

Last week, we moved past our well study out of John 4 and looked at another key verse and issue that is the downfall of New Testament Christianity. Years ago, I read an incredible book that talked about the death of biblical doctrine. This book truly laid out the death of Bible doctrine in churches and in preaching. You have heard me preach about the absence of real Bible doctrine ever since we have been together. If the guy was still alive, I am sure he would be writing a second book. Somebody ought to write it, and that would be "The Death of New Testament Christianity," because the death of Bible doctrine was just the headlines that was going to lead to where we are today.

In John 4, I told you that we were going to begin to look at the biblical definition of the word "worship," what it really means. Without a doubt, probably for you and for me, once you get saved, the greatest doctrine that needs to be understood is the biblical doctrine and definition of what New Testament worship with God really is. It was for this purpose that I took time last week to lay out the incredible parallels between the nation of Israel and the United States.

I. Historical Parallels: Israel and the United States

I told you early on that you have to, at some point, become a student of history along with being a student of the Bible, because the lessons from our history will always show us where we are going in our future. When you look at the similarities between Israel and the United States, you see that God had a plan for both nations. We know what God's plan was for the nation of Israel, and if you know anything about your Bible, you know what God's plan was for the United States of America.

In the Old Testament, we know that the kingdom of heaven was in effect, and we understand that that is the physical, visible kingdom that was given to Israel. The temple of God was fixed at a point in Jerusalem, where the Dome of the Rock is now, and the Muslims have control of that area temporarily. That is where the original temple was. Back in the Old Testament, God's plan was a nation that built a literal temple, and everybody in the world, if they wanted to find God, had to come to that temple in Jerusalem.

Things changed in the New Testament. In the New Testament, we are in the kingdom of God. We know that is a spiritual kingdom, and it is inside you. In the New Testament, we realize that our body is now the temple. Your body is the tabernacle. Your body is the temple of God, the literal temple that is your body. Now we are to take the temple, our body, to the world. In the Old Testament, the world came to the temple. In the New Testament, there is no physical body; it is a spiritual body, and we take it to the world.

God had two nations that really play a key role in what God was doing: one at the beginning of the Bible, and the other one would be the United States at the end of the Bible. Of course, England would be in the middle of it.

II. God's Hand in Preserving America

Learning the lessons from history, we see God's hand in preserving America. Most people, and it is certainly not taught in grade school, grammar school, high school, and certainly not in college, do not see God's hand in the preservation of the United States of America.

I do not know if you know this or not, or what you do with history, but did you ever notice how the early explorers who came to the New World, every one of them, without exception, was Roman Catholic? You have guys like Magellan. I know you think that is your little GPS in your car. No, he was a guy out of Catholic Spain. You have to remember that during this time, Spain was the world's sea power. England had not really come on the scene yet. But here again, the devil had it all orchestrated that he wanted all the New World to be Roman Catholic.

The thing the Roman Catholics did was when they took a place, they had a guy with them—a priest or whoever, a Monsignor, or somebody—and he came ashore and claimed that land for the Roman Catholic Church. So you had guys like Magellan. You have guys like Cortez, who conquered the Incas in South America. You have Vasco da Gama. You have guys like Ponce de Leon, who tramped the Florida swamps looking for the Fountain of Youth. They are all Bible-based. The Catholic Church wanted new territories to expand her world, so when nobody else would venture out to find the New World, the Roman Catholic Church, through Spain, certainly was up to the task.

Ponce de Leon knew something about the Bible. He knew there was a tree of life in Genesis. I do not think he probably understood there was one in Revelation, nor could he put the two together, but he was looking for it. Trying to find the Fountain of Youth in Florida would be like trying to find the Ark of the Covenant in Raytown. It just did not exist.

The one we are all familiar with is Christopher Columbus. The little thing you learned in school is, "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue." He tried to get people to send him out, and nobody would, but it was Ferdinand of Spain and Isabella, his queen, who sent him on a venture to find the New World. Of course, he is given the credit. We celebrate it. Well, we used to celebrate it. They are going to try to do away with Columbus Day. But we used to celebrate Columbus Day because, technically speaking, he is given the credit for discovering America, which he did not. But that is the way it flies. His main flagship was the Santa Maria, "Holy Mary."

