

## I. The Crisis of Modern Christianity

Christianity today is in the biggest mess you have ever seen. A lot of people do not even want to be associated with Christianity, and I understand that. The phonies and the hypocrisy that you see among God's people are paramount in the time that we live. It was the religious leaders who led Israel into the mess that they are in, just like it is the religious leaders who have led the church today into the mess that it is in.

If you were to take a list of ten guys today who are held up in this country in Christian circles as great spiritual leaders and Bible teachers, you would find that not one of them actually believes in a perfect Bible or believes anything about the Bible that is any real deep truth of the Word of God. It is the religious leaders who got the church into this mess; therefore, it has to be the religious leaders who get them out of this mess.

This is why you see in Matthew 12 and 13, when Christ receives His official rejection from the nation of Israel, they tell Him that the Spirit by which He is doing all of these things that God is doing through Him is the spirit of the devil. It was the leaders of the nation of Israel who conspired against Him to get Him crucified. In Acts 1 through Acts 7, as I said, when Peter and later Stephen are preaching, they are going after the leadership because everything rises and falls on leadership. Israel's problems are because of the bad leaders they had who rejected God's truth, and the church is in the mess that it is in today because of the pastors and religious leaders across this country who have rejected the truth of the Word of God.

## II. The Necessity of Biblical Truth and Regeneration

I told you last week that this passage is used many times to get people saved because we too need to be born again as individuals. I laid that out very clearly to you last week: there are two regenerations in the Bible, Israel's in Matthew 19 and yours and mine in the Book of Titus. Last week was a really good example of how the Bible, if you just follow it, will so easily lay itself out.

I want to go through some things today to show you the inspirational. You are going to learn a lot of things today, but one of the things that I want you to see is how easy it is for you, especially you younger ones who are coming in here and getting discipled and working through the Bible, to just follow a few basic rules. Following those three basic rules that I gave you last week will be invaluable to learning the Scriptures.

We came away last week understanding that there was no way, when Christ said to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again," that He was talking to Nicodemus about him getting born again. We laid out last week that the church age has not even come into effect yet. The Holy Spirit of God is not indwelling anybody here like He did after the Day of Pentecost. The church is nowhere near coming into effect yet.

In fact, in John 16:7-8, we were told by Jesus Himself concerning the Holy Spirit of God—and by the way, this is the definitive passage in your Bible on the Holy Spirit, the whole passage from verse 7 down through here, but I am just going to read 7 and 8:

*John 16:7-8*

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

*And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

When you come down through this passage, which is a definitive passage on it, you will find that there are seven things that the Holy Spirit of God does when He comes. And He had not come yet.

I look at something like that and I ask myself, you would think somebody would catch that. You have these great guys out here who are teaching the Bible and laying it out, and they have no clue how the Bible goes together. I have heard preachers get up and take John chapter 3 about Nicodemus and just make that a bona fide way to get born again. You would think that they would catch that, but they do not.

Here is the issue today. If you want to know what the real fundamental problem is, and I want you to leave here today understanding this because if you are going to work with me with people, you need to get this one down. People will make spiritual things like soul winning such a priority that they actually put it above the truth of the Word of God. I am not undermining the importance of soul winning and winning somebody to Christ, but I will tell you something: the function of this church, number one, is not to win people to Christ. The function of you as a Christian, number one, is not to win people to Christ. It is God's truth in your life. That is where it has to start.

This is the mindset of Laodicean Christianity today. They have gotten away from the fact that there is no doctrine, no hardline truth teaching. Trying to be a soul winner without being an acceptable Bible student and not knowing how to use and teach your Bible will always fall short. It is a pattern of human nature.

The Bible tells us in Hebrews 5:12:

*Hebrews 5:12*

*For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

No matter how we try to puff ourselves up about how spiritual we are, or what a great soul winner we are, or whatever spiritual bubble we live in, the Bible makes it very clear that if you do not have doctrine, you are a baby Christian. You are a weak Christian. But it tells us in that chapter that a strong Christian handles the meat of the Word of God, and that is doctrine.

I have seen it all my ministry that men and women will justify their lack of Bible study and really getting into it by telling themselves they are "really soul winners" and they "really care about the lost." That is what is important. I want to tell you right now, you deceive yourself with that. I have great authority to say that to you because I did.

### III. A Personal Lesson in Biblical Authority

I am the kind of guy who can laugh at myself because I do a lot of stupid and dumb things. I have made a lot of stupid mistakes in life. But the difference between me and you is I learned from mine. Most of God's people never have.

I remember, and this is one of the funniest stories that I can tell you of my early days after I just got right with God. This was coming up here in a couple of months; it is going to be 50 years, my 50th anniversary of dedicating my life and going on from there. My dad died in April, and it was right after that, around May, that God got a hold of my heart and I really committed myself to coming back to the Lord.

It was about July when I went to our first camp. Dr. Ruckman was preaching there. I got to meet him and spend some time with him. We both had military backgrounds and had a good common ground to talk about things. Then it was in August that we have back in Canton, Ohio, what they call the Stark County Fair. The Canton Baptist Temple youth group, under Mel Shabaka, rented a space there. They had a little booth with curtains. We had a little clipboard with a spiritual test. As people came down, we would ask them, "Would you like to take the spiritual test that we have here?" It was a little ten-question test about life and things like that. Many people would do it.

We would take them behind there. It was a trap play up the middle. You would start out by asking them generic questions, and by the time you got to question five, you were working into it. By the time you got down to eight, nine, and ten, the last question was, "If you were to die right now, do you know where you would spend eternity?" Many of them said no. At that point, you asked them, "Would you like to know?" A lot of them said yes. That is honestly where I won my first person to Christ.

I came out of a world, just a couple of months ago, just got out of the army, out of the military. I just came out of a world and was coming into the new Christianity that I was in. I watched these people talk about soul winning and everything. I watched them in their Bible, went to Thursday night Bible study, and people knew the Bible. I cannot tell you, I won five people to Christ that night. I went back the next night and won four more.

