

Proverbs 31:19-20

Sunday 6/21/2020

SEC: The Bible Interprets Itself

If you have your Bibles this morning, let's go back to Proverbs chapter 31. You will remember that last week we were in verses 17 and 18, and we really looked at some great material on a number of levels. One of the things that I liked about last week was the example that we have of showing you how the Bible will always develop itself in the truth that it is trying to give us. I am always looking for examples in the Bible to show you that great concept of learning your Bible, because I think that it is one of the key areas that we have to look out for and look for.

We saw it Thursday night when somebody asked about the book of Acts and the book of Joshua, why Joshua's name is changed to Jesus. I told you how that was a great key. Then I just took you a little farther in the book of Acts and showed you the word Easter and showed you how that is a key. The Bible is filled with things like that. The Bible will always interpret itself.

1 Peter 1:20

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

It will always lay itself out. In 1 Corinthians 2:13, he talks about comparing spiritual with spiritual, or in the context, scripture with scripture. The Bible will be its own dictionary. The Bible will be its own commentary. I am not against all the other commentaries that good guys write, because I am not saying you shouldn't read those and learn from that. But the bottom line is this: the Bible is its own dictionary and its own commentary. You get to a place in your life where that is all you really need. I say that knowing that back in our bookstore we have some great commentaries back there that will get you started and help lay some things out for you.

When it comes to the Bible, and this is something that I see people do all the time, you never try to make it fit into what you want to believe. That is exactly what people do today when it comes to something that they really want to believe. I told you Thursday night, we should never get to the place in our Christian life where there is anything we just have to believe and want to believe so badly that we just throw everything out. I know it does not appear to many people that I am very open-minded, because I can be dogmatic about many things. But you do not know me very well, because I am probably the most open-minded person that you ever met in your life. My problem is, or maybe it is your problem, I am not sure, but the issue is that for me I have a final authority.

I am open to anything. Somebody sent me a link a year ago when 9/11 and the World Trade Center blew up, both of them, that it was aliens that did it. They actually sent me a link that if you looked, it showed little aliens scaling around the thing up there. Somebody had put them on there. But I am okay with that. If that is what happened, then that is what happened. I do not believe that is what happened, but hey, I am open to anything. It is a thing where, but I have a final authority that I judge everything by. So my open-mindedness gets down to a very narrow funnel when it comes down to the book that God has given me that is the absolute standard for everything I judge it by. But I will listen to anything. I do not care. A lot of it is entertaining. A

lot of it is good. A lot of it is thought-provoking. Most of God's people, if they had an original thought, it would die of boredom. It is a thing where you have got to think. There is nothing wrong with expanding your mind and looking at everything as long as you have a final authority to run it all by.

When it comes to the Bible, you never want to try to make what you believe fit into what the Bible says. You want to make it fit into the Word of God, not the other way around. You always let your belief fit into the Scriptures. What we saw last week was a basic, true, systematic theology, as I like to call it. We saw in Proverbs 31:18-19, he took the word loins, and he talked about the strength of somebody's loins. But we did not stop there. That is a lot what you do with the Bible. You get a truth, but you do not stop at that truth. You have got to get down to the lowest common denominator, as we like to call it, get down to the bottom line.

We went over then to Ephesians 6:14, and then we developed that and saw how that it was loins girded about with truth. Now we know what the strength is. It is the truth of God's Word. Then we did not stop there, did we? We took it over to 1 Peter 1:13, and we saw there that it talks about the loins of your mind. So now we have a complete understanding of what loins are in the Bible. It is strength, but strength based on the Word of God, but strength based on the Word of God that you let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. What an incredible outlining of truth just by going to the Bible. It is one of those things that will really help you. That is a great example of what the Bible will do for us, and there is nothing left to the imagination. It is right there. You cannot make that fit anywhere but the way the Bible itself makes it fit.

SEC: The Dangers of Heresy and Lack of Discernment

I have learned this over the years with people. Many times a person wants to believe something so badly that they will simply throw out all the rules that will keep them straight doctrinally, and that is how you get into heresy. It is true in every aspect of their life, but it is certainly true when it comes to the Bible. So they make something say what they want it to say, and they convince themselves that this is what it is saying. But every time they do that, they will violate all of the principles that are connected to the Bible that keep us rightly dividing the Word of Truth, or if you do not, then you are going to wrongly divide it.

Every heresy is saved or lost. You find heresies that were with unsaved people. That will be like the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons, Roman Catholics and that crowd. But then you have heresies that are in the body of Christ. That is bad teaching with saved people. You would have situations like that: predestination, the charismatic movement, all of those things where people really get, you can lose your salvation and all that stuff. Healing, tongues, all that. In every case when you find that in either saved or lost, you are going to find that they have simply violated three basic rules of Bible study. It is just a simple thing.

