

I. Introduction and Review of John 2

If you haven't guessed it by now, we are in John chapter 2. Last week, we've been kind of working through this. There is a ton of stuff in John chapter 2 in this first story that we have looked at. The first week we were in it, which was before New Year's, we looked at the third day aspect of it, and we got that all laid out. Last week, we came back and we looked at the passage and laid it out how Christ's first miracle here in His public ministry, if you put it in all in a chronological order, this is His first public ministry, which we talked about last week, was turning the water to wine.

I took the time last week to deal with this from a practical aspect because the Laodicean mindset today and the teaching today in many Baptist churches, not just the evangelical clowns, but in all the other circuses that's going on out there, they teach that Christ drank fermented alcohol. So it's okay for God's people to drink socially or drink however you want to put it. Here is the proof text that He actually turned this water to wine.

I tell you all the time that you can't move forward with the Bible without understanding history. The first part of the 20th century has been forgotten, how that some of the greatest preachers that ever preached the Word of God in that century, especially one Billy Sunday, single-handedly brought prohibition in, which outlawed alcohol in any shape or form. He preached on the evils of it. He preached on what the Bible said about it. Obviously today, like everything else in Christianity, and even in the world, he was wrong. He had it wrong. Billy Sunday wasted his whole life preaching about booze when he should have just chugged up and had a little himself and had time with his friends. But we forgot those things.

One of the things that you always want to watch in the demise of anything—it can be true in your life, it's certainly true in churches in Christianity, and it's certainly true in our own country—will be the demise of our value systems. When you start to see the values that once made your life good and great with God begin to dissipate and move out of your life, you know you're in trouble. You may not know it, but you're in trouble. When you see it in Christianity, what a hundred years ago a guy was preaching against the very things that we say is okay now. Of course, government goes without saying. It's completely lost its relevance as far as anything that once was good.

We have forgotten the lessons of history. This is taught all of us how that the New Testament church, this is taught from the pulpits across Kansas City, across the country. For us going through last week, it not only helped us know and understand now how that it all works, but it was a great learning experience on top of that of how you set up a context. Everything that I try to do for you, I try to put within a biblical context so you can see it, because context is truth. Many times we make the mistake of thinking that context has to do with the Bible. No, context has to do with everything, including our lives, putting our life in the context. Context is truth.

Anything in your life, you've got to get the bottom line. One of my favorite verses is Proverbs 18:3 that says that, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him." You'll wind up looking like a fool when you shoot your mouth off without ever finding out the facts and putting it into a context.

I showed you how that from the definitive chapter on wine in the Bible, and that would be Deuteronomy chapter 32, I showed you the two types of wine.

Deuteronomy 32:14 talked about the pure blood of the grape, which was grape juice.

Deuteronomy 32:14

Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.

Then in Deuteronomy 32:32-33, you saw the devil's cup, which was the fermented, which was the venom of asps.

Deuteronomy 32:32-33

For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter:

Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps.

Along with that, I didn't read this last week, but in Hosea chapter 4, verse 11, the two wines are clearly laid out.

Hosea 4:11

Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.

This clearly shows you that there's a wine and a new wine in the Bible, and Deuteronomy chapter 32 will clearly lay that out for you. Clearly, along with that, you show that one represents the blood of Christ and the other represents the devil's cup. Because God never violates His own principles once He establishes a truth, God would never give the devil's cup to God's people. Only Baptist preachers and Neo-Evangelical Christians would do that. For the devil's cup, you want to see Revelation chapter 17, verse 2, where you find that the whole world is fellowshiping and drinking out of the devil's cup.

Revelation 17:2

With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Along with that, I told you last week, if He did do that, if He would have done that, if Billy Sunday was truly wrong and the Baptist preachers today and the Neo-Evangelical guys are really right, and He did, then you can't get around Habakkuk 2:15 that says:

Habakkuk 2:15

Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

If Christ did that, then He violated the law. We know from James chapter 2, verse 10, if you violate in one, you're guilty of it all. So God's Son couldn't save anybody because He's a guilty sinner just like me and you.