He comes over, and it is an interesting thing. I have read a number of books on Christopher Columbus, so well that I call him Chris now. I have read a number of books on his life and who he was. One of the amazing things is that when I read these things from a Bible-believing standpoint, I know that God had America reserved. He did not want the Catholic Church conquering America because He had plans for America.

When you begin to read the logbooks, they had been on the ocean for many, many days. Of course, they were struggling, wondering if they were going to find land. They did not know. The Catholic Church taught that the earth was flat. They burned guys like Copernicus and those guys at the stake because they said it was round. Little did they know that the Book of Isaiah, long before Copernicus, told us that the earth was round. In Luke, in the New Testament, you are told that the earth is round. It was in the Bible.

But the Roman Catholic Church, they got reading the Bible. They got to read back there in Isaiah chapter 28 and Job chapter 40 and 41, where it talks about the dragons and the behemoth and the Leviathan playing in the sea. There was no way they could put that into a proper understanding like we do it here because we have the Bible and we believe it. So they thought that those sea monsters were in the Atlantic and the Pacific Ocean out there, and they thought that the earth was flat because, obviously, anybody with any intelligence, you walk out and look at it, you can see it is flat. That is what they thought. They said when you go so far out there outside of land, you are going to go off the end. I do not know where you go from there, maybe Topeka, Kansas or something. But anyway, there were also monsters out there, sea monsters. They got that out of the Bible. Still, they did not know or could not interpret the Bible to figure out that the earth was round.

So Columbus is out there with the great fear and anticipation that he is going to wake up in the belly of a Leviathan someplace or go off the edge and not know where he goes from there. But he found it, and they had been going for a long time now, months, and everybody was at the point of rebellion. He needed to find land. So he was sailing, and if you look at his course, he was heading right for the East Coast, around Virginia or someplace, South Carolina, right through there, right on the East Coast. But he could not see it yet. He saw some land-based birds that were flying in a direction. He knew that they were probably going back to land, so he changed course and followed those birds. Then he wound up discovering San Salvador, not the country, but the island there, and everything that he touched from that point on became Roman Catholic.

It is an incredible study of how God had America preserved. I should say reserved. He had it preserved from the Catholic Church and reserved for Bible believers. The Bible believers out of Europe, we know them as the Pilgrims. We traditionally celebrate Thanksgiving every November. Most people have lost the real meaning of Thanksgiving because Americans have quit giving thanks a long time ago, but it is a remembrance of where our country was started.

Most people do not know that the Pilgrims, when they left England, and they were actually in Holland for a while, when they left Europe, they were fleeing church persecution. They were being persecuted by the church-state Roman Catholic Church, and they were being persecuted by the Church of England that was in England at that time. So they left, and in 1620, they landed at what we now know today to be Plymouth, Massachusetts. We know it as the Plymouth Rock. There is a rock up there. I have been there. I have seen it. It is traditionally where the Pilgrims landed in their boat when they came to Plymouth. It may be or may not be, but that is beside the point.

In 1620, 102 people landed at Plymouth. Among them were a guy by the name of William Bradford, a guy by the name of John Robinson, who was the pastor of the group. John Smith, Miles Standish, you know about him; he was the military guy that protected them from the Indians. You had William Brewster, John Alden, and of course, John Turner, and many, many more. They were all saved men. I do not know about Standish, but the rest of them were all saved men and were born again and believed God in His Word.

You need to know this: the Bible that they came over with was not a King James Bible, because the King James Bible had not been printed yet. All this stuff takes place right around the time the printing press gets developed or invented, and then the first book that they printed on the Gutenberg printing press was the Bible. It was the Geneva Bible. The Geneva Bible is out of Geneva, Switzerland. It is off the same Greek New Testament text that your King James Bible is from. In fact, there are six early English translations. The King James Bible would be the seventh, as Psalms 12 tells us. This is the forerunner of the great King James Bible, the Geneva Bible. So they bring the Geneva Bible with them when they come.

