

I. The Gospel in the Old Testament and Biblical Discipline

I ran you back to a number of places in the Old Testament that shows you how the Gospel, which is defined in 1 Corinthians 15, is pictured in type all through the Old Testament. You see that Lamb as the Lamb of God as it is in type and as it is in picture. I showed you Isaiah 53 and Job 30. Thursday night, Aaron asked a question about how John would have known that. I showed you in 1 Peter 1 how the Bible tells us that in the Old Testament two events were prophesied. One of them was the suffering of Christ and then the glory. Suffering being the first coming, the glory being the second. But because the nation of Israel had rejected, they could not see it. So God put those two events together. Sometimes He reversed them to be a stumbling block to them because they allowed the Word of God in the Old Testament to be a stumbling block to them.

Last week, we talked about, in particular, we focused on that Gospel picture found in Exodus 12. I do not know of any greater place in the Bible where it is so prominently pictured. The Passover Lamb of Exodus 12, where the nation of Israel now begets their new beginning in the starting of the year from the Feast of Tabernacles. Christ today, as the Bible says, He is our Passover Lamb. I showed you ten parallels between the Lamb of Exodus and the Lamb of God in John 1.

I talk about this all the time, and I try to do it to encourage you, to motivate you, to get you fired up about the depth of the Word of God. That is really where it is at. It is so important for you to know those things in the Bible on that kind of level. A couple of weeks ago, I told you that the doctrinal application was really the spark plug of the Bible. It makes the Bible come alive. You saw that last week how you can take a chapter in the Old Testament, Exodus chapter 12, and everybody believes the Old Testament is so boring. That is why they do not want to read it. But when you put the doctrinal spark plugs into it, it just comes alive like it did for us last week.

No great perception on my part or anybody's part, just simply believing in the Book that God gave us and using those things and learning how to use that application to open up the Bible. It is not really hard. I told you years and years and years and years and years ago, when I first got saved and I heard Dr. Ruckman preach this message, I marveled at that ability. I thought that that was going to be the hardest thing for me to ever do. I look back on it now, almost fifty years, and I would tell you now that it was really the easiest thing.

What it comes down to is that it takes a process. Most people love the Bible. Most people will stand up and defend the Bible. But what is the difference between somebody who learns the Bible in depth and somebody that does not and just stays with the surface stuff? It is their discipline in that Bible. That is really the key to unlocking the Scriptures. It has to be a process of biblical discipline that you hold yourself accountable to using and learning the key words, the key chapters, the books themselves, and then building in the Bible through that structure that God intended it to be for us. But it takes a discipline.

You can always find, in my estimation anyhow, someone that is really disciplined in the Bible for the depth that they have. People get saved, and that is all the farther it ever goes. There are some

people that all they ever do with the Bible is salvation. Most preachers are that way. Every message they ever preach, it is about getting somebody saved. I am all for getting people saved, but I have to tell you something, there is more to the Bible than that. Do you understand that? What do you do with them after you get them saved? Getting them saved every week? You have to come to the point where you discipline yourself in a structure of learning the Bible and then staying with it.

II. The Importance of "How to Study the Bible"

My first book that I wrote was a book called *How to Study the Bible*. Yes, it has sold well under a million copies. That was some thirty-five, forty years ago that I did that. It was intended to lay out all the keys to unlock the Bible.

I have a great story to tell you this week. I got a phone call, and Eddie Baloo, you are probably watching this morning, so you are going to enjoy this. I got a phone call this week from a lady in West Virginia, and her name is Betty. Betty is eighty-five years old. Betty, if you are listening this morning, I love you, darling, and we are going to take care of you. She called me and she said, "Is this Pastor Alexander?" I said, "Yes, it is." She was so elated. She said, "You do not know how long I have been looking for you." She said, "Do you know?" She did not have his name exactly right, but when I straightened the name out, she said, "That is the guy!"

Years ago, somewhere back in the late 80s, her husband worked for an elevator company, which Glenn Baloo worked for the elevator company too. That is what he did all of his life. She said, "This guy brought in a book. It was in a notebook. It was about how to study the Bible." She said, "When my husband brought it home and said, 'Look at this. It is a book on how to study the Bible,' she said, 'Oh, yeah, another one of those books.' She says, 'I want to tell you, I started reading it. I could not put it down. I fell in love with that book. I lost that book someplace, and I have been looking for you for years to try to find out if I could get that book.'"

I thought to myself, that is way better than an irony of my life. Some people are trying to get away from me, and other people are trying to get to me. It is a thing where I said, "Well, man, we still have the book. It is a little different format now, but we still have the book." I said, "Would you like a copy?" She said, "I want ten copies." I said, "Okay, man, we will get them." Half of them are stacked back there now, and they are going to be going in the mail to you this week, most of them. Then she wanted two books that I wrote early on in the book of Acts. Well, I never wrote a book in the book of Acts, but it was obviously the charismatic movement. So I got some of those put in for it. Then, honey, I wanted to tell you, I went through there and picked out some things that I want to give you for Christmas that I think you will really enjoy. So your Christmas package will come, and I will make sure you get it. I am going to send it out. I do not care how heavy it is. I am going to send it out priority mail this week, and you should have it. I am going to try to get it out tomorrow.

That book, *How to Study the Bible*, was intended to lay out all the keys and unlock the Bible. I do not know if you know this or not, but we are on, I do not even know what this is. John Bush got set this up, that there is an online thing out there where what they will do is they will, you send

them your books, and they put them out there and show them, and then they give you a percentage of it back, and they print them and everything, and they do all the work. They have like nineteen or twenty of my books, and they just keep sending checks. It is unbelievable how people are starving for the Word of God. The number one book that sells out of all of them is *How to Study the Bible*. It has helped so many people, and I appreciate the Lord bringing people into my world like that that I do not even know about. It happens every week.

