

## I. Introduction To Cain And Abel

Last week, we were in John 8:44, and we looked at a great passage with one of the great verses that will lead us into many different studies.

*John 8:44*

*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

It was a great verse that we looked at that really talked about the fact that there is no truth in him. We kind of based everything on verse 44 last week, even though as we move down through this passage, we are going to talk about some other things.

Immediately, we saw the connection back to Genesis 4 with a great story of Cain and Abel. Based on those two passages in John 8 and Genesis 4, we developed a number of things about Cain that we could study literally forever and just never lose sight of them. There were just too many things.

- 1.) Cain is our first type of the Antichrist in the Bible. He has a mark just like the Antichrist does.
- 2.) Last week, we really focused on the fact that he is a picture of an unsaved man. We will talk about that some more today.
- 3.) Lastly, and little known to most people, he is a type of the nation of Israel. That nation got rid of Christ just like he got rid of Abel.

I showed you not only do you have those three ways to study it, but then we know in our Bible studies from the past about the law of first mention. The first time you find something in the Bible, it pretty much defines itself, and you can use that through the rest of the scriptures.

So we saw that in the story of Cain and Abel, we have our first:

- 1.) Set of twins in the Bible.
- 2.) Mention of the word sin in this story.
- 3.) Murderer in the Bible.
- 4.) One who sears his conscience in the Bible.
- 5.) Man who we are told leaves the presence of the Lord.
- 6.) Man in the Bible to build a city.

Now you have nine different ways that you can study this guy and different studies. You could spend many, many months laying all that out and unearthing a lot of information.

## II. The Two Offerings And Two Types Of People

We looked at these two boys, Cain and Abel, and we began to look at their occupations and then the offering based on their occupation that they brought to the Lord. Abel was a keeper of sheep. He tended a flock. When he brings his sacrifice, he brings the firstlings of his flock, obviously a lamb. He sheds that blood for an offering to God, which goes right in line with everything throughout the Bible. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. So we see that analogy starting all the way back in Genesis 4.

Cain, on the other hand, who is a picture of an unsaved man, is a farmer; he tills the ground. I showed you last week that if you have a trained eye, you already know that something is going to be wrong here because the ground has a curse on it. So he is trying to get something to give to God that God will accept that is already cursed. Of course, he brings his fruit and vegetables in, and as the story goes on, God had respect unto Abel's offering for the obvious reasons, but He did not have respect unto Cain and his offering.

This is because their offerings represent the two types of people in the Bible and people in life. There is one person, many of you, most of you, probably hopefully all of you, who trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. Long story short, you realized that your fruits and vegetables could not cut it with God. The works of our flesh, the things that we do, will not merit our salvation. You had to have somebody innocent die and shed the blood for you, and that is how you got saved.

Unsaved people, many times, will look for their works. As I gave you last week:

*Titus 3:5*

*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

So you find that Cain and Abel represent the two kinds of people you are going to find on planet earth in life. One of them is going to come to God and take His sacrifice. The other one is going to reject God's sacrifice and think that their righteousness is as good as God's Son's righteousness. When the Bible clearly says that all of our righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of God. So you can see how this thing really lays itself out.

### III. The Rejection Of Truth And Its Consequences

Then we got a really good look at an unsaved man, and unfortunately, a saved man many times, who will develop an attitude against the heart of God, God's truth. We think that unsaved people are the only ones that have a problem with God's Word. That is not true. Many of God's people have the same problem that unsaved people have. We will talk about that a little bit more here. His hatred for the Word of God, Cain's, for truth, actually led to him killing his own brother and then lying about it to God. We talked about that great confrontation, and we will touch on that a little bit later again.

Just like unsaved people and saved people today, they do not understand God's judgment. Cain killed his brother. God, in my estimation, and there is a reason for this, was pretty lenient on him as far as the punishment. Cain, like everybody in the world today, every liberal and everybody

that hates God and hates God's Word, Proverbs 28:5 says that an unsaved man does not understand God's judgment. That is so true today.

So then Cain, he leaves the presence of God. You never hear from him again, other than a couple of verses in the New Testament that make a reference to him, but he is gone. He is off the stage. Cain has left the building, and no more do you find him mentioned in the Bible in a direct way. The Bible says he takes a wife and he builds a city.

He takes a wife. The question I have been asked more than any other question in all of the Bible in the history of my tenure in the ministry is, "Where did Cain get his wife?" People seem to be occupied with that. I always tell them, "He got his wife the same way you got yours, courtin'." He met a woman, he took her out for a soda and a cheeseburger at McDonald's, and that is how he met her, and then they got married.

Of course, the obvious thing is the story in the Bible only talks about these two boys. Most people do not know that from Genesis 3, Adam and Eve are told to have kids, and the Bible says for 800 years they continue to have children. If you follow Usher's chronology, which is the chronology that we all accept, you will know that from Genesis 3, when they are kicked out of the garden, to Genesis 4, where the story of Cain and Abel takes place, there are about 225 years later. According to Usher's chronology, which is the true Bible chronology. So a lot of things are happening, but the Bible is only focusing on this one story, and people sometimes do not step back and look at the whole panoramic of the Bible or what is happening; they just get focused on that one little story. So by the time he is ready to find a woman, there are plenty of them around.

He builds this city, and of course, I call this the Babylon connection because it is from Cain when he builds this city that in time then moves into being Babylon.

