places in the Bible that fundamentally shows you that you can never lose your salvation. You may get separated from God through fellowship, but you'll never get separated from the Holy Spirit of God in your salvation. It's little things like that that make the Bible the most incredible book the world has ever seen. Little things like that, that even in the most minute details, in the most obscure places in the Old Testament, God will never violate the principles that He has set down in the New Testament. If you can ever grasp that truth, it'll change everything about your life as far as the Word of God is concerned.

Then I took you to Genesis 8:6-12, and there we had a good study of the dove versus the raven. How Noah, a type of God the Father, opened up the window of the ark (typed in the universe) and sent out the raven first; it never came back. And then the dove goes through a process until she finds rest. I showed you how that was a picture from Genesis chapter 1 all the way up through the church age where the Holy Spirit of God finally finds rest in believers. You're going to find there are places like this in the Bible that, I mean, there's so much to that. Yet, I was thinking this morning, there's another place in Matthew chapter 21 that does almost the exact same thing, only it deals with more of the first coming of Christ. It's incredible the way that God, through the stories in the Old Testament, they all follow the line of principles within the New Testament—the picture of what God is doing all down through the Bible and how incredible it really is.

I. The Gospel of John and Soul Winning

Now today, I know you're going to find this hard to believe because we have a lot of verses to go today, but we're going to finish chapter 1. I know we have been edging our way through this, but today we're going to eat the big enchilada, and we're going to get the whole chapter done. But it all fits into the story that I really want to talk about today, and we have another great story here that we want to look at. Now again, this will be deep, but it's deep on a practical side, it's deep on an inspirational side, and there's a little difference between the depth of something that is doctrinally prophetic and something that is in an inspirational application. But it's going down a little ways today.

Now we know from our first lesson that in the book of John, God reveals Christ as the Son of God. We know that each Gospel has its own character quality of Christ: King, Servant, Son. And now in John, the Son of God. We also understand that the book of John, and we saw this the moment we in our first lesson on John, was written specifically for a purpose. In John 20:31, he says this:

John 20:31

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

So now we talked about it, that the Gospel of John was written specifically for a man's salvation to reveal Christ to him so he could be saved. I showed you the contrast between the Gospel of John, which is written to show us our salvation, and the Epistle of First John, which is written after we get saved to show us our relationship through fellowship of knowing Him. The two go hand in hand.

With that understanding, it's no great surprise that after Christ has now been declared in chapter 1, in verse 1, as the Son of God eternally, in verse 29, we now know that He is the Lamb of God, and in verse 29 also, that takes away the sin of the world. We saw in verse 9 how that He is the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. And then we saw in verse 41 that He is the true Christ. So, given those things that we have found out about Him up to this point, it's no great surprise that in the last 17 verses of chapter 1, we have a great study on winning people to Christ.

I know that when it comes to soul winning, everybody's got their ideas about it. I'll be very frank with you, very honestly, most of it today in the Laodicean church period is wrong. I'm talking about people who are saved, people who have the right Bible. Soul winning, as we have learned from our study through Proverbs, is a key part. Proverbs 11:30 says:

Proverbs 11:30

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

When you come through the different aspects of a wise man in Proverbs, obviously, one of them that marks a wise man is that he wins people to Christ. Again, I'm going to say this is winning people to Christ, and I know it's hard to believe this, but you'll see by the time we're done here today, hopefully, you're going to see that it's the most unknown doctrine of the modern-day Laodicean church and Laodicean Christianity. I'm not talking about the neo-evangelicals; I'm talking about Baptists. I'm talking about Baptists who have this Baptist mindset about winning people to Christ, and we'll see it today as we get into the greatest book in the Bible in the New Testament on men being saved, the Gospel of John.

II. Biblical Protocol for Soul Winning

Now, before we dive into this passage, I need to set the stage for a moment by looking at a few other places and laying down the fundamentals of understanding the issues of soul winning from the Bible. Last week, our study on learning your Bible, I told you that you must do it God's way. God has a systematic theology, and I use the example that I have used years and years ago and continue to use about you're going to St. Louis via I-70 or Chung Kong, China. But it doesn't stop there because, like everything else in the Bible, soul winning can't be left to the devices of a Baptist mindset. Soul winning cannot be something that some great preacher claims to be a great soul winner or some Christian who claims that all he really cares about or she cares about is winning people to Christ. That doesn't impress me. Soul winning must follow a biblical protocol too.