That book was intended to lay out all the keys to form a discipline in your life. I have taught it in everything that I do. If you never read the book, if you have been around here any length of time, you have got it from Sunday morning, Thursday night, or whatever, because I am using them all the time. That book, in my original intention, was to show my people the doctrinal, historical, and inspirational application and how it will be laid out by the key words, the key chapters, the key phrases.

In our time together over the last years, since we have started our church, it has been many, many years now. Like every church, we have a lot of people come and a lot of people go. It is just across the board the way it goes. Not everybody that comes stays, not everybody who comes stays, stays, stays. That is just the way it works in the ministry. But the ones that got into the Word of God, you that I am talking to this morning, the ones that got into the Word of God, it paid off for you.

We have been doing Bible Institute. I have tried to create, if you remember back when we first started, New Year's Eve were Bible conferences. We were not ready for that yet. But you remember, we took on New Year's Eve, we started at six and went to eleven or midnight. I took whole segments, and all that stuff is on the website back there. It was my goal to help you to ignite your love for the Book, to study it, to get a depth. In so many of your lives, it has paid off. You have a really good, what I call, a working knowledge of the Word of God. It has built a depth into you. That great picture puzzle of the Word of God is now beginning to come together for you.

We augment that by Thursday night Bible study. I take painless steps to lay out every detail. I do not gloss over questions. I take the time to give you everything because that is part of our depth process. Sunday morning is the same way. I try to leave no stone unturned and try to give you everything. When you leave here, I want you to have the impression that for the last hour and a half, you just tried to get a drink of water out of an open fire hydrant, which puts water out at about ten thousand feet per second and will take your head off if you stick your head in it. That is the volume of the Word of God that I want to give you while I still can, because that is the only thing that is going to pay off for you. That great picture puzzle of the Word of God is now beginning to make sense to you.

You follow the principles of 2 Timothy 2:15.

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 are definitely on my depth chart. If we were in a ballgame today, you would be definitely my first string players that would play it to the end of the game because you have a depth to you. You know what you are doing. You have a balance in your life.

III. Introduction to the Doctrine of Baptism

Today, I want to develop the second great doctrinal truth that is found in our verse from last week. I told you last week that there were a number of things there, at least two things there. Today, I want us to look back at John 1:31. Here is what John says:

John 1:31

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

Let us pray. Father, we do thank You and praise You today for the Lord Jesus. We love You. Thank You for the depth of the Bible. Thank You for the men and women in this church and the teenagers that have committed themselves to that process, that Thursday night, Bible Institute on a Saturday morning, and everything that we do, they get a foundation. They have to build inwardly before they have any right to take it outwardly. We pray, Father, now Your blessings upon our time today. Help me to continue to grow and build strong men and women for the Word of God, men and women that are tough, they are strong. They can take adversity. They can face anything because they have been trained through that process. We will be careful to give You all the honor and the glory and the praise. In Jesus' name, for sake we ask it. Amen.

Today, I want to lay out to you the doctrine based on John 1:31 in the Bible, the doctrine of baptism. I know the moment I say that you said, "Well, everybody knows what that is. What is the big deal about that? We ought to be out of here in the next fifteen minutes." Not so. I want to tell you, of all the issues within Christianity down through church history, with all the issues that the church had to face, and there is a number of them, there has never been an issue that is more controversial, more damning, and more just one complete mess than the doctrine of baptism.

We are called Baptists. Most people do not understand that. You think that we are Baptists because we baptize. That is not true. In fact, of all the groups that you find, true Bible-believing Baptists are probably the only ones who, when it comes to baptism, we take the position that the only thing that baptism does for you is get you wet. We got our name Baptist not because we baptize.

There is a group out there called Baptist Briders. They are a heretical group, and they believe that they can trace their lineage as Baptist back to John the Baptist. Of course, they call themselves Baptists because his name was John the Baptist, and therefore he baptized, so therefore they think that that is what they should do. Of course, that kind of mindset only shows how little you know about the Bible. John was not baptizing for the church. We will see in a little bit, it is not even the same baptism that you and I have, but I do not want to confuse everybody with a lot of facts this morning.

We were called originally, and we were up against the Roman Catholic Church back in the Dark Ages and on through into the Reformation. We were called, we originally were called by the geographical locations by which we as Bible believers lived. If you were in Italy, you were Waldensian. If you were in France, you were Huguenot. The names were given to them based on the geographical location. But as time changed and the Catholic Church grew and the pressure and the persecution grew, the Baptists, who were called Waldensians, and then they were not called Baptist yet, but as they grew, the Catholic Church then honored us with the name that we have today, and they gave us the name of, originally was Pedro Anabaptist. Pedro is child or baby, and Anna is against. We got the name that we got originally because the Catholic Church was teaching that baptizing your child would wash away original sin, and the Bible believers did not believe that or did not teach that or knew that that was heresy, so we took a stand against it. So we got the name Pedro Anabaptist. We were against infant baptism. A little bit later on, they dropped the Pedro and they called us Anabaptist, which we were against the baptism of the Roman Catholic Church. A little bit later on, by the time we get to the 1500s, 1600s, they dropped the Anna, and we are Baptist.

Traditionally, Baptists, the only thing that they believe about baptism as far as what it does for you physically is get you wet. You are going to see that there are all kinds of groups, and baptism has been the number one heretical, damnable heresy that probably has put more people in hell than you could ever imagine. You have the Methodist Church, you have the Lutheran Church, you have the Christian Church, you have the Church of Christ, you have the Presbyterian Church, you have the Catholic Church, you have the Mormon Church, you have the Jehovah Witnesses, you have the Episcopalians, you have the Anglicans. They all teach and believe that baptism is the mode of salvation, that when you get baptized, God uses that water to wash away your sins in place of the blood of Christ.