So today, let us pick it back up in John 8:44-47 again. Let us read it:

*John 8:44-47*

*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

*And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.*

*Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?*

*He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.*

Father, we ask You to open up our hearts today. We thank You, Lord, for the great last couple of days and this church that You have given us, and Lord, all the things that we can do not only here but reaching out and evangelizing our neighborhood with all the plans we have for that, and then all the young men and young ladies that I want to begin to really use the older guys and ladies to train them. Now we really have our place where we can have a central location to reach the world. Lord, I know that sounds facetious from a little church this size, but Lord, we are literally all over the world on our broadcast, and people are following where they cannot find churches

and they cannot find the Bible. They are finding us. Over 1,500 of them at the last count are just following us and are getting the truth, and we just thank You for that. We pray, Father, that we continue to build the base here of men and women, moms and dads, who want to really be everything that God wants them to be, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. For His sake we ask it, Amen.

## IV. The Nature Of Truth And Its Rejection

We are going to look at another great verse today, and we are going to have another great lesson, and it is found in John 8:45. Here is what He says:

*John 8:45*

*And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.*

My job is to get all of you to the point where you help me in ministry. I know that that is a great expectation of mine, and not everybody probably will ever do that, but I will get my fair share of you. My job is through my ministry and the people that come in to help you help me with people and build people's lives as we do. You are going to learn very quickly in dealing with people that some people, and this is true of lost people, but it is also true of saved people, will not want anything to do with the truth. The sooner you grasp that, the better off you are going to be.

I know that sounds like it is impossible, and how could anybody who got really truly saved and born again not want truth? Believe me, it happens. You are going to learn that very quickly as you move through life and everything that is going on and everything that the Lord is going to do with you. They do not want to apply truth, and this is what you find. When they come to church and they hear truth, we are all guilty of this. We always will hear a message and we will apply what we hear to the wrong things in our life. We will kind of put the things that need to be fixed over here and then thank God for the things that do not need to be fixed. Or we will look at somebody else and say, "I really hope they got that out of that sermon today." Well, I hope you get out of the sermon today. But that is what people do. You are going to realize that applying truth where it does not need to go and then not applying it where it does need to go is what we do all the time.

In the world that we live in, and I do not have to explain this to anybody, in the world that we live in as Christians, believe me, all we have is the truth of God's Word. There is no truth in this world. There is no truth in this country. There is no truth in anything in this country. You cannot trust anything anybody tells you other than what you find in the Word of God. The world is never going to give us the truth. In any way, shape, or form is the world ever going to provide for us the truth. You see it all the time. A man or a woman will reject truth, and it shows where they are really at with God.

You are going to find that many times a husband and wife will reject the truth that they get through preaching of the failed marriage that they are in or the struggle that they are having. They are just blowing it off, like it is good for somebody else, but we do not want to fix our problem. Many times the wife does it, the husband does it, or the husband does it and the wife

does it. But that is what you find. You are going to find that many times a parent or parents will reject the truth of where their children are really at. They just will not look at their own family and their kids and see where they are at and realize that truth needs to be applied.

It is the fundamental reason in all cases of rejecting truth. It will always be that truth will always lead to conviction. Like we saw with the guys with the woman that they brought in adultery. The truth of God's Word will always lead to conviction. But real biblical conviction, listen to me, will always lead to change. There lies the problem. You reject the conviction because deep down inside, for whatever reason, we do not want to change. We see this like in the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees and also with our old buddy Cain. They do not want to change. I want to tell you something, and of course, you already know a lot of this, but there is a real danger in getting too comfortable with your sin. You have to come to the place where you have to keep that on the short list.

So the first thing that you are going to learn about John 8:45 is about truth.

- 1.) People are not going to believe you. You are going to work with somebody. You are going to tell them you need to fix this or you need to fix that. You need to change this or you need to change that. They are simply not going to do it because they do not believe you.

The second thing when you give somebody the truth, about John 8:44, is that giving people the truth many times will make them your enemy. You see this in Galatians 4:16 when Paul was dealing with that church. They had gotten messed up with a group of people that were trying to take them back into the Old Testament. Basically, "Well, you can trust Christ, but you also have to go back under the law." Paul in that whole book is dealing with them. Paul to the Galatians, who had gotten messed up on bad doctrine, says to them in Galatians 4:16:

*Galatians 4:16*

*Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?*

Obviously he had. You are going to find that in dealing with people. I am just telling you, if you are going to work with people, my suggestion to you if you are not thick-skinned already is go down to your local surplus store or police military place and buy you a bulletproof vest. Because you are going to need one. You cannot deal with people and be in a constant emotional flux state of what people think about you. Because truth that you have, that you want to give to others, will not always be accepted as truth or as good.

To me, it has always been an incredible phenomenon. It really has. You see it in any church. A person or a family comes to a church and gets in and gets the Bible. The kids get involved, the parents get involved. They will come to camp, they will do this, they will do that. They will get involved in discipleship. They will go to that church for maybe a year, two years, three years, four years, I do not know, maybe five years. They love it. They will talk about how, "We love it here, and this is a great place, and great Bible, and great teaching." And then one day, it all changes. They drink out of the wrong drinking fountain. They drink out of the drinking fountain that changes their attitude about the truth of God's Word, I guess. Now, "We are a cult. Now, the church is full of bad people. Now, you are mad. Certainly your countenance has changed; it has

fallen. Now, I am a terrible pastor. You are terrible people. We have terrible teaching." How do you explain that?

I had a lady one time, and I really liked this lady, and I liked her husband too. They came to our church for a while. She was in pretty good shape spiritually. He was the nicest guy on the planet, but he was as spiritual as a doorknob. He cared nothing about God and the Bible, but they came to church here, and she told me this. They decided to go to another church because he did not like it here. She did like it here, but he did not. He and I were really good friends at the best day, and I really like him a lot. She said to me, "You know," she says, "I asked him what was wrong with this church?" And he says, "Well, I do not like the preaching." And she says, "Well, what does he preach that is wrong?" He says, "Nothing." Now that sums it up. You see, some people just cannot take the truth of what the Word of God says. I appreciate him and his honesty. Nine out of ten other people would have blamed you, blamed me, blamed the church, or called us a cult. He did not do that. He just simply said, "I do not want to go there anymore because he preaches the truth, and I do not want the truth." I can understand that; I appreciate that. Just go out to dinner together; I am good with that.