1. They throw out the context. They do not even stop and ask themselves, what is the context of what I am reading here? Who is it written to? Why is it written? How does it apply to me?
2. The second thing that they will not do is they will not look for a biblical definition. You take tongues. Everybody in the world speaks in tongues today that is in the charismatic

movement. It is a rampant thing and they will tell you that if you do not speak in tongues, that is the evidence of the Holy Spirit of God. Jimmy Swaggart said if you did not speak in tongues, you were not going in the rapture. I am not sure if that was before or after he hooked up with that hooker and got busted by the cops. But anyway, that is just not the way that it works. When you go through the Bible, you will find here again, tongues. Sure. Then it says tongues are for a sign. Good. And it tells you that the Jew requires that sign. See? One, two, three. Bible defined it for you.

3. The historical perspective.

I could give that to the 98% of the Charismatics today and they just look at me like a deer in the headlights when you are hitting on the road. They would not do anything for them. You know why? Because they have already come to the place that they made up their minds that they are going to speak in tongues. It does not matter what the Bible says. It does not matter what the Bible lays out. It is a thing where it is not just the way it works with people. I have dealt with that all of my life. Every heresy will simply violate three things: context, definitions, and then the historical perspective. If there is not a historical chain of evidence of what you are believing, you have got to look at it. It is just that simple.

You never want to teach or believe something just because you have to alter the Word of God to make it work or make it fit. You do not want to fall into something because your family believed that for generations. I have had people say, "Hey, look, my grandmother taught me that and that is right." Well, you know what? No disrespect to your grandma, but she does not know what she is talking about. She should have stuck with chocolate chip cookies and brownies. But get into the Bible, she was a little over her pay grade. I am not saying the same thing about me. Do not believe everything I tell you. Hey, do not believe anything I tell you. Watch the Scriptures. Get into the Word of God.

SEC: Perception and Discernment: Understanding and Dealing with Truth

We saw how that when you gird your loins with truth, your mind, God's mind, that it will make your arms and your hands so strong. In fact, Psalms 18:34 says that you can break a bow of steel on them. That shows you that what you have in your mind, we talked about this, translates down into your feet and to the arms and the work that you are going to do. I think one of the greatest things we saw last week, and I am giving you all this because it is going to fit right into where we are going today, we saw her, the Bible talked about her perspective. Probably two of the simplest, greatest aspects that the Bible will give you as you let God's mind be in you, Philippians 2:5 and 1 Corinthians 2:16, will be the aspect of getting perspective and getting discernment.

In the Bible, you have a guy who is called, he is void of understanding, and that is most of God's people. The thing that the Word of God will do for you, if you do it correctly, it will give you perspective like this woman had, and it will give you discernment. Perception is the ability to understand the bottom line of things. You perceive something. You see it and you can perceive what it really is. A lot of things in the world, and just set the world aside for a minute, we know that truth. A lot of things in Christianity appear to be one thing when actually there is something

else. You will see that all the time. You will see guys get up in the pulpit that pretend that they have the truth when they do not have the truth. You will see God's people pretend they are spiritual when they are not.

I am not telling you this so you can go around judging anything or anybody, but I am telling you this: you do not have a right to judge anybody else for what they are doing, but you do have a right to judge how you are going to allow that to impact your life, whether you are going to let it in or not. That is perception. Perception is the ability to understand the bottom line of the real issue, not the symptom. You look at a problem a person has and the whole Christian world looks at the symptom, but somebody with perception goes past the symptom and sees the problem. This is why so many of God's people can never get the victory in life, because you have spent all your life treating the symptoms and letting somebody get into your world and get to the problem. You do not want that.

We are all famous for this: we do not feel good and we go to the doctor, he gives us some kind of medicine to put us on and most of us take the medicine until we start feeling better. Then we do not take it anymore because it tastes bad. It may mess up your GI tract. It gives you all kinds of side effects. So you just start feeling better and what happens? You get a relapse of it. That is what happens with God's people. You come in, you start to be disciplined. Somebody starts working with you. You and I are meeting together and then suddenly, where are you now? You are gone. You do not come in and ask any questions anymore. You do not run anything by anybody. You are out there and you have got just enough medicine to make yourself feel better. Now you do not want to take any more medicine or you want it on your terms. That is just the way that it works.

Perception is the ability to understand something and see it for what it is. But discernment is the ability of how you are going to deal with it. You have got to have those two aspects. First of all, for your own life, or you are going to be a mess. And then secondly, for the ministry itself, or you are going to be a mess. You have to be able to, as this woman, she perceived that her merchandise was good. Then she had the discernment to be able to use that. We are going to see how she used that today.

In everything that I do for you here, all the stuff that we work on, the one-on-one that we spend so much time with so many of you and the Bible Institute, which we had a great time yesterday, and people ministry, and Thursday Night Bible study, and everything that I do, my bottom line goal is to get you to a point where you get into the Bible to a degree that perception and discretion become the hallmark of your relationship with Christ and everything that you do. You look at anything in life and you understand it from God's principles, perception, and then you understand how to deal with it, discernment. As I said, in Proverbs, you have a guy that is mentioned who is a fool who is void of understanding. This guy walks around thinking like he knows it all, thinking like he has got it all together and he is void of understanding. Very frankly, many of God's people are that way today.