I talked to a Church of Christ guy one time years ago, and I pushed him on it, and I said, "Here is the deal, all of them believe that only their church has real salvation, and the only way you can get real salvation is getting baptized in that church." Catholic will not accept any other baptism, Jehovah Witnesses certainly will not, Mormon certainly will not. I talked to a Church of Christ guy one time years ago, and I asked him about that, and I pushed the issue, and he said, "Okay, here it is. When we baptize somebody, the blood of Christ gets applied through that water to their sins." I said, "You are telling me that the public water system that you fill up your baptistery with is what God uses to transubstantiate the blood to a person's soul to cleanse them? Is that right?" He had never thought of it that way. He had to think about that for a few moments. That is ridiculous. Of course, they all teach baptism for salvation.

Then you have the Charismatics. They believe in the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and you will find that there are Baptists who are like that. We call them Four Square Baptists, and sometimes they are called Hard Shell Baptists, and they believe that once you get saved, you do not have all of the Holy Spirit of God, that you get baptized at some point with the Holy Spirit, and then of course the evidence of that is speaking in tongues and doing all that goofy stuff.

Then you have the Hyper-Dispensionals who cut up the New Testament so much that they do not even believe that baptism is for the Church. I have had those guys who, I had a guy say one

time, "I repented," he was in a Baptist Church, got baptized, got saved, and then got caught up in a Hyper-Dispensational crowd, and he actually told me, he says, "I want you to know I repented to God of my baptism." I am thinking to myself, you are an idiot. I mean, how stupid can somebody get?

Then you have the crowd, I cannot remember exactly who they were, but in their church, they baptized you seven times backwards and three times forward. That is what I said, I do not get it. Now Baptist churches, like fundamental Baptist churches, I almost said like ours, but we are not like them. But Baptist churches traditionally, as I was growing up in the church in the 70s and the 80s and the 90s, long before you all were born, traditionally, we as people getting baptized, when you got baptized in a church, that is what the church accepted for your membership into the church. You could not join the church if you were not baptized, which I understand, but anytime, when you got baptized, you were automatically now a member of the church. In other words, baptism was the key to membership.

I do not really have an issue with that. I mean, if that is what you want to do, but that is okay. But that is not in the Bible in any way, shape, or form. You do not join a church in the New Testament by being baptized. I will say that everybody in the New Testament, the book of Acts, that got saved, the next thing it is, get baptized. But Baptists have a way of traditionalizing things and then using things to try to get you to do things. I never follow that rule, I really do not. My idea, I have had people all the time say, "Well, how do you join your church?" I said, "I do not know. However you want to." I have been in churches all my life where people came down, got down, prayed, "I want to join the church," signed a paper, and got baptized, and then walked out and never did a thing with it. I am not interested in that. You know how you will join this church? When you actively get involved in it, when you support it financially, and you get involved in ministry. You decide when you are a part of it, not me. That is just the way it should work.

IV. God's Systematic Theology and the Seven Baptisms

In understanding baptism, again, we are going to go down deep today. So get a big breath of air. In Bible Institute, which we are in our last three phases of that, and then we are going to, I told them yesterday, we had a great time yesterday, Hebrews 10, brother, I will tell you, we cracked that nut open, and it was a great time in the book. I have told them many, many times, once we are done with these last three books, Matthew, Acts, and Hebrews, then we are going to launch into an in-depth study of church history. That will bring us around full circle. But the first year of Bible Institute, this is what we teach. This is basically, to me, Bible 101.

As in everything in the Bible, we must find, first of all, no matter what it may be, we have to get the definitive verse on it. I try to tell you that all the time. I tell you, and sometimes it gets, it just, I do not know, I guess people just do not listen. But I try to tell you the two major fundamental keys to begin to unlock your Bible. No matter where you go, what you are looking at will be defined by two things. First of all, will be the context. For the life of me, people just will not do that. The second thing is that whatever you are looking at, whatever subject, there will be a definitive verse on it. That is where you have to start. Trying to start to lay something out without

you understanding where it is defined in the Bible will always lead to trouble. So I push those two things all the time.

In John 1:31, we have our definitive verse. I do not know if you saw it or not. We have our definitive verse on what baptism is. Let us read it again. It says that He, Christ, should be made manifest to Israel, therefore I come baptizing with water. That is what you start with when you want to study baptism. The definition of baptism in the Bible is that it manifests something. You start with that definition of it. Baptism will manifest something for us.

Here is where the confusion comes in when it comes to baptism. In Ephesians 4:3-6, Paul makes this statement to the church.

Ephesians 4:3-6

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

He says in verse 5 that there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. But yet, in the Bible, as we come through it, we are going to find that there actually are seven baptisms in the Bible. You can see where that would be confusing to somebody that was not disciplined in a structure, that was not in a church someplace. I am going to tell you, God never intended any Christian just to get saved and then for you to figure out your Bible on your own. The book of Ephesians is very clear that the church exists for one reason and one reason only, and that is to edify you. A Bible-believing church, the job of that pastor is to give you all the tools and to equip you.

Unfortunately, that does not happen today, but that is beside the point. That is exactly what we are supposed to do.

Of course, this is the confusion. The confusion is that he says there is one faith, one Lord, one baptism, but then when we start getting into the Scriptures, we find that there are seven. This baptism here in Ephesians 4:3-6, I am going to tell you right now, has absolutely nothing to do with water, and water is not within a hundred million light years of these verses. What he is saying here is that there is one true baptism. This baptism, as I said, has absolutely nothing to do with water. The other baptisms found in the Bible, the other six of them, will all manifest something when you put it all together and have then a complete understanding and picture of what this real baptism is. Because there is only one true, real baptism. But there are other pictures of it through baptism in the Bible. I will tell you now, the real baptism, and I said one more time, has absolutely nothing to do with water.