In this chapter, John chapter 2, there's much to study and to learn. I've already told you how that in the Old Testament in Exodus, Moses, in his first public ministry, turned water to blood. Christ, in his first public ministry, turns water to wine, and how that they are a type of blood. Honestly, I'm not going to get into it today, but certainly to whet your appetite, if you want to, depending on how deep you want to go, this is connected all the way back to Adam and Eve. When Adam and Eve fell in Genesis chapter 3, the key to their fall, I don't know if you know this or not, but the key to their fall was a blood issue. Something changed about their blood.

I don't have to get into a lot of detail if you've been around here in part of Institute and Bible studies. You know from Judges chapter 9 that this forbidden fruit that we always hear so much about certainly wasn't an apple. My old grandmother said that the forbidden fruit wasn't an apple, the forbidden fruit was the pear on the ground, Adam and Eve. My grandma was pretty smart, terrible cook, but she was pretty smart.

When Eve ate it, something changed in her system to blood, and now she is in the flesh. Now she's no more in innocence because, and again, I keep hating to bring up the Bible, Leviticus 17:11 says:

Leviticus 17:11

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Before the fall, they weren't in the flesh, they weren't in innocence. After the fall, whatever they ate, that forbidden fruit was a grape, a type of blood. It changed, however it changed, and now she's in the flesh and she's got blood. To lay this out, and again, I'm not suggesting that I'm going to do this today, I don't have the time, but you'd have to see that when Adam got Eve from God, here again, how many times have I told you, every word in the Bible is important. God just didn't throw words in there like we do to fill up space. Every word is a calculated, orchestrated word to bring light to something else. The quicker you learn that, the better off you're going to be.

So you have when Adam gets Eve from God, he says in Genesis chapter 2, verse 23, before the fall, she's flesh and bone. He doesn't mention blood. He doesn't say flesh and blood. He said flesh and bone because there was something different there.

Genesis 2:23

And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Again, when Christ comes out of the tomb in Luke chapter 24, verse 39, He's standing there before them and they think He's a spirit, and He says to them:

Luke 24:39

Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

Well, Thomas in John chapter 20 didn't believe, and He allowed him to put his hands in the wound. Do you think He was standing there bleeding all over him? Flesh and bone, flesh and bone, no blood. There's a reason for that, and the key to it, if you want to begin to open it up, is found in John chapter 2. Now chew on that for about 15 or 20 years. I did, and see what you come up with.

Places like our passages in John chapter 2, as far as I'm concerned, it's just a door to a deep mine shaft of gold. It's just an entrance way to truth that is discovered by following the established context through a biblical process. I told you last week in Colossians chapter 2, verse 7, right in the middle of the Laodicean church age, He talks about being rooted, being built up, and then being established. That's how you get to the place, and that's what we do here. That's what we try to do here. When you just believe the book and do what it says, the Holy Spirit of God will keep that door of truth open in every aspect of your life. That's the key, keeping the door of information from the Holy Spirit of God open in your life.

II. The Third Day and God's Prophetic Calendar

Today, we're going to learn some things about our Bible. This is going to be a message that's going to kind of tip the balance on two aspects. What I'm going to do today is to put a lot of things in your Bible, major pieces of your Bible, into an understandable context. You're going to learn some Bible today and get some things laid out in your Bible, and hopefully, I told you Thursday night that you're ready to do that.

I'm going to read again John chapter 2, verses 1 through 11. Let's pray before we do that and then we'll move into it.

Father, we do thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus. Pray your blessings upon our time in your Word today. Give me clarity of thought and understanding. Help me, Lord, to preach this first section clearly and then to turn on the dime and lay out the second aspect of it clearly, that we can go out of here with a clear understanding of a context of not only what God is doing here in this chapter from a prophetic sense, but how it impacts our lives on a daily basis. We'll be careful to give you the honor and the praise and the glory in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it, amen.

John 2:1-11

And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

Now, let's begin to lay this out. I'm going to show you again, we're going to develop a context, not only of this passage, but I want to give you a context of life today. Certainly in the day and age that we live, we need a context of life because we have lost it. I'm just telling you. As I begin to lay this out, you will remember many, many times I've told you how that in every aspect of the Bible there are three applications.

1. A historical application that it actually happened in history.
2. A prophetic application that is going to happen in the future.
3. An inspirational, practical, personal, or spiritual application that's going to help you tomorrow.

Today, I'm going to give you, you already know what happened in history. I'm going to focus first of all on the doctrinal, and then I'm going to slam dunk it into the inspirational.