SEC: The Emperor's New Clothes and Spiritual Nakedness

Then we looked at verse 18, an incredible teaching of us as candles. It talked about Matthew chapter 5, it talked about the candle on a hill. We talked about how every one of us is a light for God, like unto a candle. We let our light shine as we build together this field and this church and get 300 people with their lights turned on, their candles lit, and then everything going from there. Today in Christianity, every period of church history had a candle. I showed you back in 1 Samuel chapter 3, which is the picture of the time that we live in, how that candle went out. Then I brought it up to Revelation, the Laodicean church, the seven church periods there. Each one of those church periods has an angel and a candlestick that is a light that represents that church.

I showed you in Revelation 1:20, Revelation 2:5, Revelation 3:15-16, that I took you over to the book of Colossians, which is dealing with the Laodicean church. And in Matthew chapter 5, where the light candle shines. I showed you how that very clearly from Revelation 3, the Laodicean church period, right now, us, this church period, its candle is gone out. That is the problem. No light, no truth, no ministry. Years ago, maybe not years ago, but several years ago, I have taught it several times. I laid out for you the seven things that you lose when you lose your Bible. We are seeing today, when you lose these seven things, just as in 1 Samuel chapter 3, the candle goes out. The angel has been spewed out of Christ's mouth, as it tells you there in Revelation chapter 3. So that was last week, and just kind of a recap, and we are going to see how that moves into today.

SEC: The Work of the Ministry: Making Spiritual Clothes

Today, we are going to look at Proverbs 31:19-20.

Proverbs 31:19-20

She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

Our verse that we are building everything in Proverbs 31 around is, you should have it memorized by now if you have not already, Philippians 1:6, the fact that He has begun a good work in us and will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. We know now that the day of Jesus Christ will be the day the Lord comes back, and in particular, the judgment seat of Christ. That is His day versus the day of the Lord, which is the second coming, which is God's day.

Verse 19 says, "She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff." Here we begin to see the fulfillment of Philippians 1:6, because now we see that she is actually at work. Now we are not talking about what she needed to do. Now she is sitting at the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. The distaff will be thread. The spindle is the machine by which she sews or she puts things together. Now we see that she has fully come to the place where she is doing the job.

All through the Bible, we have talked about this many, many times, there are four key ingredients that we have to have to really do the work of God. This woman has them all. Very frankly, many of you have them all.

4. You have to have the right man or the right woman.

5. Then you have got to have that right man or woman in the right place.
6. Then you have got to have them in the right time frame.
7. Then you have got to have them in the right work.

That is exactly what we have seen throughout the Word of God in almost everybody's life that God really used. It is true in so many of our lives that God used. First thing she did was she considered a field, she looked at it, and then she bought it. That is the right person in the right place. Then she understands from Matthew chapter 20, we talked about it at great length, that the time frame she is in in relationship to Christ's coming. So now she has got the right time. Then she gets the strength and then she carries that strength out in the work that she does and now she has the right work. So you have the right man in the right place, in the right time, with the right work. Now she is sitting at the spindle using the distaff, the thread, to make some clothes.

That sounds like a simple thing. You would look at that and say, "Oh, ho, hum, okay, she is making clothes." But in its simplest form, that is exactly what every church should be doing, every pastor should be doing, and those of you who are dialed into the ministry and working with people, that is basically what we do when we minister the Word of God to people. We are helping them make clothes. You are going to find that you are going to make clothes so they will not be found naked at the judgment seat of Christ. One of the great unknown doctrines found in 1 Corinthians chapter 3 and 2 Corinthians chapter 5, the day of Jesus Christ or the day of Christ, we are told that somebody is going to, their nakedness is going to appear. They are going to stand naked before God in the judgment seat. One of the most incredible unknown doctrines that you never hear preached any place anywhere because nobody really understands it anymore.

We are warned in Revelation chapter 3 when we were in the great Philadelphia church age, we were warned to watch out because there was an hour of temptation going to come across the church in the world. Brother, around 1900, we entered into that period of temptation. It all changed around that period of time and for a number of reasons, well, we will not have time to go into today, but we were warned that there was an hour of temptation coming. The hour of temptation is based and defined for us in Revelation 16:15 and again in Revelation 3:11, because they warn us in these chapters that be careful because the hour of temptation is going to be you and me letting some man take from us the crown that God has for us. That is your millennial inheritance. He says make sure that no man takes your crown because the crown is symbolic of you and me figuring out what God wants us to do, getting involved in it and buying the field and doing. The great hour of temptation that came upon the whole world of the church was for a man to stand up and take from you your crown.

Then the other place in Revelation, it talks about the fact that somebody takes your garments. During this life it is just simple. It is not complicated. Like the maker complicated or maybe we do not like to talk about it because it is too simple. But the Christian life is not tough. The Christian life is you as a mom and dad sitting at the spindle with a thread in your hand, and you are going to see it as we get into it next couple of weeks, making the clothes for your children first. Making sure that they are clothed at the judgment seat of Christ. That the nakedness does not appear.