When I hear somebody say something that "I'm doing this" or "I want to do this" or "this is what God's called me to do," I don't discount what you're saying, but I will definitely look at how you do it. Because you're either going to do it down I-70, God's way, just like learning your Bible, or you're going to do it through China, which is where most of it is at today. Most of God's people who claim to want to see people saved really don't have a clue of how it really works. It's one of those conceptual things, just like your own salvation. I believe that most people that you're going to talk to that we're all friends with, if you would ask them today, I believe there are a lot of Christians out there who, if I would talk to them, I would actually believe that they are truly saved. But when you ask them what really transpired that changed about them from the millisecond before they were saved from a sinner to being saved, they couldn't tell you. They couldn't tell you the process. They understand it conceptually, and they live their Christian life with just giving no farther than that. So their Christian life, even though they're saved, is pretty much hit or miss. It's whatever works today, and they obviously have issues with soul winning the same way.

A lot of people claim to be soul winners. A lot of God's people want to be soul winners. A lot of God's people, they would tell you that they exist for one purpose, and that is to win people to Christ. That's not a bad thing; that is a good thing. We should be there. My question is, do you even understand the process from the Bible, or are you one of those people who just use the terminology and follow what you think is the protocol, but yet if you had to sit down and lay it out from the Bible, you would be like most Laodicean Christians today, and you would come up short? So they waste their time, they knock on doors, they preach sermons, they pass out tracts, but for the most part, very rarely do they ever see anybody saved. They actually, and this has been fostered by the Baptist mindset, and believe me, I've been in it for 50 years; I've been in it up to my eyeballs, and some of you have too. Terry Job understands what I'm saying, Jim Dareskiewicz understands what I'm saying. You guys that have been out there on your own, you know how it is, man. I mean, there are people out there that actually think the more they do all these things, the better opportunity to get somebody saved. But soul winning is deeper than that.

Like everything in the Bible, we have taken probably the most precious, intimate aspect of our Christian life after we get saved—the intimacy of Christ, to bear fruit—and made it a program. We approach soul winning like we did last week with our relationship with Christ: no real biblical understanding of it. We say we love God, but we couldn't go to the Bible and find out what God loves and what God hates. Actually, if we did, probably the things that God hates are the things that we love, and vice versa. That's why, even in soul winning, and it's true of everything in the Christian life, the problem is there's no real biblical understanding.

III. Soul Winning is Not a Program or a Spiritual Gift

Now I want to talk to you here before we get into this for a few things. First of all, I want to explain to you about soul winning that soul winning is not a program. Most Baptist churches teach that it's a program. Most Christians operate their soul winning venue like it is a program. There are actually preachers out there that will tell you that soul winning is a spirit, one of the spiritual gifts, and not everybody has that spiritual gift. So therefore, that negates people who

maybe think that they don't want to win people to Christ, and so the pastor would tell them or they would tell you that, "Well, that's just not my spiritual gift."

Well, let me tell you something, winning people to Christ is not a spiritual gift. It isn't something that some of you have and others don't. It certainly isn't a program that we can corral into a set of verses or we can put into a book or we can put into some kind of format. Yet I've been grown up in all my Christian life in Baptist churches watching that format and watching that, and some of you were there with me and you've seen it. I remember when we had a Curtis Hudson come and preach years ago, and he got up in the pulpit and said, "If you don't win, I'll show you how to win six of the next ten people you meet to Christ." He was very adamant about it, that there's something wrong with you spiritually if you don't, if you don't win out of the next ten people you meet, you don't win six of them to Christ. He was touted as one of the great, great soul winners, and he would go to churches. I've heard him preach several times over the years; he's dead now, but I've heard him preach, and he was a really good preacher, but everything he preached always came down to winning people to Christ. They would put such hardcore techniques in place.