We started this chapter, I laid it out and taught you one of the great keys in the Bible was the times and the seasons and the aspect of the third day, always being connected to the Second Coming of Christ. I showed you, and you ought to have all this down by now, I showed you the two key days in the Bible all through history.

One is the Day of Christ, or it's called the Day of Jesus Christ, and that will be the Rapture. Everything for a child of God, you and me, down through church history, but certainly in the day and age that we're living in, everything in the world today that you and I have to go through, deal with, and understand is up against that day. You need to know that. You may not like that, you may not like me saying that. That may make you feel uncomfortable. I'm sorry, if truth of the Word of God makes you feel uncomfortable, get comfortable with being uncomfortable. I just

thought that and threw that in. That sounded pretty good. Josh, write that down so I don't forget it, and I want to get that from you later.

The second day is the Day of the Lord. That'll be the Second Coming of Christ. Just as the Day of Christ is everything for the Christian that we are up against that day, but we're going to stand there, the Day of the Lord or the Second Coming is everything that the nation of Israel is up against. Those two days are the key to the Bible. Those two days will both render to the two people groups that God down through the Bible and history has seen fit to use: the nation of Israel (Day of the Lord) and the body of Christ (Day of Jesus Christ).

I also showed you in the Bible that these times and the seasons, there's a couple of different systems that you add to that.

- I showed you that there was an hour system to show you times in the season of the Second Coming. I gave you Matthew chapter 20 on that.
- I told you there was a watch system. That was in Matthew chapter 13.
- Then I told you that there was a day system, and there's two day systems, and I gave you all this. This is just a caveat to bring you up to the main meal here.
- There was a seven-day system that runs from Genesis to Revelation that'll bring you up to approximately the Second Coming.
- Then there's a three-day system that starts with Christ's first coming and runs you up approximately to the Lord's Day or the Second Coming of Christ.

In John chapter 2, we have our first key that whatever is taking place here, doctrinally, is in some way connected to the Day of the Lord. You'll notice once I, this is why I took the time to lay out the third day. Look at John chapter 2, verse 1. "The third day there was a wedding." This story is connected somehow to that third day, Second Coming. I'm sure as I read this, you caught this because you're all smart people. You're all intuitive into the Bible. You're always paying attention to everything in the Bible. So I'm sure you got this.

Look at verse 11: "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee and manifested forth His glory." I don't know what you know about the Bible, but He never manifests His glory until the Second Coming of Christ. He didn't manifest His glory at the first coming. At the first coming, He came as the Son of Man. There was no glory connected with Him dying on the cross and being smacked and spit on and His beard pulled out. This story has something to do with a manifestation of His glory, the third day, Second Coming. You should have caught that.

God, I love Him for a lot of reasons. But God is the master at illustrating truth through stories in the Bible about the people and their lives in the Bible, or sometimes just the events of the Bible. He'll take a story and weave it around an event to show you a doctrinal truth. He'll do this by using key words that if you get them down, they'll always give you the context so you can find out, open that door of truth. Thursday night I gave you for me, somebody asked a question on Cherubim and Ezekiel, and I gave you out of Ezekiel 1, the whirlwind, the fire, the cloud, the brightness, they're all key words. You'll find words like endure, you'll find words like virgins (plural), you'll find words like the end, the Day of Christ. You'll find words like patience or

virgins (singular), that day, the Day of the Lord, or in this case, the third day. When you see it, you know now the context is beginning to be defined for you.

All the Bible will point to one day, and that'll be the Day of the Lord, not the Rapture of the church. The Rapture of the church is the day I'm looking for. But that's not the day that God is looking for, and God didn't write the Bible around the day that I'm going to go stand before the judgment seat of Christ, though I wished He would have. He wrote it around the day His Son is going to sit down in Jerusalem at His crown, King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, and He disposes of all the governments. That's His day.