Now, this is how stupid I was back then. I am much better now, but this is how I was back then. This is where some of you are now, and hopefully, you will not stay that way. The third night, Barb lived not too far from the fairgrounds, so I parked on her street. I remember this like it was yesterday. I was walking over with my Bible. I had a shirt with a tie. I was a soul winner, man, and I was looking for a great night.

This is what I was thinking. I was talking to God. I said, "Lord, I am just going to be a soul winner. It is easy. I am not going to get into the Bible deep like everybody else is. I am going to take my whole life and I am going to dedicate it to winning people to Christ." I was happy with myself. It seemed like that was the first real spiritual decision that I ever made. I am walking over there just as happy as could be. "I am not going to get into the Bible. I am not going to really lay out the Bible. I am going to be a soul winner because look how easy it is and how fun it is." I was proud of myself.

I got over there and got my little clipboard and my little thing, and I was working a runway down there. A guy came down, about 20 or 21. I said, "Good evening, sir. We are doing a little Bible, a little life test here, ten questions. Would you care to take it?" He said, "Sure." We went back there, and I started going down the list. I have to be honest with you, this guy was a nice guy. I already had my knife out to carve his notch on my pistol. I was going to get this guy. He was very congenial, wanted to know, no opposition. I got down to the last question and I asked him, "If you died right now today, do you know you would go to heaven?" He said to me, "Do you believe there is a hell?" What I had just tangled into was a Jehovah's Witness.

I want to tell you something. For the next 40 minutes, he beat me senseless. He asked me questions I did not have an answer to. He made me look like the plan of salvation that I was talking about was not even real. He would ask me questions, "Why do you believe this?" and I did not have an answer. I have never been so beat up in my life as that guy worked me over for 30 or 40 minutes. I was as defeated as you could ever imagine to be.

I was walking back to my car. It was dark now, and I was walking slow because my rear end was dragging. I remember just as clear as a bell, the Lord said, "Now Bob, you have a good heart, and I am glad you are back with Me, but you need to rethink this thing about really learning your Bible because you have a great eye. I had that guy come down there for the reason to show you, to blow your little bubble before you got that thing really ingrained in you, that if you are going to be a real soul winner and you are going to care about the lost, you better know your Bible."

That thing happened almost 50 years ago, and to me, it is just like it was yesterday. A lot of water is under the bridge since then. I do not know where this guy is, if he is alive or what he is doing. But I pray every day, "God, bring him by my path one more time," because he would see a difference. I learned my lesson. I did. I am proof positive. I stand here before you. I am proof positive that God's people will use even the Bible to get out of studying the Bible.

I am going to tell you right now, nothing that we do as a Christian will replace our learning the Bible in depth to be able to teach each other and deal with the Word of God. The effectual soul winner has to understand doctrine. The real biblical soul winner is born out of the depth of understanding the Word of God. I will never forget that lesson. That lesson showed me clearly and plainly that this idea that I was just going to be some spiritual soul winner who did not have to really worry about getting into the Bible was not going to work.

#### IV. The Principle of Investment in Ministry

You will remember, I also showed you last week that the great key to understanding all this is that two times in the Bible you find the word regeneration: once in Matthew 19 for Israel, and once in Titus 3 for you and for me. That is the word that defines what "born again" really means: Israel being born again at the Second Coming of Christ, and you and me being born again as individuals when you and I get saved.

I also talked about making good investments. When I look at the church, when I look at you and the host of you who are here, I look at you as my investment in life. I will make my investment in you, but at the same time, I want you to make an investment in others.

We saw Friday night Danny and Jamie had a meeting for all the Timothy singles who are working in the Timothy group. They all could not be there, but there was a great host, over 30 kids there. As I sat there and looked at them and watched them, I thought to myself, "I do not think there is a finer group of young men and young ladies anywhere in this country." Here are kids who are dedicated to teaching the Bible. You do not get one problem from them. You never hear the word "no." You never hear the word "I cannot do it." They take whatever needs to be done. Moms and dads, these are the guys and gals who are mentoring and investing their lives into your kids. That started because I was willing to invest my life in them.

We have the Bible Explorers back there, and this is why I asked for some of you to sign up to help back there. Three people signed up. There should have been 15 or 20 on the list because it is where you start to make an investment. It is where you start the investment I make in you, then you take that investment and make it in others. But then the real key is that together we invest everything we have in the Word of God. That is a real investment.

## V. Understanding Parallel Principles in Scripture

Today, we are going to look at the same passage, the same story, except today I am going to show you how to inspirationally use this story when you are dealing with people, that is, winning somebody to Christ. We know it is John 3:1-10. Let us read it again, and then we will start from there.

*John 3:1-10*

*There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:*

*The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.*

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

*Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?*

*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

*Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

*The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

*Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?*

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?*

Father, help us today to take these good people that You brought into this good church. May today we together look at the Scriptures and together build into our individual lives everything that we need. Lord, if there is someone here today who does not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior, I pray Father that through the speaking and talking here today that they will come to see their need and that we might have the opportunity to open up the Scriptures and to show them how to be saved. But Lord, we will leave that up to You, and we will focus on what our job is, and that is the preaching of truth. We will just thank You and praise You now in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

In the Bible, from the Old Testament books to the New Testament books, you will have what I call parallel passages. Parallel passages are nothing more than parallel principles because you are going to find that throughout your Bible, whether you are in the Old Testament or the New Testament, you will find principles that fit into the Old Testament and also the New Testament because they deal with the aspect of human nature. Human nature never changes, so they work across the Bible in the Old Testament and the New Testament. The doctrine may not be parallel because of who He is writing it to, but the principles always will.

You take the word "grace" in the Old Testament; in the New Testament, you can take it across the board. The word "faith," you can take it across the board. In fact, the real definition of faith for you and for me is found in Hebrews 11, which deals with the faith of everybody in the Old Testament. That is a parallel principle. You can look at Israel's disobedience and how they got into captivity, and you can make that a parallel principle to why God's people get into the captivity of the world.