I talked about John R. Rice. John R. Rice was a great saved man, and I have all the respect in the world for him, and he would talk about the fact that he cared about souls, and he actually preached more biblical soul-winning messages probably than the rest of them. He really did. But he came to the place in his life where the very book that he was telling people that they could get saved from, he didn't believe it was God's Word anymore. Jack Hiles, he's dead now too, he's a great pastor from Hammond, Indiana, and he was known as Mr. Soul Winner. I've heard Jack Hiles preach. Jack Hiles was a great preacher; he was a paratrooper in World War II, I think it was the 82nd Airborne. He was a good, hot, fired-up preacher. But it's one of those things where, and he held, they held their churches every year, 5,000 people would go to the clinics on soul winning, and they would simply teach you sorcery, trickery, how that when you go to the knock on the door and you meet somebody that you went into Christ by even tricking them. Going to the door and knocking on the door and somebody saying, "Would you like to have you get saved?" And the guy says, "Well, I'm not interested in getting saved." And the guy would say, "Well, then could I pray with you?" I mean, and the guy said, "Yeah, you can pray with me." And he said, "Well, you pray with me," and he says, "You pray this," and he would lead that guy through the sinner's prayer, and then after the guy prayed it, he says, "I see you just got saved." Really? Is that how we do it?

I've been there. I've seen all the soul winning conferences. I've seen all the soul winning techniques. I've seen the books and the tapes that people bought by the thousands of dollars with that thought that if you read so-and-so's book on finding a technique to be a great soul winner, you'd win people to Christ. Now I'm not counting them. I'm not, this is not a criticism of those people. I believe in my heart they really, really, really, really wanted to win people to Christ. That's where they bought the stuff. I blame the preachers. I blame the evangelists who took advantage of that and never really taught them anything biblically from the Bible that you don't need a program, you don't need a book other than that one, you don't need some kind of high-pressure technique. I've seen guys knock on a door, witness to somebody that they just beat them senseless and just come at them from every angle to try to get that person saved. Many times, I'm

just telling you, many times that person will just do it so you'll get to get you off their back, and they go their way and you go your way, and you're thinking, "Well, I won another one." No, you didn't. No, you didn't. No, you didn't.

I've learned a long time ago from my father in the Lord, Mel Silbaka, that soul winning, and if you want a practical process, soul winning is nothing more than just one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread. It doesn't get any more complicated than that in its layout, in this format.

IV. The Holy Spirit's Leading in Soul Winning

Now, having said that, we all have been ordained to win people to Christ. It's not a gift for some and not for others. It's not a program that you can choose. The Bible says in John 15:16:

John 15:16

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

That's it. You all have been ordained the day you got saved to bring forth fruit, and in answer to that, then your fruit should remain.

The next thing I want to tell you is that soul winning has to be done by the leading of the Holy Spirit of God in your life. This is where, going back to Song of Solomon, your intimacy, like we talked about last week, it's just like the same thing where if a couple gets married, and through their marriage, through the intimacy of that marriage, in time, if they don't do something to keep that from happening, they're going to bear fruit. It's true in your life and my life. Fruit bearing, winning people to Christ, doesn't come through a program. It doesn't come through some book or what. It comes from a natural process, just like having kids, through an intimate relationship that you have with the Holy Spirit of God that in time will produce fruit.

I don't know of any place that is more under, lay out an understanding of that than Acts chapter 8. To me, and I say this to you, I cannot, and I know this is foreign to many of God's people, but I cannot, I cannot emphasize enough the importance in a believer's life of getting to the point where you can understand how and when the Holy Spirit of God will speak to you. I know the Charismatics get it way out there in left field, and the evangelicals, they're not even in the ball game, but Baptists are the same way. You know what? You can't use your own criteria. I've had people many, many times say, "Well, God's called me to do this, and I know this is what He wants me to do, and I just can't resist myself." I always ask, "How did He call you? Did you get an email? I mean, did they do it on your cell phone? I mean, how did He call you? How do you know it was Him?" When you start to get into that, honestly, I'm sorry to say this, in most cases, it wasn't the Lord. It's something that you wanted to do that you just blamed it on God so you could do it. A lot of churches get started that way.