The second thing I want you to know about this day, God's day, the seventh one, will be an eternal day. In time, as we know it, this day in 2 Peter chapter 3, verse 8, will last a thousand years. We think that the Day of the Lord is just the day He comes back. No, from Genesis chapter 2 and from everything else in the Bible, we know that this day is a thousand-year period. It starts with, as the Bible says in Malachi chapter 4, verse 2, Jesus Christ like the sun coming up in the morning, and then that day lasts for a thousand years. You need to know that. It's an eternal day. It never has any night, and then it just moves right on into Isaiah chapter 9, verses 6 and 7, and there's never any end to it. Just like in Genesis chapter 1 and 2, the evening and the morning were the first day, second day, third day, but when He got to that seventh day, there was no evening in the morning. It's a picture of this day, God's eternal day, that lasts as far as time is concerned for a thousand years. Just as that day and the Day of the Lord will be the theme of the Bible now, it'll also be the theme of the Bible and the key theme throughout eternity. You'll find this in places like Zechariah chapter 14. You'll find it connected with the Feast of Tabernacles in Ezekiel chapter 40 through chapter 48. You'll find it all through the Bible.

III. The Nine Major End-Time Events

Here's what I want. This is why I told you that. I'm going to establish a context for you of nine things that are going to happen in the future. Most of you know these things. When I say them, you will understand them, but what many of you don't know is the order of their happening. That, my friend, is context. I want to do that for you today, and you'll leave here today with a big part of your Bible. Maybe. Maybe.

Within this day, this thousand-year period, there are other events that take place. You have to put them within the parentheses of this thousand-year reign. You have to put them within the context of this thousand-year reign, and there is an order to them. One of the things you don't want to do with your Bible ever, ever, ever is get things out of order. If any of God's people get things out of order at these things, most of them know the terminology. They don't know how to explain it, and they certainly don't know where it fits in. Okay, John chapter 2. We're going to open up the mine shaft door. We're going down about a thousand feet.

Now, nine major events. Nine of them. You're going to walk out of here today with them laid out for you where you can get them down, get them in your Bible someplace, and then never have to worry about it again when somebody asks you.

4. The Rapture of the Church. Let me say this. The Rapture of the church is not part of the Day of the Lord. It's the beginning of the events that lead to that, but it's an event that I want you to have the complete order. So I'm explaining this to you. There are some events here that will take place before the actual day, but you need to know because they're important, and I don't want you to get them out of whack. The Rapture of the church is the next event on God's calendar, prophetically. You'll find it in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, 1 Corinthians chapter 15. You'll find it in type in Revelation chapter 1 through 4, and you'll find it in Song of Solomon chapter 2, and there'll be other places where you can find reference to that. I told you Thursday night that the farther you get from the Bible and the Laodicean church period, the less of the Bible that you're going to have at the end. What was an established doctrine passed down through the generations of the church is now being disputed by Baptist preachers and certainly Neo-Evangelical guys that they will tell you that the Rapture of the church is not a real deal. Of course they tell you that, I mean, I could give you the theological reason. It's easier just to tell you that they're really stupid when it comes to the Bible. I mean, I don't even know what to do. I get it, and their standard, I mean, you talk about stupidity, and I told you this Thursday night, their standard argument is, "Well, you don't find the word rapture in the Bible," which I told you, you don't find the word Bible in the Bible, but you have a Bible in your hand, and whether a word rapture is in your Bible or not, you're going if you're saved. The word rapture comes from the word *rapto*. It's a Latin word. It was given through affection, like the word raptured with love, by people who loved the fact that Christ was going to come back to them. So you can see that as we get farther away from Christ, from the Bible, closer to Christ coming in a Christianity that hates everything about God, there's no love for Him to come back. I get it. I totally get it. All through the Bible, the Rapture is likened to a harvest. You know that there are three parts to a harvest. There are the first fruits that are ripe first, and then there's the main body of the harvest, and then there's the gleanings, the stuff that gets ripe later. You'll find in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, verse 23, all three of those laid out in a proper order or context. The first fruits will be the Old Testament saints that go up. The main harvest will be you and me any second now. Then the gleanings will be the tribulation saints that go up at the end of the tribulation period. So you would think that you would find it. You find for all three parts of that harvest, you'll find a term "come up hither." Probably 25:7, "come up hither" for the Old Testament saints. Revelation chapter 4, verse 1, "come up hither" for the main body. Revelation chapter 11, verse 12, "come up hither" for the tribulation saints. It's all completely neatly laid out, if you believe the Bible.
5. The Tribulation Period (first 3.5 years).
6. The Great Tribulation Period (second 3.5 years, or the Abomination of Desolation). The second event and the third event will be the Tribulation itself. We know this to be called in the Bibles Daniel's 70th week, based on the book of Daniel. I listed two and three here because there are two parts to the Tribulation period. The first part is the first three and a half years, which is simply called the Tribulation period. The second three and a half years is called the Great Tribulation period or the Abomination of Desolation. The Tribulation runs for seven years. We know that the Tribulation is for the purging of the nation of Israel. God pours out His wrath on Israel. This is where they come back to God. I say that, and again, the