You take the book of Job. The book of Job is about a man in the Old Testament named Job who actually suffered what he did. Doctrinally, it is a picture of the nation of Israel, but Job is a great book for you and for me to understand why sometimes we go through the things that we do. In John chapter 3, you have the same thing with being born again. I say again, where doctrine may vary from book to book on who it is written to, principles will never vary. Principles of life will run through the Old Testament and even into the New Testament.

A great example of that again would be Psalms 1, which you hear me use all the time in the first three verses. Listen, let me lay it out for you how it works all three ways.

*Psalms 1:1-3*

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

That is a great three verses. Historically, it is talking about a literal man in the Old Testament, a literal man in the nation of Israel. Doctrinally, it is talking about the nation of Israel. Look down there: "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water." Where is that tree? It is Ezekiel 40 through 48, the tree that is by the river that comes out of the sanctuary. It is talking about the nation of Israel doctrinally. But at the same time, you see those principles there. No matter who it is written to, the principles come across because it is a principle of God dealing with us and our human nature.

You have heard me say it many, many times: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Inspirationally, it was true of Israel. That is how they got into a mess, but it is how you got into the mess.

1. You quit walking with God and you start taking counsel with the ungodly. You listen to them. That is what Israel did, but that is what you and I do.
2. The next thing, you are not walking with them anymore. Now you are standing with them. Now you are in the way of sinners. That was Israel's problem. That is our problem.
3. In time, if you stay that way and keep going that way, then you are "sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Now you are not just walking with them or just standing with them. Now you are sitting right in among them, and their scornful attitude against God and the things of God has been embedded into your life. That was true of Israel. It was true of us.

You see how that works? It is written to three different people, but the parallel principles come across. That is what you want to learn. This is why I constantly beat you to death about learning biblical principles. This is why when we get into Bible Institute, which we had a great time, packed out Saturday for Bible Institute, we had some great times in Hebrews 11. In the people ministry and the things that we do, I am always hammering home to you, "Learn biblical principles. Start a notebook of them. Put them in your Bible." There is a biblical principle behind every doctrinal truth. You will want to, in time, have that worked out. If you have been saved 5, 10, 15, 20, 30 years and you do not have it done, what is your excuse? Why is that not done?

God will also use types. We saw that in Hebrews Saturday when we talked about Abraham and Isaac and the offering him up and the figure. A type. He will do it in pictures. 1 Corinthians 10 says that He will do it in samples and examples. In Hebrews 11, we see it in the lives of people that you can make parallel because their human nature is exactly the same as ours. Though they may have lived 4,000 or 5,000 years ago, their problems are the same as our problems, and the things they got into are the same things we will get into. Doctrinally, it may be a picture of this, or it may not apply across the board, but it applies in the principles. This is why you have to

learn principles. When you read and see principles in the Old Testament that will line up with Paul's teaching to the church, then you can make the parallel. That is the standard that you use. That is getting the inspirational aspect out of the Old Testament doctrinal passage by using the principles. This will unlock some of the greatest material that you can preach to people, that you teach to people.

## VI. God's Approval and the Study of His Word

You guys do it all the time. I can tell where a person is at with the Word of God by when they teach or they lay something out, how they do it. If they really know their Bible, you are going to get something from them. You listen to the guys that preach here. You listen to the people who disciple you or work with you. They give you something. That is the thing that you look for. That is where you are digging that well of depth into the unsearchable riches of the Word of God. Without it, you are dead in the water when it comes to understanding the Bible, and it shows.

We have had people disciple people, and we do not have many. Some of them get better at it. But we have had people that would disciple somebody, and all they would do is just read the lesson. I forget who told me this now. It was a church that they were going to, and they wanted to get disciplined, and they put him up with a couple. The couple brought the discipleship lessons over. Dr. Nardor gave them to him and said, "Here, read these. If you have any questions, call us." That is not my brand of discipleship.

You disciplers, you know as well as I do, the discipleship lessons are just a means to an end. We talk about it, it is our trap play up the middle. We talk about the discipleship being teaching you the fundamentals of the Bible, and it does. But you know as well as I do, you start getting into those lessons, and the Holy Spirit of God comes down through those lessons, and you get—this is why it takes you two, three, five, ten, fifteen years to do discipleship lessons—because the people just keep asking questions, because the Word of God, the Holy Spirit of God, is getting down into them. You can imagine somebody just going and reading the lessons or just giving them the verses. You have to be prepared because those discipleship lessons are the key to unlocking that person's life and relationship with Christ. They are going to have some questions. You better have some answers.

That is why I hammer you so much. That is why I spend the time investing in you to teach the Bible. That is why we have Bible Institute, the people ministry, everything I can think of to give you what you need. It is just the way it works. The key to putting that Bible together is just you getting to that point where you really, really, really, really understand how to use it.

This is why we were told in 2 Timothy 2:15, a familiar verse. It is amazing to me with God's people how many familiar verses, how many verses that are familiar, we are really not very familiar with. Watch what I mean.

*2 Timothy 2:15*

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

How many times have we laid that out? How many times have you heard me say that? I have heard you say it a thousand times. Now let me show you how God's people deceive themselves. This is the Laodicean mindset. We seek God's approval on everything that we do, or at least we should. And yet we do not think about as a Christian before God what our approval rating is. In this country, a president's tenure, his success or failure, is based on his national approval record. Most presidents kind of operate around 50, 60 percent. If he gets any more than that, he is doing really good. Some of them get down in the 30s and 20s percent. That is not very good.

When you read this verse, and then we think because we are God's people, saved, we classify ourselves as a soul winner, we go to church, we pray, we do all those kinds of things, and we actually think that that is God's approval. Let me just broaden your horizons here for a moment. The only place in the entire Bible that you will find God's approval for your life or my life is in 2 Timothy 2:15: "Study, to study, to study, to study, to shew thyself approved unto God, as a workman, needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." This is the start of God's approval in your life.