In Acts chapter 8, we have the wonderful story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. You'll note how the Holy Spirit of God, how He speaks to Philip. Those are things you want to stop and look

at. You just don't want to, you don't, here again, I'm not interested in just preaching to you today. I want to show you within the preaching how you, how you do these things. The first thing I ever saw when I read Acts chapter 8 is I saw, "Hey, here's a man where the Holy Spirit of God is speaking to him, and not only is He speaking to him, but He's guiding Philip to whatever He wants to do, and in this case, win a man to Christ."

When I teach Acts chapter 8 as a process of soul winning, and it's an incredible chapter, I always talk about the fact that God has two aspects that He works with and through.

1. One will be a prepared sinner. God will get in a man and deal with a man or a woman and really deal with where they're at in all of their struggling. He'll take the things in their life that are maybe going south or the things in their life that are the, and just really deal with them on where they're at in an eternal sense. I'm telling you right now, as we're sitting here upstairs, downstairs, out in there, and on the web this morning, there are people that you work with, there are people in your life, there are people that God has put into your life that God is preparing them as sinners.
2. Then the second aspect that you have, that God works with, is not only does He have prepared sinners, but He has prepared servants. That is found nowhere clearer than Acts chapter 8. We have Philip, the prepared servant, and the Ethiopian eunuch, the prepared sinner.

The problem today is God has got more prepared sinners than He's got prepared servants because we don't care about winning people to Christ. We don't have any intimate relationship with Him. Even us that say that we do really don't follow biblical protocol. You're flying by the seat of your pants. You're doing it your way, and then you're giving God the credit for it, and God says, "I don't want anything to do with it. You're on your own, pal." It's a thing where you find it all the time, and right now you ought to be preparing yourself that God can bring the two of you together, just like He did Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch.

The Bible says in Acts 8:26:

Acts 8:26

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

Philip is down in Samaria, and he's having a bonfire revival down there. The Holy Spirit has smacked into the half-Jews and the half-Gentiles, and they're getting saved by the carloads, and he's the primary evangelist. In Acts 8:26, God says to him, the Holy Spirit of God says to him, "Arise and go south and send him down to the desert." In Acts 8:29, it says:

Acts 8:29

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

He says, "Go down there and join thyself to that man's chariot." In Acts 8:39, after he's done the mission that God has called for him to do, God, the Spirit of God, picks him up and takes him to the next adventure. In Acts 8:26, when, and this is a great thing, in Acts 8:26, where the Spirit

says, "Go down to south," the Bible says that Philip ran. See, there has to be through your intimate relationship with God an excitement that God is going to use you. How many of us are going to get up tomorrow morning without excitement excruciatingly flowing through us? We've stayed up too late the night before, ate too much pizza before we went to bed. We're tired, we're groggy, we're grumpy, and we're going to get up tomorrow. We're tired, we're groggy, we're grumpy, and if somebody would walk up to you and say, sing to you, "This is the day the Lord's had made," you'd spew hot water out on them. But yet that's not Philip. Philip is in the middle of a campaign where thousands are coming to Christ, and he's so in touch with the Holy Spirit of God that the Holy Spirit of God can pull him up and send him, and he never questions it, but he runs, man.

Along with that, over in 1 Corinthians chapter 3, it tells us that there are three parts to soul winning. Now I know this is probably strange to all you soul winners out there. My only, my only, my only excuse is this is the Bible. In 1 Corinthians 3:6, he tells us that there are three parts to soul winning. Paul says in that verse:

1 Corinthians 3:6

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

There's somebody else. So Paul says, "You know what? There's three parts to soul winning."

3. There's a sowing to soul winning.
4. There's a watering to soul winning after you sow.
5. Then there comes a time when you reap.

Sometimes you reap when somebody else has sowed and somebody else is watering. Sometimes you get to sow and you get to water and you get to reap. But I'm telling you now, here's the problem with God's people today, and this is where God's people, Christianity, is completely messed up because they have no real working relationship with the Holy Spirit of God. So we wind up sowing when we should be reaping. We try to reap when we should be sowing or just watering. Now we try to watering when we should be reaping. How do we know? How do we get in any given situation and know exactly what we should be doing in one of these three things? You see, most of God's people, you only know one thing: win them, win them, win them, win them, win them.