farther we get away from the Word of God and the farther we get away from every truth of the Word of God, you're finding a lot of people today who claim to be Christian. I'm not saying that they're not, but they claim to be Christian, and they now say that the church is going to go through the Tribulation period. They look at what's going on around us as proof that we're going to go through the Tribulation period. Let me tell you something. Whatever you're looking at around you, whatever you're seeing around you, whatever your fears are today, and whatever you're just shaking in your boots, you haven't seen nothing yet. When that Tribulation hits, it's going to make this look like an ice cream social, what we're going through today. Yet again, God forbid we get into the Bible. 1 Thessalonians chapter 5, verse 9 is the verse in the Bible that clearly tells you that we're not going through the Tribulation period as a church. Because when Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica, he told them: 1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, You see, the Tribulation is God's wrath on the nation of Israel and this world, but the church is not appointed to wrath. You would think somebody could figure that out, but I realize that when you embrace stupidity as a virtue, it's tough. I'm telling you right now, the reason why I know the church isn't going through the Tribulation period to face God's wrath is because on the cross, Jesus Christ got my wrath there. You think you could figure that out, doctor, PhD, post-hole digger? You think you could get that? During this time, you find that Moses and Elijah show up in the last three and a half years. Moses represents for the nation of Israel the law, and Elijah represents for the nation of Israel the prophet, nothing about the church.

7. The Second Coming of Christ. This now will be the beginning of God's day. My brother-in-law, John, and I didn't even know this was out there. I guess there's some Baptist church out there in the country that got a bunch of my old cassettes that when I preached at the Bible conferences with Dr. Ruckman years ago, back in the 80s and the early 90s, and at the Bad Attitude Baptist Blowout. He sent me one the other week, and then he sent me two more. I don't know where he's finding them. This guy someplace has got a Baptist Bible even church, and he's done a really good job of displaying how I preached it. But I preached in 1980, I think it's '84. I preached a message on the Second Coming of Christ. We're going to put that message in a little header underneath when you come down. If we get any more, we'll put them in there where you can actually hear that message the way you used to preach to God's people. It's a thing where you just got to hear it. I mean, it just all there is to it. I mean, it's just the time of the mood back there, the theme back there of God's people, the spirit back there, I mean, it was something else. I don't even think you could preach a message. Maybe here you could, but I don't think you could even preach a message like that. There'd be too many people picking it apart or too many people don't like it. Most of God's people, and this is a contradiction of terms, most of God's people today didn't wake up this morning and the first thing out of their lips was, "Lord, would You come back today, please?" There's something wrong with you if that wasn't your first prayer. I love you, I'm not mad. I mean, and people out there listening to this, and I know many of you are home with your illnesses and you got to stay there, man, take care of yourself. Absolutely. But I am just telling you, you didn't wake up this morning and the first thing out of your mind was, "Lord, I wish You'd

come back today." First thing you thought about was a bagel and coffee. First thing you thought about was turning on Fox News to find out what was going on in the world today. I'm telling you, don't let me get stopping there. I'm just getting started here. Now, within this thousand-year day, you have some events that are taking place that you need to get in order here. See, I brought it up now, Rapture, Tribulation, two pieces of that. Now we're at the Second Coming of Christ, the Day of the Lord, and this runs for a thousand years of time, and within this thousand years, here are the other events you have in the order they take place, all right? Revelation 19:11, He comes down and we come with Him.