The second thing that we do is we give a portion to our maidens and that is what we do. We help people that come into this church and they are lost. They are not saved. Isaiah 64:6 talks about the fact that when a person is lost, they are naked in sin. There is no covering for them. They will stand at the great white throne judgment naked before God and then dumped into the lake of fire. So we have what the Bible calls in Isaiah 64:6, garments of salvation. You help people get that garment on. You help them cover the nakedness of their sin and clothing them into the garment of salvation.

After they are saved, we sit at that spindle. Many of you do it all week long. I do it all week long. You sit down with people and you sit there and I know you are opening up your Bible, you are going through discipleship one or discipleship two, I get that. Or you are teaching something else, I get that. But clean all that off. What you are doing is sitting there at that spindle helping those people sew their clothes together for the judgment seat of Christ. Clothes one place, you are clothed from the nakedness of your sin, garments of salvation. The other place after you are saved, you are clothed from the garment of the nakedness of your flesh. In Revelation 19:7-8, a robe of righteousness. Everything that you have now opens up to the fact that you are helping that person be clothed when they stand before God at the judgment seat of Christ. That is really what it is. I know that is probably too simple, but that is how simple it is.

When we all met, the first thing we did when we worked, we started working in the Bible together. My goal for you was to help you learn the Bible. As you learn the Bible, you apply the Bible, and as you apply the Bible, you let God change you. All through that process, you are sitting there, I am sitting there, at that spindle. Every piece of thread that we put into the garment will be a biblical principle. It will be a verse. It will be a chapter. It will be an understanding this better than this. That is what we do. Every time we have Bible Institute, we sit down and I am just sitting there at that spindle with a thread helping weave your life into the Word of God that will produce a robe of righteousness at the judgment seat of Christ. Every time you disciple somebody, every time somebody works with you, every time I have you, I know, I know, I know. You do not look at it that way. I get it. I understand. But the bottom line is this: somebody is sitting there at the spindle with a distaff, the thread, and they are helping you put together a garment. That is going to be a garment of the robe of white righteousness when you stand at the judgment seat of Christ.

People sometimes, they get mad at us sometimes. When you try to help them with the Bible, you have all experienced it. I have experienced it all my life. A lot of it has to do with the fact that, and I know you know this, that people come to the point where they start out wanting to do what they need to do, but then at some point for some reason, then they want to start to resist that change. A lot of it has to come back to what we talked about last week, attitude and action. Somebody will change their action for a while, but if they do not really change the attitude, then the action will slide back into what it was before. That is just the way it was.

I have always thought if they could only understand, and I get it, they do not have any discernment, they do not have any perseverance, any ability to see any perception, but I have always thought to myself, if they can only see what the real goal is, our goal is, in verse 19, that all we are trying to do is help you learn how to sew. That is all we are doing. We are setting a

needle and a thread and a spindle and everything there to show you and help you understand how to make clothes for your kids first. If you have got kids, minister to your household and then to the maidens, or if you are not, you buy yourself to help you get to that point.

I understand why people sometimes get upset. They do not want to change. Change is tough. I have got to tell you something, the older you get, the tougher change is, because we get set in our ways and we do not want to change. That is why most people, if you are going to have somebody that is older, like myself, come over to eat, eat on time. Forty minutes late, I am going to be pretty grumpy. In fact, I have been to my kids' house and they have been just put it off and I just said, "I am going to run out and get a bite to eat. I will be back here in just a little bit." Now, I know that is not right. But I am set in my ways in a lot of things. I mean, I am. The older, yeah, you are laughing at me now. When you get to be my age? When you get to be 40 or 50? When you get to that point in your life? You will see the proof of that.

I have seen people that were in their 30s and their 40s that are so bullheaded that they, I mean, they are not going to change about anything. People reject change as a natural part of human life. That is why when a person gets saved, truly saved, what changes about them first is their soul. Once the soul gets changed, now you have the ability, if you will do the right process, to change everything about your life. So I just painted myself into a corner. I guess I need to get saved so I can come over and eat and everything. But it is a thing where, you know, you see it all the time. Most of them have no discernment. They have no perspective about anything. So they cannot see and understand what you are trying to do to help them.

I will tell you a story. It goes along with this. I went over to a Bass Pro the other day, Troy. I had some gift cards to use. It is that one with a big fish with his tail sticking out. So you know how I went over here? So I am driving in the driveway that would up at it, and then you have got to turn into the parking lot. So I turn into the parking lot, and there is a snapping turtle about that big. It is a good 25, 30 pounder. This is the time of year why you see them on the roads killed and they are walking, because they are laying their eggs. So they move to lay their eggs. That is why you see them all the time on the road this time of the year. She was moving from one little patch of forestry there to another one. I am, hey, I am afraid she is going to get hurt right over. I am driving down the road and I see one. I will pull over and pick him up and get him off the road. Well, she was big.