I have never met a time, and I know we've been in this for, none of us were alive in the Philadelphia church age in this heyday, but I've never seen a time in the history of Christianity where God's people have been so indifferent to the Holy Spirit of God leading in their life. For some reason, the majority of God's people just think they know more about life, their family, their kids, their own personal deal than God's Word does, and then wonder why we get into the messes we get into, wonder why we have the problems that we have. How do you know when to do what? I'm sitting down with somebody and talking to somebody, and how do I know when I am to just sow and then later water, or how do I know that somebody else has sowed and is watering, and now it's my turn to reap? How do you know that? Well, you know that just like Philip did. You know that through your personal, intimate, and I can't express, express the word

intimacy, with the Holy Spirit of God. You develop that relationship that we talked about in the book of Song of Solomon, and He tells you exactly what to do, just like He did with Philip in Acts chapter 8. You'll get into that situation, and you'll be talking and witnessing to somebody, and just like somebody would say something to me, the Lord's, through the Spirit of God inside you, will say, "That's enough, you're done." And the reason, one of the reasons you know that is because you can feel, here again, you can feel the Spirit of God working through you, and then suddenly He just shuts it off, just like turning the water spigot off. If you know Bible, you know the way God works, and you know the principles involved, to me that's a sign, "Okay, I'm done now." And then there's been times when you'll witness to somebody, and the Holy Spirit of God will just say, "Keep on going, pal, keep on going." Hey, I even asked myself, "Lord," and I'm talking to this kid, I'm talking to the Lord, "So anytime you want me out of here, just keep going, keep going, you keep going, just keep going." And He says, "I say, 'Well, how do you know?'" He says, "I'm going to open up the spigot even more." There are times you say, "Okay, that's enough." There are times you'll say, "Okay, go for it." There are times you'll say, "Okay, go for it." There are times you'll say, "Hey, Bob, just shut up."

Acts chapter 8 is a great model of how the Holy Spirit of God gets the prepared servant to the prepared sinner and then tells him what to do. You'll notice there are preachers out there that every Sunday morning they give an invitation, and every Sunday morning they'll usually preach a soul-winning message, and every Sunday morning they'll give an invitation. I've had people that come to this church that said, "Well, how come you don't give an invitation every Sunday morning?" And I'll be very honest with them, "You know what? Because God doesn't tell me to give whatever money. I'm not going to do it because you want me to, and I'm not going to do it because you wasted your life in all these churches where after all the guy knows how to do." Hey, I've been preaching up here, boy, and I'll tell you, I come down into that thing, and God just as clearly as somebody saying something to me said, "Go for it. There's somebody out there that needs it."

Now I have a great benefit that most pastors don't have, and that is you, because the majority of you are really good soul winners, and you have developed yourself with people, and you know, you know, you know that sensitivity. So I don't have to feel the burden that I'm the only one here, and God uses that because there'll be times that I'm preaching, and I know you're with somebody or working with somebody or you got your life into somebody, and you've told me what you're doing with them, and so I don't feel that burden, and God just lets me know that it's going to, you're going to handle it. That's part of us being laborers together: my confidence in you, your confidence in me, and our confidence together in the Holy Spirit of God. I trust you. I trust you to know what you know that you know what you're doing. Hey, man, we've been together now what, 16 years? I've trained most of you from day one or somewhere in the process. Are you kidding me? If there's one thing I do, and I do it well, is that I get to know my people. I know where who's at and who's not, and it's the thing where that's, that's, that's where we're all at.

Now, you know my position. Most people, I believe, claim that claim to be saved in this Christian world are probably not really saved. I'm sure there are plenty of people out there that are saved, but you know as well as I do, the mark of the Laodicean church is to bring salvation

into an easy format. When I say easy, I know salvation is an easy format, but I mean without any doctrine to it. Unsaved people today have no understanding.

I was at the post office last week. I was sending some books out to our lady down there that found a house out of the Bible book. I went into the post office, and I was lucky because nobody was there except one older gentleman, and he was in front of me, and he was over at the counter. So I just sat there, put my box of books there, and waited for him. I was in a little bit of a hurry, and the older I get on with things, the more impatient I get. I can't stand people who go through McDonald's drive-thru, and when they're supposed to move, they're on their phone doing an email or whatever. You'll get the horn for that, you will. Don't try to say, "Well, I'll buy the guy's lunch behind me." I'm still ticked at you. I'd much rather pull over and just give me the money.