What I am saying is this: when you get God's approval in your study, then it leads to Acts 2:22, where a man is now approved of God among you. Then it leads to the approval that is made manifest in us in 1 Corinthians 11:19. Then it goes on into everything in our Christian life that is found in 2 Corinthians 10:18 and 2 Corinthians 13:7. But it all starts with God's approval in whether we study His Word or not, not how we prop ourselves up by being, "Oh, I care about the lost. Oh, I care about praying." That is not where you will find God's approval. Study to show thyself approved unto God.

## VII. A Practical Approach to Soul Winning

Man today needs to be born again. There is no question about that. Man today needs the regeneration of the renewing of the Holy Spirit of God in his life, or the Holy Ghost as he says it. Last week we just preached about the beginning. At the end of that service, two people got saved. I never gave an invitation. Somebody says, "Well, why do not you give an invitation after you preach?" Why? Can the Holy Spirit of God give one? Do you think my invitation is going to be better than His? Really?

I learned a long time ago that I do not want this ministry based on me coercing you. I have been in Baptist churches at the invitation. If the service preaching ended at 7:30, you were there until 9:30 because they sang 6,000 stanzas of "Just As I Am." When that did not work after 20 or 30 stanzas, then they switched over to "Almost Persuaded." I am not interested in that. Let me tell you something. After any man preaches the Word of God, if the Holy Spirit of God cannot give you the invitation that you respond to, you actually think that a preacher getting up and doing that makes you an idiot. All that tells me is you have no clue how the Holy Spirit of God works. He does not need me. All He needs me to do is to preach the truth that He will take over.

I just simply said last week, "If you are here this morning and you want to be saved, just come and see me." I was walking back to get my mic. The first guy came over and said, "I need to be saved." The second mom brought up a little guy and said he needs to be saved. Let the Holy

Spirit of God do what He needs to do. He needs me to preach the truth, but then He needs me to shut up and let Him handle it. Now, I say that, and I am going to tell you right now, there will be times that I will give a bona fide invitation, but it will not be because you want me to, but because the Holy Spirit of God sends a play in from the bench and says, "This is what I want you to do." And then I will do it.

The second thing I love is when those two guys came up to me last week, I did not have to look around and say, "Now, who can I get? Who can I get to deal with these guys?" You were all right there. I just grabbed the two closest people. I did not have to think about it. You know why? Because you guys are prepared. You guys have studied. You guys are approved. I just grabbed this guy and I said, "Hey, he needs to get saved." He was on it. These other guys brought him up, and I said, "Can you guys handle it?" "Absolutely." They were on it. That is what makes a church work. That is proof positive that my investment in you has paid off, that your investment in the book has paid off, that our investment with each other through each other into the ministry. It does not get any better than that.

When I begin to deal with a man on salvation, I will start where I know I am 100% sure. I am going to show you. Do not use this as, "Well, I have to do it this way for it to work." This is the way I do it. I am just giving you an example of how it works for me. I put it together through the years. The thing I love about everybody in here is that you are all individuals. You all have different strengths and weaknesses. When you teach the Bible, you all come at it from a different angle, which is really good. You all have fresh ideas. The last thing I want to do is stereotype to you, "This is how you have to win somebody to Christ because this is how Bob does it." You do it your way. I am showing you so you understand how I use John chapter 3. You put it together for yourself. You are all approved for the most part, and you can handle that.

I start when I am dealing with somebody where I am 100% sure of what I am dealing with, and that will be the book of Romans. It has been for years and years that the book of Romans is the Romans Road to Salvation. I have told you before that the book of Romans is the doctrinal handbook of everything the church needs to understand and believe. It is amazing to me that after he goes through the first seven or eight chapters and talks about it, then he shows us the three great chapters on salvation. What he does in chapter 9 is he shows you why Israel lost everything that they had and why then it went to the Gentiles. In chapter 10, he shows you how the Gentiles now are to get saved. After he clears that up, he goes to chapter 11 and shows you, even though Israel messed it up in chapter 9, God is going to restore them and save them. They are going to get born again in chapter 11. It does not get better than that.

I know that John, the Gospel of John, was primarily written for men to get saved, John 20:31. There is no question about that. But here is what you have to know: technically speaking, at the Gospel of John, you are still in the Old Testament. So you have to be able to take, as I said, the principles across the board in spite of the doctrinal differences.

If I might for a moment, and maybe this will help somebody, at least put it into a workable format, I am going to show you how I win somebody to Christ and how I put John 3 into it. When I sit down to win somebody to the Lord, the first thing I do in laying out salvation is I will

talk to them about the doctrine of repentance. I will tell them clearly and make sure they understand that if a man or a woman is not understanding that at salvation they need to change their lifestyle, then you are wasting your time. Most of the spiritual giants who know nothing about the Bible, they do not care about that. They just want to be able to brag about how many people got saved.

I have worked with people and got them to that thing where I talked about repentance, and they said, "Well, I do not think that I am willing to do that." I stop it right there. There is no point going any farther. Repentance is that you are going to change life's direction. Repentance means that you are at the place that you are, that you need to get saved because you see where your life has brought you on your own, and that needs to change. But we live in a Christianity today where we want to get an easy salvation, that we want to get saved but we want to keep our old lifestyle. Many Christians are okay with that, or I do not know that they are okay with that, but they do not know any better.

Many pastors, I have seen pastors on their church service, they will just, at the end of the sermon, have every head bowed, eye closed, and they will say, "If you want to be saved, just raise your hand." Thirty people will raise their hand, and then they will say, "Okay, repeat this prayer after me." When they are done with it, now they are saved. Are you kidding me? You are assuming that they understand everything they are supposed to understand to truly understand God's salvation. Maybe that would have worked 100 years ago. It is not going to work today. That is the mindset of the Laodicean church. You will find that that is the way that it works today.

Yet I am going to say this, there have been times that I have found myself in a situation where I had no other way to go. But the difference between me and them, after I say that, I instruct them to come up and see me afterwards. I wait over in the corner for them to come. If 30 people raised their hands and 15 came over to talk to me, I walk out of there knowing I got 15 saved and 15 probably did not. So the first thing I deal with is repentance. This is the real issue in soul winning today. Repentance is change. No change, no salvation. The doctrine of repentance will lead to an easy, non-salvation found throughout the neo-evangelical world in the Baptist churches.