You have to keep in mind with these folks, nothing has really changed. It has always been an amazing thing to me that in any church of 200 people, one person gets a nose bit out of joint because of truth, and now they are right, and the other 99 of the people in the church are not right. It is a natural thing that you see all the time. Yet, I mean, it is the same preaching. No doctrinal things have changed. It is the same ministry. It is the same people working and helping people. It is the same everything; nothing has changed. It is even the same truth. Now there is the problem.

I have always wanted, when somebody that is here, we do not change the teaching, and then they leave here and they say, "Well, it is a cult." I always would like, and I would not do this, but I would like to give them back on Thursday night, and I only need ten minutes. I will give them the whole thing to explain to everybody there where this church is a cult. They do not even know what a cult is. If I show up next week and I am a Jehovah's Witness, now I am a cult. If I become a Mormon, I am a cult. But the things that we teach, you can go all the way back to the church history and the Waldensians and the Albigenses, and we preach the same thing. But you see, there are sometimes in God's people's lives when the other person just has to be wrong so you can be right. You need to learn these things.

Then the second thing you learn is, do not take it personal. You do not go out and stamp it around with a sign or get a T-shirt that says, "I am not a cult." You just keep on doing what God has called you to do because those people are always going to be there. The quicker you can get past that and realize and not take it personal, the better off you are going to be. It is just life in the big ministry.

Of course, the key is the truth. The same truth that will make you free is the same truth that will give you a bad attitude when you reject it. You see this in Genesis 4. Nothing in the church has changed. It is the same truth being preached. You change; the person has changed. The truth of the Word of God hits your sweet spot. It is like going to the dentist, and you do not know for sure

what tooth is hurting. So he says, "I will find it." The last thing you want to hear from your dentist. So he gets this little probe thing there, and he starts going, "It is not this one, it is not this one, it is not this one." When he hits the one it is, everybody in the building knows he found that tooth. That is the way preaching is. I can preach a message, and you out there, "Amen, praise the Lord, I like this." But when I hit your sweet spot, then you begin to have a problem, you see. That is just the way it works.

You will notice three different patterns emerge in a situation like this, and you want to learn these things.

- 1.) A person can get saved and can grow and enjoy everything about the truth. You will go along for a long time; you will come, you will get disciplined, you will hear preaching, and then the Holy Spirit of God, not me, not the people you are working with, the Holy Spirit of God will begin to focus on issues in your life that you need to work on. It will come up. I will not bring it up directly because I do not even know. The people that you are working with will not bring it up unless you tell them; they do not even know. But the Holy Spirit of God knows. He focuses through the truth of the Word of God because He wants to perfect us. The problem is He wants to perfect us; we only want to be perfected so far. When we get to that point, then we start having a problem. The truth of the Word of God is your real issue when it comes up, and you refuse to deal with it. You are not going to get up on Sunday morning or tell your people you are working with or tell me, "Hey look, I hate truth, so I am not going to be here anymore." You are going to pass it off just like Cain did. You are going to pass it off like Adam did when God said what happened to Eve, when he says, "Well, the woman you gave me."
- 2.) I give people the benefit of the doubt because I understand things, but in dealing with people, there are some red flags that you just watch. The second thing that you are going to find people when it comes to truth is, "This is your third, your fourth, or your fifth church you have been in." You last about two years, and then you get mad about something, and you go someplace else. This is a definite pattern. You come to any church, you enjoy it for a while, but at some point, real issues that you will not deal with come up, and then in every church you have been to, it has always been somebody else's fault. I know that there are bad churches out there; I get that. But I am going to tell you, when somebody starts to sit down, and which has happened many, many times, and I never say anything, I just listen, but they will tell me about the last five churches they have been in. I know these guys that are in these churches, and some of these guys may be idiots, but I know they are not capable of what that person is saying there is. I am telling you what it is: it is truth. Truth will bring you to a point in your life where the next church you go to will soon be the last church that you came from when you are looking for another one. That is the way it works. Some things never change with people, and the pattern is so clear.
- 3.) The third thing is the fact that you get into sin. We saw it last week in Genesis 4:7. God told Cain, "Hey look, do what is right, and if you do not, sin lieth at the door." I told you, there are two doors we go through as Christians. You go through the door of opportunity, or you go through the door of this world. Some of God's people, bless their heart, the pull of the world just pulls them back. They do not get in, and they do not get disciplined. They do not get

where they need to be. They do not begin to grow the way they should. Obviously, sometimes they do not deal with the issues like we talked about that need to be.

## V. The Bible As A Telescope For Self-Examination

I am going to tell you something. You go out and look at the moon tonight when it is really up there. It is beautiful. The moonlight and all that stuff is just beautiful. If you take a pair of binoculars and you look at the moon, it is still beautiful. It is big and it is bright. You have the different seas and all this out there and the plains. You get a telescope that can magnify it about a hundred times. When you look at the moon, you can begin to see now that the moon is not perfect. You get a telescope that you can get five, 600 times magnified. You are going to see a junk pile. You are going to see jagged craters, beer cans, cigarette butts. You are going to see cracks and crevices, and that place looks like someplace that you never want to be. But as long as you look at it from the naked eye or a pair of binoculars, it looks wonderful.