Baptism traditionally has been the problem down through history. Did you ever notice that when Jesus showed up, there are two things that He did not do? We go through and we look at all the things that Jesus did. You have to go through and look at the things that He did not do. The two things that He did not do, first of all, is that He never called Mary His mother. He never did. He never called Mary mother. He called her a woman. Some people think that that is disrespectful,

and of course that was not the case. He had all the respect for her in the world. He knew and had the insight and foresight that if He called Mary His mother, that there would be a church down the road someplace that would make Mary the mother of God. Even though He never called her, they still did it.

I will tell you the second thing He never did. He never baptized anybody. Did you ever notice that? Jesus never baptized anybody. Somebody says, "Well, baptism is the mode of salvation." Well, I could take you a thousand places where Jesus saved somebody. We are never going to find one time where He ever baptized anybody. Do you know why? Do you know why He refused to baptize anybody and had other people do it? Because He did not want somebody coming down in church history saying that salvation is by baptism. So He refused to do it, even though they still do it. These are little things in the Bible on your way down to the depth chart you pick up. You just pick up.

You need to see this. We talked about a discipline, a structure of discipline in your Bible. God wrote the Bible. There is no question about that. We all understand that. God wrote the Bible in a way that He wanted to portray it to us. The Bible is its own dictionary. The Bible is its own history book. The Bible is everything. The Bible will show you, and you say, "Well, there are a lot of things in history that the Bible does not cover." Yeah, let me rephrase that. The Bible is a history book as far as what God is interested in, not what man is interested in. So all the other things that you got in school and college about history that you do not find in the Bible, you know why you do not? Because God did not give a flip about it. The very things that you make the predominant things in history are the things that God does not care about. The very things that God makes the predominant things in the Bible in history, you do not care about. See the problem?

Along with that, when God wrote the Bible, God built into it His own way of studying it. It is called, I call it anyhow, God's systematic theology. Theology is studying the Bible. The word systematic means that there is a system to it. When I was growing up, and probably still is to many guys, there was a set of books out there that was held up as the greatest books that you could ever get to really learn and understand the Bible. It was a guy by the name of Shafer. The name of the book was Shafer's Systematic Theology. It ran about four or five volumes. Everybody that was anybody thought that you would hear him say it all the time, how Shafer's systematic theology and this and this and that, and everybody was using the Bible colleges, the professors, and everybody just raved about Shafer's systematic theology. There was more Bible truth in a Mad Magazine than there was in Shafer's systematic theology. But you see, when you have a Christianity that is not built on the Bible and scholarship that cares nothing about the Bible, their systematic theology has to be built on a man. What I give you on Sunday morning, Thursday night, Bible Institute, and all those things, is God's systematic theology. Because I am dumb enough to know that when God wrote a book, it was His right to lay out how we should study it. I do not have a right to get into that and tell you how you should study the Bible. I just will tell you the way God already laid it out for you to study it.

God's systematic theology runs through a series of sevens because seven in the Bible is a number of perfection. When I started out years and years and years ago, I followed that systematic

theology. When we started Bible Institute, I started a systematic theology. Some of you have been with me for what, twenty-five, thirty years, way back. You got the systematic theology back then. I am not sure why it did not work for you, but you got it.

For instance, he tells us in 1 Corinthians 4 that we are to be stewards of the mysteries of God. You will find in the Bible there are seven mysteries. Then you will find that there are seven resurrections in the Bible. We already know that there are seven judgments in the Bible. We already know that there are seven periods of church history. When you want to get down a little deeper, you will find that your Bible, there are seven marriages in the Bible. They all picture the day we get married to the Lord. There are seven barren women in the Bible who at first do not have children, and they are all a picture of the nation of Israel, and then later on they have a child just like Israel is barren right now, but she is going to bear fruit.

I have given it to you before that there are seven stages of your spiritual growth. There are seven laws in the Bible that you operate by, you do not even know what they are. If somebody put a gun to your head this morning and you were standing up before a group of people and you had to lay out the seven laws, your brains would be on the wall before you could get them out. Do you know why? I do not know why. Why do you not know those? Seven laws in the Bible. You operate by them every day. In the Old Testament, you want to find out how the Old Testament is built. It is built around seven men. You want to break it down, and you are told that by name. Then when you get into the New Testament, Paul says that there are seven things that you and I as Christians ought to be not ignorant of. You know what? There are seven most ignorant things of God's people with those seven things. They have no clue.

Do you love the Bible? There are seven aspects to the Word of God. Do you know what they are? You say, "Well, I am a Christian. I got saved." All right. Are you growing? "Well, I am growing." How are you growing? Because there are seven things you need to add to your faith to grow. Do you know what they are? When we get into history, there are seven great awakenings down through church history in America. Then there are seven counterfeits. That is how baptism got so screwed up today.

You say, "Well, I really love God." Do you? "I do. I want to serve God. I want to be what God wants me to be." Fine. Good. I am happy for you. There are seven things that please God. Do you know what they are? "Well, I love God. I love everything about Him." Good. There are seven things that God loves. Do you know what they are? You want to unlock the Bible? There are seven keys to unlocking the Bible. Do you know what they are? I do not mean to get real deep on you, but in the Garden of Eden, way back in Genesis, there were seven trees. Do you know where they are at? There are seven things that God loves. There are seven things that please Him. Then there are seven things that God hates. God is over there in Proverbs 6:16, and there are six things that He hates, and then He lists those, and then there is a seventh that caps it off. Do you know what the seventh is? The one that God's people are so guilty of, showing discord among the brethren. And on and on it goes.