This is why I say what I say. I say it all the time, and I know some people probably get irritated, but that is my spiritual gift, irritation. I know some people probably do not understand it or maybe even agree with it. I do not really care. This is why I say that most of the people today who claim to be born again have probably really never been saved. You say, "How can you make such an audacious statement? You cannot see their heart." You are right, I cannot see their heart. I just see there is no change in their life. Maybe you believe a person can get truly saved and not change their life. You go to your church, and I will stay in mine.

Here is what I do and how I include John chapter 3. I follow a few basic rules in winning somebody to Christ.

4. Keep it simple. I have seen guys try to win somebody to Christ. They do not need the 12 dispensations. They do not need you to show them how versatile you are in the Bible by pulling up 50 verses. I could win a man to Christ with three verses, maybe four. The idea that

you are trying to impress everybody with how much Bible you know by throwing all these verses out does not help them. You need to keep it simple and basic.

5. The second rule you need to remember out of Acts chapter 8 is that there are three parts to soul winning: there is a sowing, there is a watering (praying for them), and then there is a reaping. You have to determine which one of those you are in. That is so foreign because nobody knows anything about Bible doctrine today. All you think about is just winning them to Christ. You never stop and consider which one of these that you may be dealing with. From Acts chapter 8, the only way you know that is by being led by the Holy Spirit of God in your life. There is the real problem now, is it not?

The first place I will go in my Romans road—this is where the road starts. I do not go down to Matthew Turnpike or the Luke Highway. I stay with the Romans road—is that I will go to Romans chapter 3. This is after I lay out repentance, of course, and this is where I start. Again, I say this, everybody is different. I am just showing you what I do and how I put John 3 in it. You work it out for yourself, but follow the rules. Remember to keep it simple, three parts of soul winning, and pay attention to what the Holy Spirit of God is saying to you.

The first thing that I have to get them to do, and this is great in John chapter 3, is to understand their spiritual condition. I just use a couple of verses. I will start with Romans 3:10, where it says:

*Romans 3:10*

*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

That is a quotation from Isaiah 64. I am not telling them that. They do not need that. They just need to know that "there is none righteous, no, not one," and that is talking about them. I will look at verse 11, and it says:

*Romans 3:11*

*There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

I will explain that that is them. Verses 12 through 18, we talked about this last week, where it lays out the nine things that are wrong with man. I may or may not use some of that. I do not have to. I just need those two verses, that is all that I need. Then I definitely add verse 23 to it because this is building my little road trip here, and that is:

*Romans 3:23*

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

The first thing I want to do, and keeping it simple, is I want that man to understand his true spiritual condition. I want him to understand that him getting saved is based on a personal sin debt that he has toward God. Now, this is where you have to be careful with this. You will have a guy or a gal, and they have made a lot of bad choices in life, and they are unsaved, and they have lost their marriage. They have lost their kids. They have lost their job, and God has used all of that to bring them to the point where now they know they need to be saved. But here is what you

have to do, and this is what does not happen very often: you need to make sure that they are not getting saved to get their marriage restored. You need to make sure that they are not getting saved to get their kids back. You need to make sure that they are not getting saved because they need a job. They may not get their kids back. They may never get their marriage fixed, and they may never get a job. The bottom line is they are not getting saved to fix anything but their personal sin debt that they have toward God. You have to know how to handle that one. But in my first endeavor here, I give them and try to get them to see their spiritual condition.

Then step two, I will move into Romans 6:23. I call this my pivotal verse. I call this a bridge from sin to salvation. The verse says:

*Romans 6:23*

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

I will go back and I will say from what I told them, "You see, the wages of sin is death." The death there, I will explain it, is not just physical dying. That is death, second death. That is separation from God eternally in the lake of fire. But this is my springboard verse. I just laid out their true condition. And I just now use Romans 6:23, "the wages of sin is death," but the conjunction, the disjunction, "but the gift of God is eternal life." And now I show them that even though you are a sinner, God has made a way. Even though you are a sinner, and we both deserve to die and go to hell, that word "but" there makes all the difference in the world. It is the only place I know in the world where you can get your "but" in the road and it still works out for you. Man was a sinner, but God made a way for all of us through Christ's death on the cross.

I will take a little time basically explaining, keeping it simple, how God, how man became a sinner, how God loved him and came down and died for him to take him out of the sin, and that fact that as the verse says, and I use the verse, "the wages of sin is death." That is man's fallen state that you are in right now. The wages of your sin is death, death and eternity in hell, "but the gift of God." You cannot earn it, you cannot buy it, it is a gift.

Once I do that, then I move to my third position, and this will be Romans chapter 10. Notice I stay in Romans the whole time. I am going to use John chapter 3 in a minute, but that is not going to be my main place because it is not directly to me. There are some things that I can use parallel in the principles, but I am going to start and stay where it is 100% safe, and that is the writings of Paul to the church and the greatest book of the Bible that lays out how a man gets saved.

The next one is I am going to go to Romans chapter 10. When I get here, and I am big on this in winning somebody to Christ, I will stop here, and before I do this, I will recap. I will go all the way back and make sure that they do understand about repentance. Then I will make sure that they understand about their spiritual condition. I will not go into a long thing, but just to make sure. Then I will make sure that they understand Romans 6:23. Okay. Then this is the, I will tell them, "This is the last step based on what you have just witnessed to me and told me. Here is where we go now."