Our lives are the same way. When you come to the church, any church, that Bible you have in your hand becomes your telescope. Not the telescope to look at everybody else, but the telescope to look at you. The more you get in that Bible, the more God cranks up the magnification. Right now, this is a true thing. Some of you are just coming to church here now and getting involved, and you are happy, and you are thinking to yourself, "Man, I am really in a good place," and you are. But as you get into that Bible, and God kind of cranks down the magnification of yourself, you are going to see more imperfections, impurities. You are going to see some cracks and some crevices. You are going to see some craters. You are going to see some scars. You are going to see some things as you get into that book, excuse me, as that book gets into you, and you are going to see more things now that expose what needs to be fixed.

Now here is the question: Are you willing to fix them, or are you not? Are you willing to let the Word of God do what God intended it to do, and that is to perfect you, help you be better, make you better, take all of those issues that you are struggling with?

The world's answer is, "Go to psychiatry," or "Get on medicine," or "Do this," and "Dull your brain out," and all that stuff. I am on medicine for my medical problems. Everybody is, the older you get. But I will never be on medicine for depression because the greatest medicine for your depression is this book right here. Take two of these and call me in the morning, and it will fix any problem you have. I do not know what any Christian goes through in life, but whatever you go through, it will be nothing compared to what Paul went through. Nobody here was put in jail. Nobody was whipped and beaten. Nobody was beaten up and left for dead and thrown over the wall. Nobody was hounded all of your life by people who wanted to kill you.

I have been through this book a few times. I have never found the name of his therapist. I had a lady one time tell me, "Well, I disagree. I think that they had herbal drugs back then." I can just see Paul walking down the road to Damascus chewing on a big leaf for his anxiety. No, he gives us the verses that will fix any problem we have. Why? Because they are the verses that fixed the problems that he went through. He said:

*Philippians 4:11*

*Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

That is a tough one. You say, "Well, I am depressed." Then be content with it. "Boop around, be content, be happy. I am happy; I am depressed." He said, "Whatever state I am in." What are you complaining about? The bottom line is you do not have to be that way. Why?

*1 John 4:4*

*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

You do not need to be in a downward spiral in life. You have to be spiraling upward. But you have not yet learned how to take the Bible and apply it to fix those things. We will teach you that here. We will help you. I am telling you, you will get the same victory that Paul had. You will get the same victory that every Christian had. You go down through history, where do you think the Waldensians, who were butchered and murdered for their faith, or the Albigenses, or all those Bible-believing groups that paid for the faith that they had by being tortured, where do you think they got their comfort? It was not from Xanax. It was from that book right there. Because that book will heal you. It is called the Balm of Gilead. You put it on your ouchie where it hurts, and it will fix you. It will fix you.

So the third thing is people get into sin. They go through the wrong door. They get sidetracked. They get out of the book. I have seen this happen more and more. Some young guy, some young gal comes to church, and they really get plugged in. Then the devil, God wants you to grow. The devil wants to stop your growth. So what does he do? You meet some lovely girl someplace, or some old girlfriend crawls out of the attic, or you meet some guy, or this or that. Immediately now, God has to fight for your affections. I am telling you, you put a beautiful woman in your life, or a good-looking guy in your life, as a young Christian, and you have to decide between God or them, God is going to lose every time, until you learn what is really important. In any and all cases, it comes down to rejecting the truth that will make you free and then going back under the bondage of the world. It is your choice. It depends on what door you go through. Now you are just like the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees. You hate truth. The Sadducees, the scribes, and the Pharisees, they hated truth at the first coming, so they had to get rid of Christ. God's people at the second coming hate truth, so they have to get rid of the book. The same things never change.

In this whole story about Cain and Abel and all this stuff, the bottom line is a person does not hate the church. They do not hate the pastor. They do not hate the people. You hate the truth. It is just the fact that you are not man enough or woman enough to man up to it, so you have to blame it on somebody else. You do not want to face your hidden issues. Cain is our pattern. Mark this: Cain did not kill Abel because he hated him. Cain did not kill Abel because he hated him. He killed Abel because Abel reminded him of the truth that he should have done when he did not do. He did not really hate him. No more than they will hate you. No more than they will hate me. The bottom line is they hate truth. Many times you, when you do what is right with the Word of God, you remind people who do not want to do what is right or what they should do. So they will

come after you just like he went after Cain. He hated him and he killed him, not because he hated him, but because he represented the truth. Every time he saw Cain or Abel, and Abel is over there watching the sheep, saying, "I got the joy, joy, joy down in my heart," praising the Lord, standing up there saying, "Lord, what a wonderful day this is today. It is beautiful." Cain was over there. That is what got him to kill his brother. It was not that he hated him. He did not love him one day as his brother and hate him the next. What changed him? Truth, the rejection of truth. One man kept the truth and followed it. The other man rejected it, went through the wrong door. The guy that went through the wrong door killed the other man because he hated the truth that he stood for. You better get that one. People will hate the truth that you stand for, and they will come after you. You have to be okay with that. You have to be okay with that.

As I said, you see this in Cain's life. It will match up to lost people and saved people. You have to remember, saved people may be saved, but they can act just like an unsaved person. The great passages on that that we have explained in Bible study many times are 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, and then the two great ones will be 1 Corinthians 6:9, and then compared to Galatians 5:19-26. There is where you see how that works.

## VI. Loving What God Loves

I have said a lot about getting the right attitude of heart in loving God, in loving God's heart. Last Thursday night in our Bible study, I answered probably one, if not the greatest question I have ever had in Bible study at Song of Solomon. That is the relationship that we have. I went through basically and gave you a synopsis of the book of Song of Solomon. Now you can see and understand how it really lays out and how it applies to where we are at. An incredible thing about our relationship. There is a biblical process to get to that point in our lives, your personal intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, which is laid out chapter by chapter in an incredible way in the book of Song of Solomon.