I parked the car, came up, and come up to her, and she was not in a good mood. What you do with them, you know, you do not, I mean, most people do not know, they have a neck that is about that long. It is faster than any snake that you ever saw in your life. A snapping turtle bites you. He does not let go. He will, but he will hang on to you forever. There are a couple of things that you have got to do if you want to get him off. But I will tell you, he is there for life. You can have him bite a stick and hold him up. They have got tremendous power. I used to trap them for a living years ago, them and frog legs. I used to catch 40, 50 pounders. I mean, they are that big around. I would cut their heads off, bleed them out, let them bleed out for two or three hours. They have got a bone on both sides that you have got to get the meat. You have got to get off to get the bottom of the shell off. I would take a hacksaw and I would start hacking on it. That thing, his head had been cut off for hours. He would reach around with his, and his claws were as

big as my hands. He would grab that hacksaw to keep me from cutting it. Now, that is not scary. I will tell you what, man, I will tell you.

So anyway, I am thinking no big deal. I want to get this turtle off the road. So I, and she, defensive mode right away. So I am thinking, okay, I will just come around behind her and I will grab her this way. Every time I move, she turned with me. She is snapping at me. She was having a bad hair day. She did not even have any hair that I could see. I tried and I put my hand, I finally got my hand on the back of her shell to press her down and then grab her tail. She kicked my hand off and I said, I said, "Hey, lady, you are dead. You go ahead and get run over if you want to." But as I drove away, I thought to myself, you know what? She is just like a lot of Christians that I have tried to work with in my world. She did not have any perception. If I could talk turtle talk, I would have said, "You know, hey, I am just trying to get you off so that big truck do not run over you because Billy Bob is going to smash you on his way to get a Lamar Donut on a quick trip." She did not want to hear it. She could not discern or have any perception that I was trying to help her. So she was nasty and tried to bite me and hostile. I thought to myself as I drove away, I know a lot of God's people that I tried to help. All I was trying to do was get them turned the right way so a truck of life would not run over them. You know what they do? They just try to bite you. They get an attitude about it. They get mad. You have all experienced it. If I thought to myself, if people could just get a little bit of understanding, hey, I have no private or personal agenda with you. I just want you to be everything that God wants you to be. But I know there is a process you have got to do through that. You get mad at me because you do not want the process. It is okay. Be the snapping turtle run over by the truck. But I am just telling you. I understand.

In school, I do not know what books you have to read now, but when I was in school, we had to read a book called *The Emperor's New Clothes*. You have heard of that book? How many have read that book? Well, four or five of you graduated from school. That is good. *The Emperor's New Clothes* is a book about two tailors, seamsters. They wanted to give the king a brand new set of clothes that they were going to make for him. In their minds, they really did not make it, but they pretended that they made a suit of clothes that it was invisible. So the king puts it on. They tell the king, the only one who can see these clothes are the ones that love you and are part of your kingdom. If a person cannot see them, they are your enemy. Of course, he goes naked. They draped him with his clothes. He is naked. All invisible. He is strutting around, and they are saying, "Oh, it is beautiful. Isn't it wonderful? Yes, it is just the most beautiful thing." Well, the word got out. Nobody wanted to go to jail or get their head cut off. So now everybody is thinking that *The Emperor's New Clothes*, which are no clothes at all. He is naked. That is how Bubba says it. Naked. They are all saying, "Oh, Your Majesty, you look really nice today." He is naked. So they are going down this day in this great parade, and he is as naked as a jaybird. But nobody in the kingdom wants to say he is naked because of the fact that they are going to get their head cut off because they have been told that if the king has been told if they cannot see your clothes, they are disloyal. Oh, who wants to die over being a naked king? So everybody is saying, "Oh, you look wonderful today. It is just gorgeous. I love your clothes." He is parading around, just as naked as he could be. So they are having this parade down through town, and everybody is

saying, "Oh, oh, you are just wonderful. Oh, that is beautiful clothes." Right in the middle of the crowd is this little four- or five-year-old kid. He yells out real loud, "Hey, the king is naked!"

Most of Christianity is just like that book. Some great pastor, quote, some great theologian has convinced us that we are clothed in righteousness, and we are going to be okay at the judgment seat of Christ when in reality they have taken the truth of the Word of God from us, they have taken your garments, they have taken your crown, and you are walking around like that king, and you are going to be as naked as can be at the judgment seat of Christ. Right now you think you are clothed. I mean, you think that you just look wonderful as a Christian. Yet Revelation 3:17 says:

Revelation 3:17

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

This is why they do not like me. This is why some of you do not like me. I am that little four- or five-year-old in the crowd saying, "Hey, you are naked!" But you are under the delusion that you are clothed wonderfully today. That is the problem. The Bible tells us that in Revelation 3:18, that this church needs to get some eyesalve and anoint your eyes so you might be able to see.