*Romans 10:9-10*

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Here is where I will explain, and I will keep it simple, the two aspects that have to be involved in a man's salvation after he understands the first two things. That will be a heart knowledge or a heart attitude, and then based on that, a head knowledge or a confession with the mouth. The Bible says that he believes in your heart unto righteousness. I will explain that to him, that that righteousness there is Jesus Christ and everything I have told you that He has done for you. Then I will ask him, "Do you believe in that?" "Yes, I do." "Okay." Then I will say, "Based on your heart attitude, now you have the opportunity to confess with your mouth and ask the Lord Jesus Christ to save you because the Bible said in Romans chapter 3 we saw your spiritual condition, we saw repentance before that, and then we saw the pivotal verse, and now we are here how to be saved, and if you understand and put all these things in your life,"

*Romans 10:13*

*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Seeing him through everything the way that I have, I now understand a good feel for where he is at, and then we will go through the prayer however we worked it out and whatever we do.

Having said that, at some point, I will use the story of Nicodemus, but as I said, not as my main point of salvation, but I will use it at some point depending on the person and where I am at and the day. I will show him how Nicodemus, in all his good works and all his righteousness and all his knowledge of God, it simply was not enough. Romans chapter 6 would be a good place for this. You could do it any place that you felt to put it in because it fits in just about anywhere as long as you are not making this the main deal.

I would show him in John 3:1 that he was a Pharisee, that is, a ruler of the Jews; he is religious. I would show in John 3:2 that he gives Jesus His proper title, calls Him Rabbi. I would show him in John 3:2 that he believed that He was sent from God. I would show him again in John 3:2 that he believes in the miracles that He does, that He was sent from God to do those miracles. I would show them also in John 3:2 that he believes who Jesus says He is. Then I would make this point: Jesus does not respond to any of that. If that was you or me, and we were going through what Jesus went through, and then this guy sums up and says, "I believe all the right things," we would say, "Well, it is about time somebody started believing these things." He did not. He never even responded to it. He never said, "Well, thank you very much." He never said, "Well, at least you are saying it, now go back and tell your other boys." He did not say a word to him. You know why? Because those things do not matter when it comes to God. You see how that will work across the board.

Old Nicodemus is a picture, we know this from last week, of the state of the nation of Israel's self-righteousness. We know that doctrinally, but inspirationally, he is also, through the parallel principles, a picture of every unsaved man you are ever going to meet who claims to be religious

when he is not. He has all the qualities of a good moral man, and you are going to meet people like that all the time who think because they never killed anybody or they never did this or they never did that, that they are good enough to go to heaven.

I have dealt with soldiers, the Marines in particular, from World War II vets that have tried to listen to them, and the old saying back in the day with those World War II guys that come off of Guadalcanal and Tarawa and Iwo Jima and Okinawa. I get it. They had a guy tell me one time, he says, "I will never have to worry about going to hell when I die." And I say, "Why is that?" "Because I went through hell on Iwo Jima." In fact, the saying was, "And when I get to heaven, sir, to Saint Peter, I will tell, 'Another Marine reporting, sir, I have served my time in hell.'" And I would say, "No, you did not." War is probably as close as you are going to get to hell on this earth, but you did not. I am not going to cut you any slack. You did not get your sins eradicated because you went through a tough time in combat.

Jesus does not even respond. Nicodemus has all the qualities of a great moral, religious man who is headed to the lake of fire if he does not get saved. As Israel's doctrinal leader, he needs to see and understand these things about regeneration for his nation, and as an inspirational application for a lost man and woman, they need to understand that they need to be regenerated, that their good works are not going to cut it for them. One is the nation at the first coming of Christ, one of them is individuals during the church age. You see, that is using the parallel principles from the Old Testament into the New Testament to be able to make the thing work for you without ever violating anything. I did not make John chapter 3 the place where I am going to start. I stayed where I knew I had to stay, Romans, and then add to it where I can, and if I can find, if I cannot, then do not do it.

Also in this, to me, and hopefully you will see this, Nicodemus is a picture of an unsaved man who cannot get anything from God in an unsaved state. This will be 1 Corinthians 2:14. This is true of doctrinally Israel as a nation, but it is also true of Nicodemus as an individual, but the people that you are dealing with, again, parallel principle. Now here is a New Testament principle that fits back to the Old Testament.

*1 Corinthians 2:14*

*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Nicodemus did not have any spiritual discernment. Israel did not have any spiritual discernment, and unsaved people today do not have any spiritual discernment. I will just throw in as a caveat, God's people that are saved do not have it either. That is Nicodemus, and that is a picture of unsaved people in the world today or in the Old Testament or wherever. Nicodemus is a picture, he is a type, he is an example of that, and we learn that through the parallel passages that the doctrines do not go across the board, but the principles do because human nature never changes.

## VIII. The Dangers of Spiritual Facades

This is what I call for you having a working knowledge of the Bible. You hear me use that term a lot, and probably some of you scratch your head and say, "What does he mean by that?" That is what I mean by that. This is what you do as a Christian as you grow. The Bible was given to you not just to help you stay in a life walking with God, though it is. The Bible was given to you to work for you, and you are a work for God. That is why He says "a workman." The Bible was given to you and to me that when we do the work of God, we have a working knowledge of the Bible, and that Bible will work for you. You will come to the place where you will get a command of the Scriptures; you will understand the principles.

Most of God's people today have no clue how to make the Bible work for them. So going back to earlier, they focus on something spiritual. They focus it on soul winning. "Well, I am a soul winner. I want to see people saved." They will focus on prayer. They will focus on some real spiritual aspect of Christianity, but they will never learn how to use their Bible.

I have had them in my ministry all my life. Way back in the day, we had a guy that was, and I do not know whatever happened to him, but he was a spiritual Pharisee. He was saved. He grew up in my college and career class years and years ago. I do not even know what happened to him. But I do know this: he got caught up in this same stuff. He was the prayer warrior back then. He felt like God had given him the only understanding of prayer. I remember one time he asked to meet with the pastors. So I was not the pastor. The pastor said, "Sure, whatever." So it was after church, and we all met in a little conference room. This guy had the audacity to come in and say, "I would like to have a key to the church." The pastor said, "What for?" He says, "I want to come in every morning at 5:30 and lay down at the altar and pray." That is what I did. Not quite as nice as you did. I said, "Praise the Lord." And I thought to myself, "You have to be kidding me."