Building a right attitude based on you having the right spirit and toward the heart of God, Christ in you and the Word of God sealed in you. Then in time, you get the mind of God like we talk about:

*Philippians 2:5*

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*

*1 Corinthians 2:16*

*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

Once you get that mind, then you will develop an attitude toward God's heart, and you will begin to see everything from His perspective. Everything now you look at, you will see from His vantage standpoint, how He sees it, why He sees it that way. When you apply that to your world and you cease looking at it from your own way and you look at it from His way, now you are ready to really build that relationship with the Lord.

What happens now, and you have heard me talk about this a lot over the last couple of weeks, and people have been asking me to explain it on Thursday, so I told them I was going to do it today, put it into the message here. It comes to the point in your life where you learn to love the things that God loves, and then you learn to hate the things that God hates. The Christian life does not get any simpler than that. It is not complicated; it is not hard. It is simply you and me putting the Word of God in our lives, getting the church in our lives, getting everything that God has for us, and then coming away through a process that we will help you with, that you learn what God loves, and you make those things the things that you love. Then you learn the things that God hates, and you stay away from them.

There are seven things that God loves talked about in your Bible. I always go back to the Apostle John when he got God's heart. He got God's heart literally by leaning over and listening to it beat in His chest there in John. He heard the heartbeat of God, the heartbeat of God in Jesus Christ. When you got saved, you get God's heart through Christ taking up residency inside your body. Now you have the ability where you did not have before, through Christ in you, that new heart God gave you to love what God loves.

Here are the seven things God loves:

1. **Truth.** All you have to do is read Psalms 119:1-176. Every one of them deals with a different way to love God's Word about some aspect. Incredible. The first thing that God loves is He loves truth.
2. **Righteousness.** When you put truth in your life, it is going to lead to your righteousness getting saved. Then after you are saved, you are going to continue in that righteousness. Psalms 45:7  
Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. He is talking about Christ. Christ and God love righteousness.
3. **Souls.** John 3:16  
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Romans 5:8  
But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. He loves your soul today. He loved your soul enough to die for you. When you received the truth, that is how you got saved. The tragedy is, unfortunately, that many of God's people loved Him to get saved, but then because of things happening that they do not want to fix in their life, then they go back to not wanting the truth in their life.
4. **His Church.** The book of Ephesians is the book that tells you about the church. In fact, the book of Ephesians is a Song of Solomon in the New Testament. He says in Ephesians 5:25: Ephesians 5:25  
Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; Do you love the church? These are the things that you should love. I know again, you have pastors out there that they think you need to be, if you are not in church every Sunday, there is something wrong with you. Of course, that just does not work. You have to have vacations. I told our guys going out deer hunting. Some of our guys, John and Bubba and Donny and some of the other guys, they

were over here working Thursday night hard so they could get it done. Then they went down and they hunt on their property and were hunting deer down there. I told them before they left, I pulled them aside and said, "You guys go have a good time. Do not shoot each other, but have a good time. If you shoot anybody, shoot Bubba." Do not tell him I said that.

I want them to have a good time. They work hard. They support this church; they are part of this church. I am not threatened by the fact that one of my people is going to go down and go deer hunting. You like to go fishing on a fishing trip. Because it is not the one thing that you do or do not do. What really determines where you are at and how much you love the church is how much you are part of it. Not the time you went down and went deer hunting for a week. It is the other 360 some days of the year holding up this ministry, doing what you do. That is where it is at. You have to have people to have downtime. They have to decompress. Many of their jobs are tough, they are hard, they are under great pressure. They need to just get out when it is a legitimate thing to get out.

I am telling you, but they do not have a problem with loving the church. Because when deer season is over, they will be back, and they will be doing everything they need to do. They fix everything here; they help us here. We would not have had this building if it was not for the guys that knew what they were doing and came in and looked it all over and said, "Yeah, this and that, this will work or this will work." When we had inspectors come through, they went through with the inspectors because I do not know what I am looking at, and they know all these things. Everything that they do. Why do they do it? Because they love this church. This church is their home. So they do it.

Steve Bracken, he worked with everything and helped me get it all together. Terry Job spent, I do not know how many days over here this week working out all the air conditioning and the heating stuff. Why do they do that? I am not paying them. Do not give me a bill. They love this church. Trent and his wife were over here. I came out yesterday, and they are mowing the grass. Who mows the grass in November? I do not. I cut it as short as I can by the end of October. God just miraculously keeps those little stubbles down till May. But why? I mean, you have a long business. I know you were here all week working in with me, and then you do all your other stuff. Why? Because they love this church. Why did you all come out and help? I know I kept you long hours. I know we worked hard. I know it got crazy at some point. Why? Because you love this church. Why are you here this morning? Why after the horrendous time did you not say, "I need a break, I am going to go"? Why are you here, and you are all excited? Because you love the church. Because we understand, and I realize the church is not this building. This is where the real church meets, but it is our place where we meet with God and disperse truth. You love that. Because you love truth. You cannot beat that. You love the things that God loves.

5. **\*\*His Own Son.\*\*** He said in Matthew 17:5: Matthew 17:5

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. He loves His Son. Oh, does He ever! But He loved you more than He loved His own Son because He was willing to give His Son for you and for me that we might become His sons. Wow.