That was a great example of that back in 1 Samuel chapter 14. That is the story of Jonathan and Saul. Saul was the great big pastor. He was always blaming the people for their failures. So he does all these non-Biblical things, and so one day he says, "I do not want anybody to eat any food before we go to battle." So they do not eat, go to battle, and they are so weak from not eating, they get beat. They get whipped. You know what he does? He blames it on the people, just like every pastor will do when you do not jump through the hoops because they have made stupid hoops for you to jump through. Then you have little Jonathan. The Bible says that he disobeyed his father. You know what he did? He found some honey. That honey is a type of the Word of God. He ate that honey, and the Bible says the moment he ate that honey, his eyes were enlightened. He said, "You know who the real trouble is here? It is not the people, it is the king." See what honey will do for you? That is the eyesalve you need. That is what we are about. That is all we are trying to do. We are trying to get you to see what discernment and perspective and perceive and discern. My job and the job of my fellow laborers in this church is to help you see clearly the eyesalve.

A pastor should never care where you come from. They should never look back in your past and say, "Well, you did this or you did that" and judge you on that basis. I am telling you right now, you never care where somebody comes from. You only care on where they want to be now and where they want to go. Allowing people, God's people, allowing people to always live in the past, dwell and you find somebody, God's people, that is all they can do. They just keep going back to the past. That will never work for a Christian. The job of any church, any pastor, or the people that work with people is to help you get there, teach you how to sow. Getting past your past. Most people have no perspective. They have no discernment of understanding any right or wrong.

SEC: Race, History, and the Healing of the Nations

We see the same problems in America today. In fact, that is the problem in America today. Now, let me clarify this before I say what I am going to say here, come through this thing to show you the parallel. I am non-political. I do not care. I do not care about anything in politics. Some people like this guy, some people like that guy. At the end of the day, the bottom line is, no matter who gets in office, no matter who does what, it is not going to slow or fast up the second coming of Christ and the rapture of the church. There is not any man that you are going to put in office outside the Lord Jesus Christ that is going to fix this country. Now, they may do some good things and I am all for that. They may help us do some good things for the Lord. I am all for that. I am. But I am not under any illusion that the answer to America's problems is going to be found in who is going to be president. Or who is going to be mayor. Or who is going to be governor. That is an illusion that we are under today that we just lose sight of that whole thing. Seemingly there is no answer to it.

Right now, and for a long time, this country is in deep trouble. For a long time, it has been based, and even today, it is obviously based around the racial issues that we all face and struggle with. I am the first one to tell you, I do not look at it from a political standpoint. I am going to give you today, whether you like it or not, whether you accept it or not, it does not matter to me, I am going to take you back, like I always do, to the Bible.

We talk about race. Race goes back to the human race. That is the term. The word race came off the original term of the human race. The human race went into effect back in Genesis chapter 10 when God divided the nations. From that point on, up to today and into the future till the Lord comes back and sets up His government, the human race is going to be a race for one nation, one ethnic group, one whatever, to get ahead of the other. That is all that it is going to be. When the times of the Gentiles came in, I mean, you had the Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. That was the supreme race. Everybody else in the world was no good. Then you had the Assyrians, and then you had the Greeks, and then you had the Romans. They all were groups of people, Gentiles, yes, but they were groups of people who ran the world and made everybody else in the world their slaves. You see, slavery did not start in America, though I think slavery is a terrible thing. But when you do not have the perception and the discernment to see how this thing works, I mean, I remember in 1933, Adolf Hitler started a white supremacy, Aryan race, that only white ethnic Germans of the Aryan bloodline were the superior race, and everybody else was substandard, everybody. Then after the war, you had down south, you had your Ku Klux Klan groups, your Aryan Brotherhood, or your white supremacist groups, and they think they are superior. Then when we got out into the 50s and the 60s, we got into the Cold War, and Russia was the big power, and everybody else, they wanted to enslave the world.

So see, the human race, the idea of race, because of course we are in it right now, and I am going to talk about it in a moment, we are in it right now up to our eyeballs. Assuming that there is no answer to it, though I am going to show you the answer to it. All down through history, the human race has been a race of humans to put one race over another race to rule them. Little do they know, all down through history, because they have no discernment, they have no perspective, little do anybody know and understand. It is not going to be white power, it is not

going to be black power, it is not going to be communist power, it is not going to be Nazi power, it is going to be Jew power. So they are going to run the world someday. Right now, hey, the first shall be last, and the last shall be first. What do you think he means by that verse?

I understand that in America, the race issue has been long for a long time. I am in total sympathy with any minority group who gets persecuted without, who is just trying to have a better life and trying to be a human being. I would tell anybody this, if you want to see the model for dealing with race in America, you will be here in this church. You know why? Because when you get into Christ Jesus, there is no race. When you get into Christ Jesus, I think the song goes, "Red and yellow, black and white, they are all precious in His sight." There is no race in Christ Jesus. I have three black boys here who call me their dad, and I love it. I have a lot of you white honkies call me dad too, and I kind of like it. There is no race here. We laugh at it. We make fun of it.