He thought, and what he was saying in essence—you have to learn how to translate these things—what he was saying is, "I am more spiritual than all you guys because you guys will not be here at 5:30." You are right. I will not be there at 5:30. You may go to the church at 5:30 in the morning. I am going to worship at Saint Mattress, where I am going to be. I am going to go to the church with the impeccable pillow. That was his spiritual goofiness. He wanted us to know that he was spiritual. This kid knew nothing about the Bible. That was his candy stick: prayer. Because when you are, these guys always hold up that when you pray, "I am the only one, so I know how to do it, and you do not. So learn from me." So his idea was, "Give me a key to the church. I will come here at 5:30 every morning, and I will pray for the church," clearly saying that that is what you guys should be doing. How stupid that is. Like praying when you wake up in the morning as you look up to the ceiling is not as effective as being at church. Are you kidding me? Prayer is never about where you pray or the position of your body. It is your attitude of heart.

Then when we were here, this has been, I do not know, ten years ago. I do not know why they always pick on prayer. It is either prayer or soul winning. We had a guy here, and he came to me one time, and he says, "This church is not really praying biblically." I said, "Well, gee, really?" He says, "Yes, this church is not really praying biblically." And I, this time I am already done, but it was a boring day. I was going to have a little fun. And I said, "Well, we have got the prayer groups upstairs." He says, "That is not really biblical prayer." I said, "Well," I said, "we pray

before the services in Bible study." "Well," he says, "it is more than that. This church needs to be committed to deep prayer." I said, "Okay," and I said, "I guess you are the guy that is going to teach us that." And he says, "Well," he says, "yes," he says, "I just, I understand prayer. This church does not understand prayer." And I said, "Okay, good. I said, I am going to let you do it. I am going to set up a time, and I am going to bring the whole church in. And I am going to turn you loose on him, and you are going to teach him about prayer. I just got two things I want you to do for me." Now his eyes are lit up. He may have been on drugs, that is why they were lit up. But anyway, I said, "I got two things I want you to do, and then I will call the meeting. First thing," I said, "give me the two definitive passages. There are two in the Bible. Give me the two definitive passages on prayer." He did not have a clue. He did not know where they were. He did not have a clue. Now he is the expert on prayer. But he could not take me to the Bible and show me the two definitive passages on it. And my second question was, "There are four types of prayer in the Bible. Show me where they are at." He did not have a clue. This is what I am talking about. He was a spiritual guru on prayer, but when it came to the Bible, he did not have a clue. I am not interested in that. The church is filled with them today.

In Mark 7:6, Isaiah the prophet said of you hypocrites, as it is written:

*Mark 7:6*

*He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.*

That is God's people today because I have news for you, friends. The heartbeat of God is the Word of God. It is not what you say from your mouth. It is not what you write on a keyboard. It is not what you put in a devotional or a sermon. It is what you do to be approved with that book. It is how you look at that book and what you want to get out of it and what you are going to commit yourself to it.

## IX. Nicodemus's Lack of Discernment and God's Approval

Look quickly here at the rest of this story, John 3:10-13.

*John 3:10-13*

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?*

*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.*

*If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?*

*And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.*

Look at verse 11. This is a reference to the truth of Christ that was revealed in the Old Testament. He says, "We speak that we do know," Old Testament, based on the Old Testament Scriptures,

Moses and the prophets, "and testify that we have seen." That is Christ showing up to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies, signs, and wonders. "And yet you receive not our witness." You reject the Word of God, the Old Testament, so now you reject Me. See how it is working? That is exactly what is happening here. And you have set yourself up as a religious system that has nothing to do with the Bible, that is fake and phony as a three-dollar bill.

Now look at verse 12. "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not," that will be in context verse 6, Israel being born of the flesh. He says also the first coming of Christ and everything that they have been witnessed and seen. "How shall ye believe if I tell you of heavenly things?" This will be Israel being born again, the regeneration. Times of refreshing. They cannot.

Now look at verse 13. "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." That is a reference back to John 2:19, where He talked about destroying the temple in three days and raising it up, and they could not get it. He is saying, "You have all the proof of who I really am. Everything you need to see that I am the Lord from heaven. You have the Old Testament Scriptures and the prophets. You have My witness to you now. You have the signs and the wonders and the miracles that I am doing. Everything you need." Add to that, Moses spoke of Me, the prophets spoke of Me, the Old Testament is witness to who I am, but you cannot discern spiritually the things, and so you reject Me. That is exactly what happens today. Exactly what happens today. That will be God's people today. They too have no discernment, just like Nicodemus, no understanding, no spiritual insight. That book is locked up to them, just as it was to Israel at the first coming of Christ.

The reason is because they refused to study to show themselves approved. They think their approval is in their spirituality, whatever they do, the little things that they do that they want everybody to say, "Look how spiritual I am." You do not get God's approval that way. You get God's approval by studying, studying, studying, studying to show thyself approved unto God. Not hiding and masking our true condition of not knowing the Bible through some spiritual facade and hiding behind some cardboard spiritual truth that gives the false impression that you are really doing God's work. Right up to the point that that kid here about prayer, that I open up the Bible and hold you accountable, and you just fall apart like a house of cards.

For almost 50 years, I know what I am talking about. For almost 50 years, I have taken young men and young ladies, moms and dads, and trained them how to unlock the Scriptures and how to lay it out for somebody else. That has been my investment to any kid, mom, dad, girl, anybody who says, "Bob, I want to learn the Bible." That is my mandate, that is my investment, and that is what I have done for almost a half a century. Because I understand that you will never have God's approval in your Christian life without understanding the Scriptures. That is why I put the Timothy group together. You guys go in there and work, and you learn how to teach the Bible, you learn how to minister to these kids. They are at the most tender time in their life. They need you, but you need them. You are giving to them, you are exercising your senses. You are not just sitting around and talking about things; you are actually doing things. This is what the Bible Explorers are all about, the kids even younger than that. You can go in there and have an investment in your own child's life. You can go in there and have an investment in somebody

else's child's life, but it will be as good for you as it is for them because that is where it has to start.