6. **\*\*The City of Jerusalem.\*\*** All you have to do is read Ezekiel 16, 17, and 18 to get that one down. There is something special about Jerusalem. The city of Jerusalem will be the holiest spot on earth in the millennium. It was the holiest spot on earth in the Old Testament. It is not

holy at all now. Different kingdom. People talk about going to the Holy Land. You have to wait till the millennium starts to do that. Nothing holy about it over there now. Yes, historically it is where Jesus walked, and I get it, and you want to go through all those things and look at all things, and you will pay good money, and the Arabs will take you one place that He was buried. The Jews will take you another place. All they will do, when they take you both places, they are really just taking your money.

You know where Jesus is coming back right now? It is the Mount of Olives. You know that the Muslims have the Dome of the Rock there now. That is all going to change here pretty quickly. But it is not going to be there when He steps down. That is where David bought the threshing floor from that guy back there, and then he built the temple on that spot. Now the Muslims have it; the devil has it. So what is holy about that? Not a thing. You see, you have to get your dispensations correct. But that city, every war on this planet for the last 6,000 years, every conflict and everything that has ever happened will go back to that city fundamentally. That has been a battleground between God and the devil. What the Crusades were all about. What everything in history was about. What Constantine was about. Everything in history, World War I and World War II, was about. Everything goes back to that city. Because that city in time is not only going to be the holiest spot on the earth, it is going to be the holiest spot in the whole universe. He loved that city. He loved it so much when Jesus came back, and they rejected His truth. What did He do? He cried there, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem." It broke His heart that that city rejected Him because He loved that city.

7. **\*\*The Nation of Israel.\*\***Jeremiah 31:3

The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. Talking about the nation of Israel. They are His people. When you get that all set, then that sets it up, Romans 9, Romans 10 for you and me, and then Romans 11 for the restoration of Israel, and we put it all into perspective. These are the seven things that He loves. Unfortunately, most of God's people do not even know what they are. It is impossible for them to love the things that God loves because they do not even know what they are.

## VII. Hating What God Hates

Then you have the seven things that God hates. This will be found in Proverbs 6:16-19. The trained eye, if you are looking at this, says here:

*Proverbs 6:16*

*These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:*

There are six things, and it is in verse 16. So right out of the chute, we have 666 showing up. Six things, verse six, and in Proverbs 6. So now we have automatically seen that this is not going to be very good. He says, "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him." He takes six, separates the seventh. He did that back in Genesis when He did the six days, and then He separated and rested the seventh. There is a reason why He does things like that. We do not have time to get into it today.

Then he starts to list them:

*Proverbs 6:17-19*

*A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,*

*An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,*

*A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*

Let us look at these quickly, and here are the seven things that God hates. I am ashamed to say this. Most of God's people never get the first seven down, but for some reason, they really get these down. These here are the sins of the saints. I say that with a broken heart today. I say that because most of God's people today, they know more and follow more with the things that God hates than the things that God loves. Do not listen to this crazy old man up here. Let us do this. Let us take the test. Do you want to take the test? Find it if you have it. I am not worried about you getting COVID-19; I am worried about you getting 666.

Here are the seven things God hates:

8. **\*\*Proud look.\*\*** That is the first sin you find in the Bible. Everybody thinks the first sin in the Bible is Adam and Eve. No, you are wrong. The first sin in the Bible, back in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14, long before Adam and Eve, was pride. It was a proud look. It was Lucifer lifting up himself above the throne of God and trying to overthrow Him because of his pride. This is in all of our lives. When sin will start, everybody in this room, every person you ever met, where sin fundamentally starts in our hearts against God, it will be exactly where it started with Lucifer: your pride. Your pride will keep you from doing what is right. Your pride will keep you from loving somebody that maybe is unlovable. Your pride will keep you from ever being and doing all that God wants you to do. Why? Because you get an attitude of pride. That attitude of pride will not go against the person; it will not go against anything other than God's Word and His truth. When a man or a woman gets into sin, it will always start with the pride against God's heart, God's truth, the Word of God. Of course, the number one sin listed that God hates will be pride. Cain, he had a proud look. He was upset. When his countenance fell, it went from the joy, joy, joy of a relationship with God to a prideful attitude that he was upset with God's truth, even though God gave him alternatives that he did not have to stay in that condition. A proud look, a proud spirit, will always separate you from God. That is where when we have sin, that is where when you come to a service, maybe you are here right now, and the Holy Spirit of God deals with you, and you throw Him out the window because of pride. Pride will always keep you from being convicted, and conviction is the only way you are ever going to change.
9. **\*\*Lying tongue.\*\*** Let us put this at a practical standpoint here. Once you get your pride involved, then you begin to think you are somebody you are not. You begin to think that you are okay when you are not. You now begin to think that you are right and everybody else is wrong. You have to lie to keep that illusion going. People get it all wrong. Our lies are not to other people, though they are. But first and foremost, when we lie, our lies are not to other people. Our lies are right to ourselves because we have rejected the conviction. My great

verse that I use a lot is found in Job 9:4 that says, talking about God:Job 9:4

He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered? You know what the answer is to that? Nobody, not a person. But we lie to ourselves, and we think we can beat God, do not we? Why do we not get right and why do we not do things we are supposed to do fundamentally against the truth of God? Deep down inside, we think we can beat the odds. We think that we are so special and so wise and so masterful with words and so masterful with all of this stuff that we can actually get around God, and here is the truth: you are fooling yourself. Nobody has ever prospered going against Him. Nobody ever has; nobody ever will. But we like to think we lie to ourselves, and we think, "I can do it."