I am telling you, this nation, listen to me very carefully, here is the problem. This nation is anarchy. This nation is an insane asylum run by the inmates. This nation is in such bad shape. Our police officers are under tremendous pressure. You say, "Well, you have got bad police officers." You have got bad Baptist preachers. So do we throw out all the churches because there are a few bad goofy Baptist preachers? Hey, it is a thing where there has to be a better answer than that. But that is reality and nobody wants reality. You see, this nation needs healing. Everybody says it. They will get up and they say, "We need to heal." They will carry banners. "We need to heal, heal our country, heal our race problems, heal this, heal that, heal all these things." But I want to tell you something, going back to the Bible, there is a place where you have a tree that is for the healing of the nations. That is the tree of life. Today right now in Christianity, you and I are the leaves. Remember Israel, Romans 9 and 11 was the natural branches. We got grafted in. Now we are the leaves of the tree of life and we are the only way we can heal this nation as leaves.

I think terrible injustice has been done to black Americans in the last 300 years. I totally understand that. Hey, I grew up in 1970 in Canton, Ohio and was at the Canton Baptist Temple. I won a black man to the Lord at the Hoover Company whose name was John Tony. John Tony wound up being a preacher and running a black church and doing a tremendous job. I saw him at Mel's funeral just several years ago and he is still doing the job. I won him to Christ. He wanted to get baptized. The Canton Baptist Temple would not allow a black man to be baptized in that white church. Now that was my first introduction to it. I never knew anything about race, cared anything about race. But it was the first time that I asked Mel, I said, "What is going on?" I said, "This guy is saved. He wants to get baptized." And he said, "That is just the way it is." I said, "Well, that is wrong." He said, "It is wrong." He said, "Tell him to be here at 11 o'clock tonight and I will baptize him." So we baptized him.

There was a church that J. Frank Norris started up in Temple Baptist in Detroit. Temple Baptist in Detroit where they had all the Detroit riots. It was one of the racist churches you ever found in this country. It was not even down south. It was up in Detroit. When a pastor friend of mine went up there to be the pastor and they sat down to interview him, the first thing the deacons asked him, "If we call you his pastor, will you guarantee us no black people will join this church?" I think of Emmett Till, 14-year-old, 1955, brutally tortured, hung, thrown in a river, burned with a

blowtorch by white men down in the south just because of the fact he talked to a white woman. I see it all around and nobody has any answers.

I am telling you right now, this is rule number one of life. So just write this down. If you do not get anything else, go home with this.

Rule number one of life: If you do not put the Bible principles to your problem, your problem just gets worse.

I think the race in the south from the 30s even probably goes on today but certainly with the white supremacist group, the Ku Klux Klan, and all the persecution that all that the black man wanted to do was vote. You ever see the movie Mississippi Burning? It is about the three civil white workers who were killed by the white guys down there, the racists, because of the fact that they wanted to get the black man the right to vote. They said it is not going to happen. They found him on a road, they killed him, they shot him, and then they buried him in a swamp. I am telling you, there has to be an answer to this but you are not going to find the answer by a knee-jerk reaction. Everybody today wants to treat the symptoms without getting down and really solving the problem because the problem is only going to be solved with Jesus Christ. It is just that simple.

I look at this thing and I see our country around here. Everybody is afraid now to do anything to keep law and order. I look at Nancy Pelosi last week, and I do not care about Nancy Pelosi. The fact that she is a Democrat means nothing to me. I could care less. It would not matter to me what she is. I mean she cannot help it if somebody looked like took a ball peen hammer to her head. But that is not my problem either. But the bottom line is this, made a big announcement last week. "We are taking down all the portraits in the capital of all the speakers of the House that were connected with the Confederacy in the Civil War to a race racism." Now, you see, if that was the real deal, I would be okay with it. But it is not a real deal because they are only doing it because they want to get the black vote in the election in November. If that was really the case, you would have taken them down a long time ago. Why now? Because the election is in November. You see, what you find in this, and this is what really muddies the water, is great hypocrisy. Everybody wants to use race for their own personal gain at the expense of the good black people out there who love God and want to do what is right. But they will hold you victim because they have got an agenda, either politically or whatever the case may be.

They had taken all the statues down south of all the Confederate world leaders. They want to change the names of Fort Bragg and all the military bases that were Confederate soldiers because that is what they want to do. People are so stupid. White people are so stupid that you sit there and you actually think there is some validity to that. Well, let me ask you a question. In World War II, the black man could not get into combat. He could be a cook. He could be a yeoman. That is a servant for an officer. He could be a dining room orderly. He could sweep the barracks and he could sweep out garbage cans, but he could not ever fight in combat. During World War II, there was a group from Tuskegee College down south that became known as the Tuskegee Airmen. They were called the Red Tails because they flew P-51s and all their tails were painted in red. Do you know what they had to go through to be able to get to that job? Because the

United States Army had official policy that black men could not fight in combat and they could never fly airplanes because here it comes, when their mothers carried them through the jungles on their back and messed up their eyesight and depth perception. That is the United States Army's official stance on why black men could not fight. After they did fight and let them in in Korea, from Korea to now, 86 black men were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Red Tails, they were escort fighters for the bombers, B-17s. I do not know how many escort flights they took to protect the B-17s from the Nazi fighters, but all the sorties that they flew and all the times they flew, they never lost one bomber. They protected them. In fact, by halfway through it, the white guys were asking for the Red Tails because they did not run. They did not go off and chase the fighters and leave the bombers by themselves.