Most people never stop and look at our founding, founding, founding, founding fathers, the Pilgrims, and really understand and put it into a biblical context of God's preservation for this country. He kept it out of the hands of the Roman Catholic Church because of what God had planned for America, just like He had planned for the nation of Israel.

First off, as you know, they had the Geneva Bible, as I have already said. That was the right Bible to come with. The Bible that they were up against was the Douay-Rheims. The Douay-Rheims came out of Douay-Rheims, Germany. It was a Roman Catholic Bible. Of course, the Roman Catholic Church would kill anybody, and the Church of England, too, that took the Geneva Bible over that. So they were fleeing the persecution.

I always thought the name of the ship was interesting. God will put little things in history if you are a Bible believer and you have a trained eye to look and see that will kick some things over. Has anybody ever wondered why it is called the Mayflower? Not because there is a moving company in America that moves your furniture when your grandma has to move. No, Mayflower. That is Song of Solomon chapter 2, the great chapter on the rapture of the church that says that the rains come, the flowers appear, and then the Lord comes back. So we have a little flight thing called "April showers, bring May what? May what?" And then what? The rapture. God has more of a hand in things in history than you think He does. The reason why so many of God's people think that He has no hand in history is because, honestly, I do not mean this to be cruel, He has no real hand in your life. So you do not look for things like that. You do not look for them in your own life, let alone looking back at the Pilgrims in 1620 coming over on the Mayflower.

Now, I am not going to stand up here and say that these Pilgrim guys said, "Hey, let us call it the Mayflower because we are looking for the rapture." I do not necessarily believe that. But I do believe that God has a hand in everything in history. I believe up there in heaven, when it is all being put together, God, someone, the angels or cherubims or seraphims, said, "Hey, Lord, they are going to need a boat." And God says, "Yeah, get that Mayflower." Because they are Bible believers. Maybe somebody someplace in history will read Song of Solomon chapter 2 and read "April showers, bring May flowers." Why do you think there are so many weddings going on right now? Why do you think the phrase is "a June bride"? I will tell you why, because in the Bible, in Song of Solomon, take it for what it is worth, it gives you the indication that in the springtime is when the rapture is going to take place. Would not that be great? It is sometime after the rains, April. Go look outside this morning. You have got to bring the May flowers. And then you are going to have a June bride. These are things that you have got to train yourself to see.

That is not all. They are called the Pilgrims. They are not called the Pilgrims so 2,000 years later, John Wayne could say, "Well, Pilgrim." That is not why they are called Pilgrims. They are called Pilgrims because in Hebrews chapter 11, verses 13 and 16, there are people who love God and believe God, the nation of Israel, who are going into a strange land, the Promised Land, much like the Pilgrims. The Bible says they were pilgrims. You just cannot get away from the Bible in history.

When they got on shore, they did what they called the Mayflower Compact. That is not so all the women would have makeup in the morning. The Mayflower Compact, believe it or not, was the first religious document in the United States of America. These Bible believers got together and came up with a Mayflower Compact that guaranteed that no church-state setup whatever in their world, that man could teach the Bible, preach the Bible, and believe the Bible the way that he wanted to. God had a hand in America.

I am not going to hit this one too hard, but maybe you do not even know this. When the Pilgrims came over here in 1620 and founded America, America was founded out of a pandemic. You did not know that, did you? It was called the Great Death. The Mayflower stayed off the shore for a whole year while these people fought off this pandemic, the Great Death, that wiped out whole tribes of Indians and could have decimated or did decimate many of the people that came over. That ship stood by. Listen to me now. That ship stood by to take them back to England if they needed to get out of Dodge because the pandemic was too bad. You know what? They stayed.

I wonder where America would be today if they would have done what so many of God's people have done when the pandemic hit: just gave up Christianity and said, "I am not taking a chance for God on anything." Plymouth Rock would have meant a whole new term. It would have been the rock they were hiding under, not the one they landed on. This is the importance of history. This is important to understand that what we have gone through, we are not the only ones that ever went through it. It is great to learn the lessons of history because what happened in history is going to happen in the future, and we are having our own great death. I am telling you, you just cannot get away from the hand of God.