But anyway, he's in there, and he's a sweet guy, and it was a morning, and I hadn't had all my coffee yet, so I'm just a little bit grumpy, I'll be honest with you. I was a little bit of a hurry because I had a lot to do, and he's standing there, and he put down something, and then he wants to buy some stamps. In my post office in Raytown, where all the pickup trucks have shotguns in their back windows, where you stand at the counter down in front of the glass case with all the different stamps in it, and he's looking at it, and he says, he's looking at the stamps and everything, and he can't decide which ones he wants. Hey, they're stamps, man. I don't care what it looks like. Does it get my letter to where I wanted to go? Yeah, that's right. If I was really concerned, I would say, "Just a minute, ma'am," and, "Edna, what kind of stamp would you like on your letter?" Get the stamps. And he's down there looking at it, and he says, "I want that one there, those there that's got Jesus on them." He says, "Isn't that Jesus?" He pulls them out, and she says, "Uh, no, it's Sister Sabina or somebody like that." And he says, "Close enough, I'll take them." And I thought, "Well, I was glad that he finally got his stamps," but I thought to myself, "Well, that's just the way the world looks at it. If it's close to Christ, and it's kind of like Christ, his very same word, they're all the same." Sister Sabina or whatever her name was, was the same as Christ in his mind. That's the unsaved world. They'll see something that looks religious, and they'll think it's all the same, and it's not all the same.

God takes a tremendous amount of time to prepare a sinner. Why won't you allow Him to take that same time to prepare you as a servant? Because there are a lot of guys out there and a lot of women out there just like that dear old guy who just, and I was going to witness to him and tell him that there was a difference, but by the time I got my stuff done, he was long gone, probably off, couldn't wait to get those letters out. I'd say people have no understanding, but worse than that is God's people have no understanding, and where an unsaved person, we could do it through ignorance, we do it through indifference.

V. Seven Principles of Soul Winning from John 1

Now with that groundwork, let's look at the text today, and I want to show you seven things. Now that we understand the basis, I want to show you seven things about winning people to Christ from the book that God gave us to get men saved, the Gospel of John. Yet I just don't want to preach to you or give this to you. I want to show you. I want you to, I want you to look at how you do this.

Now he says in chapter one, pick up in verse 35 to the end of the chapter. Just do a little test. Just jot down there in your notes, just if you see something you think that I'm going to come back to. Let's do a little test today. If you see, if you see, if I read down through this, if you think something, "Well, he's going to hit on that, he's going to, he's going to mark it," just write it down, and you can grade yourself at the end. I don't need to know the score. Let's just see what we can do here. I mean, let's have some fun. It's Christmas a couple days from now. Jesus was born a little stable. The three wise guys showed up, and the star was overhead. The Roman guy, he didn't like it and tried to get him killed and all that stuff. This is not in the Bible, but this is the reason for the season. Too bad in September, we'd be a little more accurate on the thing.

John 1:35-51

Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

Nathanael answered and said unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these.

And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

Father, we do thank you now and praise you for today. We pray that we'll learn today not only the biblical format and protocol of winning people to Christ, but also how that we can come to the scriptures and that you'll give us the deep things to show us today how do we look for things. So as we go to a passage, what do we ask ourselves? What do, how do we approach? Do we just read it like we're reading the newspaper, or do we read it with an interest to try to see everything that's being said and then asking why? Help us today, Lord. We love you. We give this time to you now in Jesus' name's sake we ask it. Amen.

Well, I hope you took your little test here. Let's just have a little fun here today, and again, follow along on how you detail out any passage of the Bible by simply remembering a few things of knowing what to look for. Now there are a number of things here that we want to look at, seven in fact. So I don't know how many you got, but this kind of walked down through.

- 1.) The Calling of the Apostles
- 2.) Fishing for Men: Parallels
- 3.) Using Different Lures or Bait
- 4.) Christ's First Two Statements: "Come and See" and "Follow Me"
- 5.) Evangelizing Your Family First
- 6.) God Sees the Heart
- 7.) Bringing People to Jesus