When you systematically, over the years, when you start to break those down, I do not know how many times I have been through them on Bible study. I know I have been through them in Bible

Institute. Over and over and over and over again. If you have been around here any length of time at all, you have had it. I do not know how many times. Why is it not sticking? Along with that, when you completely lay out in your Bible these seven baptisms, each one of them will manifest something different. All of them will point you to the one true baptism in Ephesians 4:5 that has absolutely nothing to do with water.

V. The Seven Baptisms

Let us look at it. The first one we want to look at will be in 1 Corinthians 10:1-5. If I may give you a little suggestion today, I mean, I know you are all eager to learn the Bible and everything, and I appreciate that. That is true of just about all of you. But you are not going to be able to keep up on this. My suggestion to you is you do what I have had to do, and all the people on the depth chart did, go at home, get it on the thing or get the tape and sit down and go through this thing because there is no way you are going to keep up. If I were you, I would just sit back and enjoy it.

1. The Baptism of Israel The first one you find in 1 Corinthians 10:1-5, and this will be called the baptism of Israel. 1 Corinthians 10:1-5

1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. This here is called the baptism of Moses. This is the first one we are going to find. It is all the way back in Exodus chapter 10 when they come out of Egypt. This one happened to the children of Israel as they came out of Egypt and they crossed over the Red Sea. I want you to know that this baptism was not by immersion. It was by what we would call aspersion. In other words, when God rolled back the Red Sea, there was a mist. Have you ever been to Niagara Falls where the water is coming over the falls and you go down on that little thing down there to see the falls close up? You have to wear all kinds of rain gear because you do not get hit by the water, but you get soaked by the mist. So they are walking through this thing, and the mist is completely soaking them, and they are immersed, or aspersed would be the word, by the mist and by the water. In the same chapter of 1 Corinthians 10:6 and then verse 10, you are told that these things, the baptism of Moses, is given to us as an example and as an example. So there is an example, there is something this wants to manifest to us. It is amazing. To me, I gave you last week Exodus 12, and I showed you how that that is the Gospel of the Passover Lamb, and that is so true. But I do not know what you know about the Bible, but I am going to tell you right now, the book of Exodus itself, the whole book, is one of the greatest pictures of the Christian life and the entirety of what we go through and how God systematically builds things in our lives. I do not know if you have ever seen it, and then baptism is put right in here as an example and an example because they are coming out of Egypt, and now they are baptized in a cloud. It is a picture and manifests when you and I

come out of Egypt, the world, we got baptized. Let me show you how this book works. It is a great book. Let us take the first three chapters. The first three chapters is the nation of Israel under bondage. What is it a picture of? It is a picture of you and me under the bondage of Egypt or the world. Before you got saved, you were a slave to this world, and it worked you hard to kill you. Everything you did as an unsaved man or woman was to make this world better, and it was going to grind you in the process. You know what happened? You find that in chapter 3, 4, 5, and 6, the children of Israel cry out, "God, I cannot stand this anymore." So many of you who are now saved, before you got saved, you had it with the world. The world was crushing you. Without ever knowing it, you turned your eyes toward heaven and you said, "God, I do not know if I can take this anymore." You know what God did for you? He did the same thing in chapter 3, 4, 5, and 6. He did with the nation of Israel when they cried out, He sent them a deliverer. Their deliverer was Moses. Your deliverer is the Lord Jesus Christ. What happens then? Now we get into chapter 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. What happens now that Moses goes to Pharaoh, a type of the devil, and says, "Let this guy go, Israel." Now we see in those chapters where the adversary, Pharaoh, a type of the devil, does not want to lose you. Boy, that is a study in itself how the Pharaoh manipulated everything to keep them, just like the devil will do in your life to keep you from being saved. Oh, but in chapter 12, last week, the blood of the lamb. "When I see the blood, I will pass over you," and they come out of Egypt, just like when you put the blood on your soul, you come out of the world. So they are saved in chapter 12, just like you were. You know what happens in chapter 13? They get sanctified. The first thing that happened the moment you got saved, God set you apart. He sanctified you. In chapter 14, they are coming out of Egypt. They are now saved by the blood, and they go through and now they are baptized. Chapter 15, they get a new song that they sing called the song of Moses. That is Psalm 40. "He put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God, many shall see it in fear and trust in the Lord." You know what happened when you got saved? You got a new song to sing. In chapter 16, now they are going through the wilderness of sin. There is nothing there to sustain them. Cannot find any water. Cannot find any food. Just like after you and I got saved, nothing in this world would satisfy us anymore. You know what God does? God brings down water out of the rock and supernatural food called manna from heaven. He feeds them with manna, a type of the Word of God, to sustain them in their wilderness journey, just like God gave you the Book that you got in your hand today to sustain you through your wilderness journey. You know what you will find in chapter 17? You will find a picture of your prayer life. You know what you will find in chapter 18? You will find people in the ministry you are going to have to deal with. You know what you will find in chapter 19 through 24? You will find our relationship to the law, Romans 9 and Romans 11. You know what you will find in chapter 25 and 26 and 27? You will find a real definition of worship, what worship really is. You know what you will find in chapter 28 and 31? The finding of you and me now as a priest under God. You know what you will find in chapters 32 through 40? The work of the ministry. Wow. All in one book. You see, this book manifests itself in the baptism of Moses as they went through that. Through that book, the new life that we have in Christ Jesus, and it is for our example and for our example.