8. The Battle of Armageddon. This will be Revelation 16:16. You want to get these in the right order.
9. The Post-Tribulation Rapture of the Tribulation Saints. You'll find this in Matthew chapter 25 and Revelation chapter 11. Now, I don't want to suggest that you've got a stopwatch there and, "All right, at 11 o'clock He comes back, at 11:05 the Battle of Armageddon, at 11:15, and He goes up." This all seems to take place almost instantaneously. Listen to me, but there's an order to it. There's a context to it. The order is He comes back, the Battle of Armageddon, Post-Tribulation Rapture, in that order.
10. The Marriage of the Church to Christ (Marriage of the Lamb). At some point, you can see it on a chart over there, at some point, as He's coming back and these events are taking place, remember now, we are up in heaven. At some corresponding point in time, when all this is unfolding, and I'm giving you the order to the best of my ability, the marriage of the church to Christ takes place. This will be the Marriage of the Lamb. Revelation chapter 19, verse 7 says that during the Tribulation while it was taking place, we went to the Judgment Seat of Christ, and now it says: Revelation 19:7-8

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. You'll find it in Matthew chapter 22, verse 1, where there is a wedding and somebody's sent out to bring guests to come to this wedding. We don't have time to get into that, but that's what it is. You'll find it in Matthew chapter 25, verse 10. Matthew 25:1-10, the story of 10 virgins, five were wise and five were foolish. The five that are foolish get canned out of the way, and the bridegroom comes and they go with him to the wedding, Matthew 25:10. Now, I'm not done yet, but now. It's this marriage that you have pictured in John chapter 2. The third day of marriage in Cana is a picture of the third day marriage of the church to Jesus Christ.

11. The Millennial Reign of Christ. At this point, after the marriage, we go into what is called the Millennial Reign of Christ. The Millennial Reign of Christ lasts for 1,000 years. This teaching that we believe, and I'm teaching you this morning, is based on the pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. I must tell you that among Baptists and certainly the Neo-Evangelical crowd, you'll find, again, as you would expect, a rejection of pre-millennialism. You have those who teach a post-millennialism. You have those that teach an amillennialism. A post-millennialism is simply what the liberals of this world believe, that you and I are going to make the world a better place to live, and then Christ is going to come back after we clean it up. Yeah, good point, Troy. The other one is that it's just a spiritual

millennium and it's not really real. Of course, we know that those two are fake and phony the way we know all heresy. You know why? Because, as I told you the other night, Paul told Timothy, "The same things I've committed to you, you commit to faithful men." The pre-millennial return of Christ is not only taught from Genesis to Revelation, but has been passed down for the last 2,000 years. But when you don't know history, then you get caught up in that. So you see that.

12. The Wedding Supper. At some point in the millennium, here comes number nine. There is a wedding supper. For this, you'll want to see Psalms 45, Matthew 22:1-14, and Luke chapter 14:15-24. Christ made a reference to this supper in Matthew chapter 26, verse 26, when He's in the upper room and He has the Last Supper. I've always loved people that, you want to show how stupid you are with the Bible. How many times I've heard a guy say, "Well, the Last Supper is the last supper He had before they crucified Him." Is that the limit of your Bible understanding? You know why He called it the Last Supper? Because, read it, let's read it. Let's do a nasty thing. Let's set a context. Ooh. Matthew 26:29

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. He just told you that it was grape juice. See that? Now, how in the world do you, are we based the Lord's Supper off of this? How in the world do you drink fermented hooch? When He clearly told you, it was the fruit of the vine. You know how you do it? Because you hate that book. That's how you do it. You hate everything about it. And you hate anybody that stands with it. "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." It wasn't the last supper that He was going to have before He died, it was the last supper He's going to have before He has the real one coming up. Context. This wedding supper is illustrated in the story of John chapter 2, with this marriage. So in John chapter 2 will be doctrinally the third day, the Second Coming, the marriage, and the marriage supper. Note verse 1, "the mother of Jesus was there." That always stuck out to me because why do I need to know that? I'll tell you why I need to know that because she's a type of Revelation chapter 12 of the nation of Israel. When you get into Psalms 45, Matthew 22, Matthew 25, and the Song of Solomon chapter 6, verses 4 through 9, you find out that Israel is at this dinner. He did these things in John chapter 2 that His glory would come forth. Second Coming.

IV. A Taste of Heaven on Earth

Now here it comes. Here's a great principle for all of us. Watch this, verse 9: "When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine and knew not whence it was." You know what He did? At this wedding, Christ gave them a taste of the supernatural wine that's at the coming wedding feast. The guy said, "I've never tasted anything like this ever in my life." You haven't. But He's instantiated what there's a picture of, and supernaturally when He turned out water to wine, they tasted what we're going to taste.