10. **\*\*Hands that shed innocent blood.\*\*** We talk about the term, "The blood is on your hands," or "The blood is on our hands." Yet when you talk to people about not about getting saved, they always throw up, "Well, I never murdered anybody. I never killed anybody. I never murdered anybody." Yet the Bible says in 1 John 3:15:1 John 3:15

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: You find a lot of God's people that just hate people, and they think they are okay with that. But the bottom line is all you have just admitted is you are a multitasker murderer. We do not have a right to hate anybody. We hate sin; we hate ourselves when we go against God, but I do not have a right to hate anybody. Why? Because when God first looked at me, He should have hated me and put me in hell, and He did not. So we have to give the grace to the same people that God gave grace to you. But we like taking God's grace for ourselves. We just do not like giving it out to other people. We get our attitudes; we get our little stereotypes; we get our little mindsets, and we think that people ought to be in a little cookie-cutter mode. I have news for you: it does not work that way. People are people. They are going to make mistakes; they are going to say things that are dumb and do things that are stupid. I know you never do.

In the Old Testament, there is a story in Ezekiel 3:17-18 about somebody being a watchman. In the literal sense, standing on the wall looking for the enemy to come. They do not sound the alarm, and the enemy comes in, and many, many people get killed. He tells them right there that the blood is on their hands. That is a great practical lesson to you and me that we ought to be warning people of what is coming. You are not responsible for making them get saved, but this church is responsible, as you do out there, as we are doing through the internet this morning, of warning people of what is coming. Because we do not want the blood on our hands. It comes at a point where we do not have a right to deny anybody that. We as God's people, and you listen to me, we as God's people never have a right to deny grace to somebody. The day you think you do, you are in trouble. Because there may be a day that God will not give you His grace. You do not want that day to come.

The verse today is in Isaiah 1:15. Him talking to the nation of Israel, but He is talking to us too:Isaiah 1:15

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. This is a picture of somebody, "Oh God, give me this, oh God, give me that," somebody praying, somebody asking for things like Moses back there in Genesis and Exodus in his prayer life. I am telling you, this church is to be a watchman. My job for you is to be a watchman. For the people you

work with is to be a watchman. We help each other by being watchmen for each other. This church is a watchman to the people that are listening, to the unsaved people that are here today or listening to my voice, or the people that need to get in the church. We are watchmen for you. We help each other.

11. **\*\*A heart that devises wicked imaginations.\*\*** This will be an easy one, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5:2 Corinthians 10:4-5

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; So strongholds will be obviously strongholds in our lives. "Casting down imaginations," there it is. "And every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God," God's truth. "And bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." What does that mean? "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Thinking and seeing things as He does. Of course, the great example of this, that you can look up on your own and ask me in Bible study if you want, is Ezekiel 8:5-18. It shows you what the leaders of Israel were putting in their minds about God. The chambers of their imagery, that is your mind.

12. **\*\*Feet that be swift in running to mischief.\*\*** You want to compare this with Acts 8:26-40 when you have the evangelist Stephen. God sends him to the Ethiopian eunuch, and when God tells him, he runs swiftly. You are either going to run swiftly to do what God wants you to do through the door of opportunity, or you are going to run swiftly through the door of sin. But you are going to run through one of them.

This whole country, I mean, it is the world where you work. Can you see this to be true? Everybody hates going to work on Monday. You cannot wait till Friday, your last day of work, Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday. Why is that? Why do you even get so excited? We get so excited they cannot wait for the weekend. They call Wednesday "hump day." You are at the hump. You only have Thursday and Friday, then the weekend. Why the weekend? Because people today are on a race course to go swiftly to mischief on the weekend. All the things that they want to do. It is not hump day because you are counting the days to go back to church. It is so you can go to your parties. You can go down and party. You can go do this. You can go to your favorite bar. You can hang out here. You can do that. Feet swift running to mischief. That is the world that we live in.

Yet it is not just about individuals. This whole country, this whole world, is swiftly running to destruction. I would say growing up and living abroad in 1950, I would say from the 1950s to the 1970s or 80s anyhow, this world was walking in the wrong direction and headed for destruction through mischief. I would say from 1990 to the day we are living, we quit walking, and we are running full break length out as fast as we can into mischief and ending up in destruction. That is just the way it is.

13. **\*\*A false witness that speaketh lies.\*\*** This is what the devil's family did at the first coming of Christ. They were a false witness against Christ. They lied against Him and then they crucified Him. All for the purpose of getting rid of Christ. Let me change that. It was not just getting rid of Christ. It was getting rid of truth. He represented the truth just like you represent the truth. This church represents the truth. I represent the truth, and anybody in here

that believes that book and wants to do what is right with it. This is what they will do to you too. They will bear false witness against you, this church, any church, because the bottom line is that it is the truth, and they want to get rid of truth so they can keep their life going the way it is going, just like the scribes and the Pharisees did not want to lose their jobs. They knew that when Christ showed up, they were going to be out of a job.

## VIII. The Abomination Of Sowing Discord

7.) **\*\*He that soweth discord among the brethren.\*\*** I want you to notice that he said six things, and then he says, "Yea, the seventh is an abomination." He sets this one apart because certainly they are all bad, and they are all terrible, and they are all sin, and they are all destructive. But brother, this is the worst one. Yet sadly to say, this one is the one that most of God's people are most familiar with. "Yea, six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him." And then he goes down, then he says, "And he that soweth discord among the brethren."

The real tragedy here is these six things are what an unsaved man *\*is\**, emphasis on *\*is\**. Not what he *\*does\**. An unsaved man *\*is\** these things. When you got saved and I got saved, we went from darkness to light. We are no longer these things. But if you see the comparison between 1 Corinthians 6:9 and Galatians 5:19-26, a Christian cannot *\*be\** these things anymore, but he can *\*do\** them. They are called the sins of the flesh. Where an unsaved man *\*is\** these things, whether he does them or not, a saved person cannot *\*be\** these things, but he can *\*do\** these things when he gets out of fellowship and puts his spirit in the wrong place.