I mean, why do not we pick at the U.S. Army? Why are not we up in arms about the Army? I will go better than that. You like baseball? America's national pastime? You know who Ben Chapman was? Ben Chapman was the manager for the Philadelphia Phillies. When Jackie Robinson started to play baseball, he was a black man. Ben Chapman, along with everybody else, went out on that field when he was up the bat and called him everything in the world, that if you would say it today, you would be in jail. He called him the most terrible racial slurs in front of 10,000 people. He made fun of having a white wife, which he did not. He made fun of what he ate and all of that, and called him by the most despicable name over and over and over again. Everybody in the stands was clapping and applauding. Why do not we postpone baseball and get rid of it? I mean, if we are going to do the generals, if we are going to do the portraits in the house, why do not we just be consistent? But you know why? Because baseball brings in too much money. You know why? Because you need the Army. Folks, get a little discernment and get a little perspective. It is all fixed. It is all fixed.

I mean, we are going to take down all of the paintings of all the men that were connected with that. Well, you have got a dollar bill that has got George Washington on it, and he had slaves. You have got Ben Franklin, he is on whatever he is on, \$100 or whatever, and he had slaves. Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, he had slaves. You see, your hypocrisy runs so deep. But you know why you exist in that? Because white men and black people are so stupid with no perspective and no discernment that they do not see what is really going on. I mean, it is just that simple. I mean, I do not know what to tell you. 200 years of slavery in America. That is all you hear. I mean, tear down the thing in the South. The Confederate War was a racist war. The people that have fought it were racist. Oh, hey, come on. I am against slavery. I am going to tell you the real reason. It is not the reason that you probably are. Mine is out of the Bible. Yours is out of wherever you got it. Well, you know, slavery has been around for Genesis chapter 10. I mean, it is just that simple. I mean, come on.

I am telling you, the answer to our race issues is simply the healing of the nations, and it has got to be healed if it is ever going to get fixed. Slavery has been around since Genesis chapter 10. I am not saying it is right, but I am saying you are going to focus on 200 years of history. Let me ask you a question. I would ask this to any black leader, and I am for you, but I am for you, but I live in reality. Now, we are tearing this country apart, marching up and down the street because of Black Lives Matter and all these things, and I am all with you. But when did black America

ever lose 7 million people in the furnaces of Treblinka, Auschwitz, and Nazi Germany? Where are their parades? Do you know what the Babylonians did to the Jews when they took them captive in 606 BC? Do you know what Titus did in 70 AD when he came down? He enslaved them. Do you ever read Ezekiel chapter 1? Where is Daniel in Ezekiel? They are slaves! You see, we have such a shadow picture of understanding history that we are caught up in our own little moment, and I get it! But it is not going to take fake Christianity with a political or a hidden agenda behind it, taking advantage of the moment and the injustices that have been done, but rather an understanding that in Christ, in Christ, there is no more race, that the Jew and the Gentile are now in one body.

Here it comes. No man, anywhere in history, never, we are in America, never in America, no man should ever be able to buy and purchase another human as a slave. Did you get that? All through history, over here, in America, right here, home of the brave, free of the whatever, should ever, ever, ever, ever, ever be allowed to purchase another human being and make that person their slave. Now, your answer to that is because black lives matter. My answer to that is based on the fact that why no man should ever be bought by another man because every one of us has already been bought and paid for at Calvary's Cross. You are bought for the price! You do not have your rights anymore! He bought you at Calvary! You are His bond slave! The fact that you will not recognize that! And give your life to Him! There is a reason why we have got the problems in America today. I am telling you.

I had a guy in my church back one time who was a, and I will not tell you his name, some of you might know him, but you know what? He was in my church. Yeah, you can believe this, William. Alex, he believed that you guys did not have souls. You heard that before? Yeah, your wife mentioned that to me the other day. He thought that black people were the mud people, the beasts of the field in Genesis. He believed that! He thought that! You see, guys will buy into that. But I bring it back to that little funnel called the Bible. Do not do that, you are right. Because I see that the man that helped Christ carry the cross, the cavalry, was a black man. Are you saved this morning? Amen? Are you? Amen. No, no. Are you truly saved this morning? Well, the first man in the Bible saved just like me and you was in Acts chapter 8, and he is an African-American, and he is a black man. The first church over there, the Church of Antioch, look at it! You have got two black men, a white guy, and another white guy who was a Roman who was a nephew or grandson or some relation to the Roman emperor who hated God's people. You know what? They are all working together.

Listen, the world through slavery will tear this country