I'm just going to tell you here. There's an incredible, I mean incredible practical lesson in this wedding on the third day. Now I'm going to switch from the doctrinal, and I'm going as a hungry giant coming home for lunch. Talk about this wedding on the third day and the supernatural

miracles of the water to wine or wedding feast as it applies to me and you. You don't want to miss this, even though many of you, especially some of you listening, will definitely want to miss this. It's a lesson to God's people that they completely miss. It's why one of the reasons anyhow that God's people today are so defeated and miserable. In fact, Revelation chapter 3, verse 17, in critiquing the church today that you and I are part of, I know we think we're big, we think we got it together, we think we have it all, and the Bible 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:

That's the church of Jesus Christ today. So before you get on your high horse, just look and see somebody just shot that horse right off from under you.

The great lesson is this, if you can get it today. The great lesson is God will give you right now down here on earth a little taste of heaven and the supernatural things that we're going to experience once we get home to heaven to get us through down here. Right now, Luke chapter 19 tells me clearly and plainly, I'm to occupy till He comes. That doesn't mean I'm to hide at home, hide under the bed, hide in the garage because of what's going on in the world today and especially in America. It's I am to occupy. We know along with that that we are, we sojourn in a strange land, or we should. I need to preface this because God's people are so forward to this. God, we should understand that we are sojourning in a strange land. That we are wanderers for God. We are pilgrims like Abraham going to a land that he had never known that God promised him, and he is seeking, like I'm seeking and you should be seeking, a better country.

Somebody said one time, and it was an incredible statement. Somebody said one time, and I think it was me. For an unsaved man, this life on earth will be as close as any unsaved man will ever get to heaven. For a saved man, this life on planet earth will be as close as we'll ever get to going to hell. Brother, that's a dying truth. This life is no friend of a child of God. This world is no friend to a child of God. You think it is. You've aligned yourself, no, no, no. You've married yourself to it. This life is a veil of tears. It's filled with hospitals, funeral homes, hospice workers, cancer wards, broken lives, broken families, civil unrest, corruption, lawlessness, defying everything, every value system that we ever held.

God's people are defeated. They're disillusioned. We toil, we labor, we endure persecution, or we should. The devil will use every means to stop us, keep us from seeing what God has called us to do, and certainly from doing it. In our sojourning, in our travels through this foreign land that I'm a pilgrim in, the reason why God's people in most cases never make it. They quit, they give up, they seek some sanctuary someplace. Because they never got a taste of what they got in John chapter 2. They never got a taste of the supernatural, the wine that God turned from water to the guy drank, and he said, "Wow, never in my life." Because they've never tasted of the new things waiting for you and me on the other side.

There are no real miracles of God in God's people's lives today. You know why? Because there's no real taste of supernatural things. One of the boys said it when they preached New Year's Eve, I

can't remember who it was, but one of them said it. What did you do last week for God that an unsaved person couldn't have done? What miracles did God do in your life last week? You fall in love with the things of earth, with life, things here, more than the things over there. So when these things start to shake, when the foundation of your little world begins to crumble, you run to your bedroom, you get under the bed, you hide in the garage. You love the things of this earth more than the things over there on the other side. That's why Paul in Colossians chapter 3, in the midst of the Laodicean church period, he told us to set our affections on things above, where Christ sitteth.

A couple of Thursday nights ago, one of my little gals asked that question, "What are those 12 things?" And I went through those 12 things. 12 things that are above, 12 things that are new, 12 things that are separated from this world, where you're to set your affections. You look at them every day, and when you go through the trials and the pressures and all of the sojourning that we have to go through, that's what keeps your perspective, that's what gives you purpose, that's what gives you position. Oh, He'll give you people to work with. I know you start to work with people, maybe one out of five, one out of six makes it. There are so many people today that they want to start out doing right, but when the rubber meets the road and they've got to really, really, really change some things, they're gone, they're out, they leave, they're gone, and that's okay.

I know, we've all experienced that. Every one of you that worked with me, with people, you've experienced that, and you know what I'm about to say is true. You may have five idiots in a row that bail out on you, and then you get that one, don't you? You get that one that just loves the Word of God. You get that one that if you told them that the moon's made out of green cheese, because God told you, they'd be buying some crackers so they could have it when He comes back. They love God, they love the Word of God, and all they want to