2. The Baptism of JohnThe second baptism will be right where we are at today in John 1. This will be the baptism of John. This is our verse today, John 1:31. We see this baptism has nothing to do with you or me, but rather it has to do with the nation of Israel. John the Baptist was manifesting Christ to the nation of Israel. Somebody who tells you, "Well, I got baptized because Jesus got baptized," you do not know what you are talking about. Jesus got baptized to manifest Himself to Israel. Is that why you got baptized, you idiot? We are not Israel. When Jesus came down to John, this is where it gets good. Jesus comes down to John and He says, "I need to get baptized." John says, "Hey, pal, I have need to be baptized by You." Jesus says in Matthew 3:13, He says, "That may be true. Suffer it to be so now. For thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness." You know what He is saying? He is saying, "John, I am coming to You to be baptized even though I am sinless, because Isaiah 53:12 says that I have to be numbered with the transgressors. Even though I am sinless and perfect, I have to identify with the people who are sinners to be numbered with them to fulfill the scriptures. So yeah, I probably should baptize you, but that will not play because I have to fulfill all righteousness. So I am going down to the river where the sinners are, and I am going to have you baptize Me to manifest Myself to them." I will tell you right now, that is a great key of identifying with your people, for us, for a pastor anyhow. Jesus always showed up where the sinners were. He cared nothing about the intellectual crowd. In fact, He hung out with them so much that He got accused of all kinds of stuff, being a winebibber and hanging out with this and that and all these guys. But that is where the need was. So He is down there at the river. John's baptism was baptizing Him as a sinless man because to fulfill the Old Testament scriptures of being numbered with the transgressors, because that is where the sinners were. By doing that, based on the Old Testament scriptures, He manifested Himself to the nation of Israel. See how easy that is? It is not complicated at all.
3. The Baptism of Jesus' DeathNow let us look at the third one. The third one is the baptism of Jesus' death. This will be Matthew 20:22. Jesus is having a discussion here with the disciples, and they want to know who is going to be the number one in the kingdom. Matthew 20:22
But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. Here again, this baptism here has absolutely nothing to do with water, but it manifests something. Christ was baptized by John years before this happened. In fact, Christ is on the way to the cross. This is years, so this has nothing to do with John's baptism. But this is another great picture or manifestation of the true baptism. The baptism here, He is definitely referring to His physical death. He is going to die on the cross, and He is going to go down under Abraham's bosom, and then He is going to raise Himself up the third day. So the picture is Christ is up in heaven. He comes down through Mary. He is on this earth. He is crucified. He dies. He goes under Abraham's bosom, and then He comes back up the third day resurrected, and then back up to heaven, Acts 1. It is a picture of His physical death. All three of these guys, Peter, James, and John, do die at the hand of Rome. There is no question about it. They are all killed by Rome, and they do experience that baptism. So here He is talking about His own physical death being like a baptism because He came down, went under, and came back up. So when we baptize you and we stand you up there, we follow that same procedure. We take you and put you under, picture Him coming

down and dying, buried in the likeness of His death, raised in the likeness of His resurrection. It manifested that. When you go back to the book of Jonah, Matthew 12:40 connects the story of Jonah with Christ's resurrection. He says, "As Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so the Son of Man shall be in the heart of the earth." When you read that, count back there in Jonah 2:3-5, Jonah in that whale, he says it. He goes down to the bottom. The weeds wrapped around him. The gates of hell. It is a picture of Jonah dying. I do not know if you know it or not, but for years and years, in the 1800s and beyond, when somebody died, they used to say he went under. We do not say that anymore, we just call the undertaker. Physical death has always been going under. It is a picture. His death was a picture of Him coming down, dying on the cross, and that is the baptism of Jesus' death. No water to it at all, see? But it manifests something.

4. The Baptism of Israel's Repentance Our fourth baptism is found in Acts 2:38. Oh glory, here we go. I would say that this is the key verse that has sent more people to hell in so-called Christianity than any other verse in the Bible. This one has sent millions, if not billions, into a lake of fire in the last two thousand years. Its official start, if you want to mark it, is in Acts 19. This is called the baptism of Israel's repentance. Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. This baptism is to Israel on the basis of a national salvation. The church age is not in effect yet. You have every cult group out there that will take Acts 2:38 and try to stick it into the church age. There is no church age. We saw last week that in Exodus 12, the lamb was to be a male killed in the evening, and the whole congregation of Israel was to kill it. I made that parallel to Christ's first coming into crucifixion, that all the nation of Israel was responsible for killing Him. So this baptism here has to do with, it is connected to John's baptism, but it is different because it is after the death of Christ, where John's was before. When Peter gets up and he says to this, and you have got to read the whole chapter, he is up there and he just told them in Acts 2:37, he just told them that this same Jesus that you have crucified, God has made Lord and Christ. He said that in verse 37. So when he tells them that, the Jews listening to him say, "Really? If that is true, and we crucified Jesus who God has made Lord of Christ, what shall we do?" Now the crooked Church of Christ and the crooked Mormon and the crooked Jehovah Witness will add to that where your Bible says, "What shall we do?" Their Bible says, "What shall we do?" too, but when they preach it, they add to it, "What shall we do to be saved?" Nobody is asking what to do to be saved here. But the nation of Israel is asking, "Now that you have told us that we have killed Jesus Christ who is the Messiah, we did not accept John's baptism, we crucified Him, we killed Him, God made Him Lord in Christ, now what do we do?" Peter says, "You know what you do? You get baptized in the name of Jesus, the man you crucified, for the remission of your sin as a nation." It has nothing to do with the church. To Israel, to the nation, not the church age. The church age is not even in effect yet. This is the ability for those of you who have some depth to you to be able to break down the book of Acts. How the book of Acts is built around two divisions. The first division is Acts 1-7. Then you have a division. Section one is chapter 8 to chapter 19, and then verse 20 is another division. Not really 20 and 21 is another division. The whole book of Acts just breaks down. You see, that is a natural, systematic, biblical, God-given

outline by Him laying out the books the way He did. It is your job and my job to know that. It is not enough to know John 3:16. It is not enough to know just want to get people saved. It is not enough to get up and preach about salvation and how you trust Christ. You have to know the whole counsel of God. You have to study to show thyself approved. It is to Israel, and it is based fundamentally on John's baptism to wash away Israel's sin, but the difference is now they have killed Him. So it is a different format.