From them, in the next 20 or 30 years, the floodgates were opened. Once they established themselves through a pandemic and said, "We are not going back. We are not stopping. We are not going to let this thing send us back to the persecution of Rome and the Church of England. We are going to build this on the Bible because we are Bible believers and we trust God to get us through this." Once they made that commitment and the doors were opened, the next 20 years, thousands of Bible believers, the floodgates were opened, and thousands of Bible believers flooded here from Europe to flee the persecution of Rome and the Church of England and the Lutheran Church. By the 1700s, just 80 years later, we had New England now firmly established. We had preachers like Jonathan Edwards. We had preachers like George Whitefield. Now we begin to see God's hand in America of where it is going, that God is going to preserve it and keep it because God has a plan for it.

In the next 200 years, up to 1950, we see across this country, starting on the East Coast and moving across to the West Coast, seven great awakenings through the men of God who believed

the book that you hold in your lap this morning. God used those men right up to the final end in 1950, thereabouts. We see from this New England colony, the 13 colonies, moving right up to what we have in the United States today. We see the Founding Fathers, the early Revolutionary War fathers, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, all of those guys. We see the great Bible believers and the great men who loved God and who understood that this country would never survive without God because it was God who brought this country into being, just like the prophets tried to tell the nation of Israel. Both Israel and America, when they lost the Bible, they lost their future.

III. The Demise of America and Christianity

God had a plan for America. You will find, when you look at the nation of Israel and you look at the United States of America, that both of them in history have a formulation; God formed them. Both of them have the Word of God in their formulation. Both of them are called out. Exodus 12 for the nation of Israel, the Mayflower for us. You will find that both of them get established. You will find that both of them hit an apex in their history where they are at their best they ever were. Then you are going to find that both of them go through a demise. Both of them go into a captivity. Both of them wind up in total apostasy. As long as America took care of God's Word, God took care of America.

Then I showed you about our demise and our captivity, going through the seven periods of church history last week and really focusing on the last one, the Laodicean church period, the one that we are all part of. Our nation, before your very eyes, is being totally changed to meet the need of the coming man of sin. That is really all this is about. You can leave the politics out of it. This has nothing to do with the Democrats and the Republicans. This has to do with a Christianity that has thumbed their nose at God's Word, and God's judgment is now on America. We are in the end times. You say you are a preacher of doom. Maybe for you. I am as excited as I could ever be about the times I am living in, where the government will control every aspect of your life so when he does come, the Antichrist, you will already be set up for him in a one-world government with a one-world control. If you know anything about Daniel chapter 2 and Daniel chapter 7, and you can put the two together, you will probably understand that America is probably going to be the hub for all of that. But that is another message.

I showed you how easily God broke down those 2,000 years of church history, and for our learning sake, we focused on two churches. We focused on the church of the open door, Revelation 3:8, the Philadelphia church, 1600 to 1900, and the church of the closed door, Revelation chapter 3 verse 20, 1900 to where we are today, the Laodicean church.

➤ The Importance of the Key of David

That is the key to it all: understanding the key of David. I told you there were two of them in the Bible, and I gave you the one in Revelation chapter 3, but I did not give you the second one because I just wanted to see how many of God's people went to work this last week to find out where that second one was. Probably not too many. I get it. The Royals are playing. The

Bachelorette is coming down to a crisis. American Idol is kicking off and going to town. I know you are a busy little person. I get that.

All of this stuff will be in what we teach in Bible Institute on the seven mysteries, one of which is found in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 verse 7, all this material. It has been given to the church, and yet we are told in 1 Corinthians chapter 4 that the pastors in the churches are going to be stewards of all this mystery. But they are not.