The reason why I feel so comfortable like last week, these two kids wanted to get saved, I did not have to look around and say, "I want to grab this guy," and I grabbed this guy. I could have done that 60, 70 times over. You know why? Investment. It is the key to everything, one simple word: investment. And it has paid off. Just look at what God is doing, how many people are being worked with across this country, in this city, in this church, that if you have got a spiritual issue, I do not care what it is, I have got somebody right here that has worked with me through Bible Institute, through people ministry, and they know their Bibles. It is nothing more than this church simply working together in ministry as we study to make ourselves approved. It is an ongoing process. You will never get to the place where you have that final improvement. But it is investment. Your investment in the study of the book, my investment in giving you what you need to get it, but you have to be the workman. It goes back to that old famous verse, "To whom much is given, much is required." A workman who needeth not to be ashamed, needeth not to be ashamed. That is a reference, if you have not got it already, to the judgment seat of Christ, where we will stand there before God and be ashamed. You know why? Because all our lives we thought we had God's approval, and our soul winning, and our goofy little prayer stuff, and all the little, deepy, goofy little things that we invest our lives in, all except the Word of God. That is the first and only investment in everything else in your life that God approves of, starts right there. That is why I am not going to let up on you. You may get to the judgment seat of Christ and you may be naked as a jaybird, but you are not going to put your finger and blame me for it. It will be because of your bullheadedness, it will be because of your stubbornness, it will be because you have just decided you are going to have it your way. But if you go through this church and you wind up in a lake of fire, it will not be because I did not try to tell you the difference, it will be because you decided that is what you want.

I told you in Institute the other day, did I not? Life is choices. It is choices. You are not the way you are because of your whatever; you are the way you are because you choose to be the way you are. That is fine, but I am not going to be satisfied with it. I am not satisfied with me. I have been in a book for almost 50 years, and I am still not satisfied with where I am at. I do not look at myself as anybody who arrived. I know some things about the Bible, but you could fill 100 million billion volumes and 100 million billion universes of things that I do not know about the Bible. A workman who needeth not to be ashamed. You do not need to wind up at the judgment seat of Christ with nothing. You do not. God's people in many ways are an enigma. I understand human nature, and I get it, and I see the examples. I showed them in Institute the other day, the crude examples. In Hebrews 11, Abraham is a model and a picture of our life to be God's friend, and in Moses after that, the model and picture of our ministry. Both of those men are God's friend, and both of them were approved. Needeth not.

## X. The Four Pillars of Effective Ministry

When I met with the singles, I talked to them after Danny and Jamie were done, and I just wanted to encourage them. I say it to you: the four hallowed words of a successful ministry. The

four hallowed words of the success of any ministry. One, build your people, train your people, invest in your people. These four qualities that you need to have in yourself as a pastor.

6. Adaptability. Teach your people to adapt to whatever comes across their way. We had learned that one in the last year, and you have come through with flying colors. You know why? Because our church has adapted. We are still going. We are getting people saved. Everything is going the way it is supposed to. We are moving right along. You know why? Because I trained you to be adaptable.
7. Flexibility. You have to be flexible. You cannot get your feet cemented in stone. You may be unmovable when it comes to the Bible you believe, but you need to be flexible when it comes to the ministry that you are doing and realizing that things do not always go just the way you want them to go. You have got to be flexible. You have got to be like that story that Jesus told in Matthew about John the Baptist, that he was a reed, bending in the wind, but he is never broken. Sometimes the wind of this life will bend us, but because we are adaptable and because we are flexible, we never break.
8. Dependability. What does this church really mean to you? Is it just another one of the things that you put in your life this week or every week that you are not going to make any real commitment here? You are just always going to just get what you can get and do whatever you are going to do with it? The key to a successful ministry is not only adaptability and flexibility, but it is dependability. I grabbed those two guys last week to do what they could do, and I could have done it with 50, 60 other people in this room today. You just were not as close to me. My arms were not that long, but you are dependable. I know when I give you something to do, it is going to get done. I will give you something to do or somebody to work with or this or that, something that needs to be done, and I will not think twice about it. You know why? Because I have trained you to be dependable. You see, you could always depend on me. Now I am dependent on you. It is a dual dependency.
9. Compatibility. Being able to take any group of you and put you in any scenario and situation, putting some person in charge and everybody gravitates to that leadership and does whatever needs to be done, not because you want to be the leader, but because you have been trained to get the job done. I was watching a documentary the other night about Guadalcanal, and the Marines almost got wiped off and knocked off the island. One of the classic lines in there by the commander, Vandegrift, one of the news people said, "Why, you guys are really taking a beating." He says, "Yes, we are." He says, "I do not know that you want this to be made public, but it looks like the Japanese have you guys on your knees." And he said, "That is okay." "So what do you mean?" He says, "Because we as Marines shoot pretty well from our knees. We may be down, but because of these four things, we are never out." You give me a bunch of people who are adaptable, who are flexible, who are dependable, and are compatible, you get anything done.

That is how I use John 3 into what we are dealing with. Everybody is different. Use the model, make it happen, whatever. I just want you to know the bottom line is our acceptability, our coming to the place where our approval from God is not based on some spiritual quasi thing that we think in our minds. It is based on your study of the Scriptures and your growing through them.

Let us pray. Father, we do thank You and praise You, Father, Lord Jesus. We do love You. Thank You for all You do for us. Thank You for today. Thank You for the wonderful people in this church, the ones that hold the line on the top end, the midline people who are getting there, and all the new folks that have come in that will be there in no time. For everybody in this church that wants to be everything that God wants them to be and realize that this church and everything in it is the pathway to get there. Help us, Father. Help me to make the continued investment in them, but help them make the continued investment in this church as together we make the investment on Thursday night, Sunday morning, Bible Institute, people ministry, all the things that we do, we make the investment together in the Word of God. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Take time to sign up for everything this morning. Sign up for the Bible Kids Explorers back there.