5. Gentile Baptism Our fifth baptism will be for you and for me. Ah, Gentile baptism. It is something that you and I can identify with. All this other stuff has been examples and manifestations, but they have not been to us. Now this one is. This one is in Acts 16. We will pick it up in verse 25. Paul is in jail, and this is where the Philippian jailer gets saved. The favorite place to preach about people getting saved. Acts 16:25-34

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. Now you see the difference? Back in Acts 2, they just said, "What shall we do because we crucified the Messiah?" This guy here, he gets it right down, does he not? "What must I do to be saved?" See the difference? They said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." No baptism involved in it. You saw that, right? He said, "What must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." No baptism to it as far as the salvation is concerned. You just believe, and your whole house will get saved. They spoke unto him the word of the Lord and to all that were in the house. They went into Christ. He took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. When he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. You see that thing? That is how you got baptized. You got saved and then you got baptized. Baptism for you and for me manifests something. When you get over there in Acts 8, you have the story before this one with the Ethiopian eunuch and Philip. Baptism is, Philip sees this guy sitting on the back of the chariot, and he asks him, he says, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The guy says,

"No." He gets up there and sits with him. He talked Isaiah 53, blood atonement, Christ dying on the cross as the lamb, and he wins that guy to Christ. Then they are riding along, and the guy says, "Here is much water. What does hinder me from being baptized?" Oh, here comes the qualification for your baptism, pal. If you believe that Jesus Christ with all of your heart, if you are saved first, then you get baptized. He says, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Stop the chariot. Now even the mode of baptism is laid out. The Bible says there had to be much water. He said, "Here is much water." But if sprinkling was the process, you are telling me you are going through the desert without any water in your canteen. If you could just sprinkle the guy and that is baptism, you do not need much water. You just sprinkle it on your hand and hit him in the face with it. But you see, baptism pictures death. Your baptism and my baptism is an outward expression to the world. It manifests to the world what supposedly has changed on the inside of you. So this guy in Acts 16, his family and him get baptized. They took him there and he put him under the water and brought him up out of the water. It pictures Christ's death coming down as we already saw, baptism of Jesus' death, Him going under and coming back up. So when I want to manifest to the world my public profession of what has changed in me, I get baptized. I go before all the assembled people, and they watch me be put under like He was and brought back up. It is immersion. Come on folks. It pictures a death, burial, and resurrection. We have all been to funerals. They put the guy in a casket and they put him down in the ground. How many funerals have you ever been to that they set the guy in a corner and throw dirt in his face? It is immersion. You go under and you come back up. 1 Peter 3:21

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: They love that verse. Here again, they will not read the next part of the verse, which is in parentheses. It says, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh)." Baptism does not save you. "But rather an answer of a good conscience toward God by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." You manifest yourself that I have been saved inwardly by being baptized outwardly, displaying the manifestation of Jesus' death on the cross and His baptism of His death. You walk away with a good conscience toward God that you did what God wanted you to do.

6. The Baptism of Fire Now the sixth one, I have to tell you, this was my favorite. This is in Matthew 3:11, and this is the baptism of fire. Matthew 3:11

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: This one here is a great example of how somebody who has no depth of the Bible, has no mind of the Bible, does not care anything about the Bible, you just get in it because of what you want to do with it. You could care squat about any discipline in the Bible, any structure in the Bible, you just want to use it for whatever you want to do with it. So you have these Charismatics running around, the radical ones, and they go around praying for the baptism of fire. I have been in Charismatic services where they are down there and they are saying, "Oh God, give me the baptism of fire. God, give me the baptism of fire." The baptism of fire, when you get it after you are supposedly saved, the evidence of that is then you speak in tongues like they did with cloven tongues of fire, and now you have got the

baptism of fire as far as the Charismatic Church is concerned, based on Matthew 3. Yet there is no baptism of fire in Christianity today. I do not know how to tell you this, so I am going to hit this one very softly. With that baptism of fire he is talking about in Matthew 3:11, and that you are praying for to get, that there is the second coming of Christ and somebody going to hell and winding up in the lake of fire. If you look at that verse, he says he is going to give some people the Holy Ghost, that is the ones that get it, and some others are going to get baptized in fire. Do you ever wonder why the eternal state of an unsaved man is in a lake? A lake of fire? Does that ever turn on any lights for you? If that was not enough, when you look down at the next verse in 12, it says: Matthew 3:12

Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. He will burn the chaff, unsaved people, with unquenchable fire. That is stupid charismatic, "Oh God." Are you not glad God does not answer all our prayers? "Oh God, give me the baptism of fire." Okay, right in the lake of fire you go. When you put it all together, and I do not have time to develop this, Isaiah 66:24 and Mark 9:48 talks about that when a man goes in the lake of fire, he is a carcass, he is a worm. A lake of fire, however we can imagine it, will be a lake filled with carcasses of men who are worms, no arms, no legs, just if you ever seen a bunch of squiggling maggots in a pile, that is what it is like, and for all the eternity in a lake of fire, you will just be squiggling around. If you ever watched them, that squiggling has emotion, and they go down, and then they squiggle way back up, and they go down for all of eternity. You are baptized with a baptism of fire. "Oh God, give me the baptism of fire." I wish you would.

7. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost The last one. Now we have come to the true baptism, the one that everything else points to, because this is the one true baptism. When he says one faith, one Lord, one baptism, here it is. It has absolutely nothing, and I mean nothing, to do with water. This will be found in Ephesians 4:5, as we already looked at, and then 1 Corinthians 12:13. This will be the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit, in a biblical sense, based on the Bible, not a charismatic goofiness. This one will be the one baptism of Ephesians 4:5, and all the other ones are one way or another a figure of this one, and each one will manifest something. 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. This baptism is the baptism that takes place the very instant you trust Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. When you get saved, you get all the Holy Spirit of God that there is. You are immersed in it. Just like we put you under the water and you go completely under the water, the Bible says now you are complete in Him once you are saved, and you have everything because you have been immersed. Your soul has been immersed in the Holy Spirit of God, filled, immersed, and sealed, a total completeness. So it is called a baptism. He dwells in you now through an immersion of your soul. When you go over to Colossians 2:9-12, we find that this is called the doctrine of spiritual circumcision. Let us read it. This is what took place when you got saved. Colossians 2:9-12

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. Now you see that? That verse is how you got saved. It is what really happened, a cutting away of your flesh from your soul, creating a new man and a new nature. You got saved by Christ's death, Him coming down, going under, coming back up, buried with Him in baptism, where also you were risen with Him in the faith of the operation of God. So when you got saved based on Christ's death, baptism of death, He takes that and He baptizes you with the Holy Spirit. Now one Spirit, you are all baptized, and it puts you into the body of Christ. So when you got saved, we get baptized physically in water. It is a picture of that. See how it all goes together? But there are seven distinct ones, and they all manifest something, either about Israel or about the church. You have to get in there and put a depth to it, put a structure to it to figure it out. What you do when you got baptized is you publicly express what took place inside of you when you got baptized by the Spirit. That is what you do. You manifest to the world.

VI. Conclusion: The Call to Depth and Discipline

If you get all this down, you have a real piece of your Bible. This is why I labor so hard through everything that we do to try to give you every aspect of the Bible. I want you. It takes work, and you have to endure a hardness. I do not cut you any slack sometimes because I know that we all can get lazy, but you are better than that. Once you get all this down and you begin to grow, you continually add these things to your Bible.

In our Bible Institute, we had, like I said, yesterday we were in the book of Hebrews, and we had Hebrews 10. I cannot tell you the piece of the puzzle you got yesterday. I had a guy get on there last night, and I checked to see who was on and that. The guy said, "You know what, I got more Bible today in two hours with this guy than you could get in ten years in most Baptist churches." Now I do not know if that is true or not, but you can get some stuff out of it because it is God's systematic theology, not man's. I would say if a person got saved and gets into the Bible here and puts this process to work, in four or five years you really begin to have a handle on the Bible in a fundamental way, and you have what I call a working knowledge of the Word of God. The rest of your life, what do you do? You build with that.

I have always thought of Exodus 16 and what a great picture that is of the Word of God that God gave us. The manna from heaven, a picture of the Word of God. It was a supernatural food that God gave the people because they had nothing to eat in the wilderness of sin. Yet God brought the food right to where they were. They did not have to go to a university to find it. God brought it right around the camp and put it right by the tent. Brought it right where they were. Every morning they were told to gather because it was right outside the tent door. The Bible says that they ate it for strength and growth in the wilderness of sin. Picture what the Word of God will do for you.

The Bible says in Exodus 16:17, what a great principle it is, after God brought it to right where they were and put it all around the camp.

Exodus 16:17

And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.

Boy, if that is not a commentary on God's people today, I do not know what is. Through it, in your Bible, every Sunday morning, every Saturday morning, an institute, every Thursday night, every Bible study, it rains manna from heaven here. Some gathered more, some gathered less. It comes right to where you are. God's people, just like God's people in Exodus 16, will do one of two things that they had to do. They were out there in the morning, and there was the Word of God all around them. They pulled that tent flap back and they just gathered all they could. Or they just went on their way and trampled it under their feet. Never did a thing with it.

A couple of weeks ago, I told you the two questions that everybody has to answer.

8. Who are you?
9. Where are you?

Now you get a third one. The third question is, why has not the Bible had the right effect on us? Why are we not growing and learning and getting a handle on God's Word? We are all busy. Everybody thinks that what they are doing is the greatest thing in the world. Let me tell you something. It is about depth. I do not care what you say or what you think. It is about depth.

When you see an iceberg, you see just a percentage of it above the water. You look under the water, brother, and it is massive. What do the people see when they look at us underwater? Are we just an icicle on the garage roof? Are we an iceberg big enough to sink the Titanic? Again, it is not what you say, not what I say. It is not what I claim or what you claim, but what do you do with a book in your own life? How do you use it? How do you deal with it? Do you follow the principles in the Bible? You say your love? Paul said, "I have taught you the whole counsel of God." Or you just pick and choose out of the Bible what you want to do. And actually think in your mind, "Oh, I am okay with God. I am okay if I just do this. I am okay if..." No, no, no, depth.

When we get to the judgment seat of Christ, and you better listen to me carefully, when we get to the judgment seat of Christ, He is not going to ask you what you knew or what you did not know. He is going to ask you what you could have found out, but you chose not to. You learn the Bible one piece at a time through God's systematic theology, what I call the seven series. The same process, you build strong Christians, one person at a time. That is why the depth of the Bible is so vitally important. What we are going to hold up there, I got something I want to give you that I think that I am really excited about. I have not said anything about it until now because I was just waiting, but it is going to.