Now the real tragedy here is sowing discord. Sowing discord among the brethren, that is God's people. That is where the devil gets his in in Christianity. This is where the devil gets his in in everything that he wants to destroy. God pulls people together and brings about unity. This church is a great example of that. There is a unity here that you do not find, but it is not because you are all wonderful people. It is not because I am a wonderful pastor. It is not because we have all the night. It is because we have a book that is truth. That book, when you put it into your life and you make the Word of God in your life, God's way in your life, it promotes unity.

Now I am not saying that we are not capable of having issues. All of you get attitudes about something or somebody sooner or later about something. Most cases it is stupid, but the devil, if you do not do what is right with it, and there is a process to do it, everybody gets an attitude about something. Everybody, somebody will turn somebody off the wrong way, say the wrong thing, they will have a bad morning, or maybe they do not have the bad morning. Maybe you just wanted to say something nasty today. I am telling you right now, that is where the devil starts. Now what keeps that from being fixed? Pride. You are not going to tell me when the person does it that God does not convict you and say, "You should not have done that." And you say, "Up your nose with a rubber hose, God, that is what I felt like doing." Pride, pride. The devil says, "Thank you very much. That is all I needed. You just gave me my door." That is what he does.

God promotes unity. He pulls people together. The devil promotes discord and pulling people apart. You get to decide how you are going to be used. I know I am saying this, and it is true as it is, it will never happen across the board. It just never will, because we are all human, and we all

make mistakes. But I am telling you right now, if you want to know where the problems start in any church, with any people, in any family, in anything that happened, it is right here. When you give the devil an inch, he will drive an 18-wheeler through it in time. That is why the Bible says, "Give no place to the devil." There should be no place for the devil in our lives. We ought to be focusing on the things that God loves and make those the premier things in our world for each other that we share with each other, not the seven things that God hates. But I am telling you, this is where God's people are today, and it is a tragedy.

I know that we have a lot of people here that love the book and love each other, and we have a real unity here. Obviously, we would not have what we have if God had not given it to us based on that. But I am telling you right now, you need to be a watchman. You need to be on your wall, and you need to let grace abound, because the only thing that will keep it is you giving the same grace to others that God gave to you. When we do not want to do that, we are in trouble. That is where pride comes in. That is where self-righteousness comes in. That is where it all begins to fester right there. Then you spend your whole day thinking nasty things about somebody. You spend your whole life just mad. I told you many, many times, people can only drive you crazy when you give them the keys. It is just that simple. This is the thing where God's people are today, sowing discord among the brethren. God's job is to give us unity. The devil's job is discord.

Again, people are very easy to define patterns. Judge righteous judgment. You look at things, tearing apart of God's unity. You just see when God's people spend more time into seven things that God hates than they do in things that God loves, you do not have to draw a colored picture. You do not need a roadmap for that. Yet he says there is an abomination. Abomination is a word in the Bible that is used in the Old Testament because it is dealing with Israel being separate from all those godless nations, abominable nations. So the word abomination is dealing with Israel staying away from those nations. We as God's people do not need to stay away from nations, but there are some things that we need to stay away from.

## IX. The Unchanging Truth And The Ministry Of People

Let me just leave you with this, and we will be done here this morning. The truth of God's Word will change you. But you and I will never change God's truth. You need to understand that. A person, saved or lost, who will ignore God's truth can only deceive themselves because ignoring truth will not take it away nor will it change it. Every morning when you get up and look at me, truth will stare you right back in the face. This is why you need to develop the attitude of loving truth no matter how it hits you.

*Proverbs 27:7*

*The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.*

Develop an attitude that when truth hits you, you allow it to do what God intended it to do and leave your pride out of it. Leave your attitude out of it. There is no room for it. There is no room for it.

The whole ministry that we are involved in is about people. Making people feel special. They may not be perfect. They may not always be right in what they do. They may certainly do some dumb things. But as long as they are here and they are continuing to grow, I never look for the bad in people. Yet I never forget there is bad in people. But I will never help you if all I ever do is focus on the negative things in your life. You have to look beyond that. In the ministry, you have to go beyond that. You have to look at what people can be with God. If they would allow God to do that, you will never get them where you want them to be. Listen to me, you will never get people where you want them to be if you do not see where they need to go. Then understand it is your job to help them get there. That is the ministry. Because the ministry is people.

Nobody here is perfect. Everybody here has got their issues. I know I certainly do. If I would minister to you on the basis of your downside, we would never get anything done. Cannot do that. You have to focus on God's people. God has a plan. I do not help you fulfill that plan when all I do is talk about the bad things about you. We have to focus on the good side, what God is doing, and then be part of that.

I have a couple of very simple rules of life with people. A while back I gave you one, and everybody thought it was astounding; I myself just thought it was neat. I said sometimes with people, you not only have to go the extra mile, but you have to go the extra smile. You have to be there for them. Then I follow this. You need to learn this. I like this because I come down and make my points so that I do not fall off. Catch me if I do. Listen to me. Go home with this:

- People will forget what you say to them.
- People will forget what you do for them.
- People will never forget how you make them feel.

They will never forget how you make them feel. You can make them feel special, or you can make them feel not special. You can go out of your way to encourage them, or you can go out of your way to discourage them. They will forget what you say; they will forget what you do, but they will never forget. Think about it in your own life. Somebody made you feel bad; somebody made you feel good. You may never remember all they said, but you will remember that it was a time in life how they made you feel. My job, your job, is to make every one of you feel as special as you are to God, even with your imperfections. That is what has to be.

We are going to be dismissed here. Have a word of prayer. Sit around and visit. If you want to go through the church, we will...