IV. Seven Things Lost When You Give Up Your Bible

Today I want to talk to you about the seven things that you will lose when you give up your Bible. I used to teach this until I got my head straight on it. There are seven things you will lose when you lose your Bible, but you really do not lose your Bible. The Bible is always here, Hosea chapter 8 verse 11. We just give it up.

Before we get into all this, I want to tell you about another key book in the Bible. Before we get to that, let us ask God's blessing on our time this morning.

Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You so much. We thank You that in these unsure days, that these days that look so dark and gloomy, that we have the light of the Word of God. We thank You that the entrance of Thy Word giveth us that light. We thank You for the great promises that we never doubt in this darkness what You have given us in the light. We thank You and praise You for all that. Help us to see and understand what God had planned for this country and how this country opted out of those plans, but that does not take away our responsibility to hold the line in these last days. For those of us who know and understand, we have no excuse but to shoulder up and do the work that God has called us to do as best we can. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. God, open up our eyes that we might behold mighty things out of Thy law. In Jesus' name, for His sake we ask, Amen.

Now the other key book that you have got to see to put this together is the book of Colossians. Again, a trained eye. I do not know what you know about Colossians. I have taught you many, many things about it, but it probably got confused with the Bachelorette and all that other good stuff that is going on. But it goes right along with Revelation chapter 1, 2, and 3. The book of Colossians shows us the working key elements in the Laodicean church period. You will find in the book of Colossians, if you are paying attention, the word "Laodicea" mentioned five times. You will find it in 2:1, 4:13, 4:15, and then two times in 4:16. Laodicea in history was a town that was just 10 or 12 miles south of Colossae. It would be like, we are here in Independence, but if we go down Lee's Summit Road, we are going to get into Lee's Summit. To the trained eye, that should jump all over us. But again, most of God's people cannot even find the book of Colossians without the index.

Without a doubt, the key to our survival today will be the understanding, the breakdown of this book. Just four short chapters. In chapter 1, he goes to great lengths to redefine who Christ is. He does this because the church today has completely lost who He is. He starts out in verse 9 by praying that we get all wisdom. That is good, but it is not enough. Then he says spiritual understanding. Spiritual understanding is how to interpret the wisdom that you have through the

Bible to understand the wisdom of all things. You have got to see what God is into it. When I just gave you the history of America and the Mayflower and the Pilgrims and all that, that was spiritual understanding. That was taking a piece of history that you have all been taught and looking at it from the Bible standpoint.

Then he says in verse 10 that so we can walk worthy of the Lord and bear fruit. Then verse 14 he tells us that redemption only comes through the blood. The reason why he does that is because if you have an NIV or any other Bible, they completely take the blood out for salvation. So he has to redefine that. And that He is the firstborn of every creature. That would be Hebrews chapter 1, verse 3, someplace in there. That is a powerful thing. In verse 16 and 18, he redefines Christ as the sole creator of everything. That is because in the day and age that we live in, the world believes in evolution, and most of God's people believe in intelligent design. Nobody just believes that God made it the way it says in Genesis anymore, hardly anybody. That is just the way the wind blows today.

Then he says that in verse 18 that He alone is the head of the church and that He wants preeminence of everything in our lives. Then he says if we continue in the faith and get grounded and settled in truth that we will be presented—this will be the judgment seat of Christ—that we will be presented holy, unblameable, and unreprouvable in His sight to God. I do not know if you know this or not, but if you look at these seven churches in Revelation chapter 1, verse 3, God has something that He reproveth every church for except Philadelphia. The church that kept faithful to His Word, He has no reproof to them. Ephesus, He reproveth them. Smyrna, He reproveth them. Thyatira, He reproveth them. Every one of them He finds something wrong that He reproveth them except one, the one that kept His Word. That should tell you something. So we begin to see here that all these key definitions of who Christ is today are gone. We live in a Christless Christianity today for the most part. There are people, churches out there that obviously, but for the most part that is not true. You will see that before I am done today, hopefully. Maybe not, but at least you will have the information.

Then we move into chapter 2, and here is the real issue today. He says in verse 3, "In whom Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." It is in Christ. You have got to get in Christ to get it. Once the Word of God goes, then it all goes. There are four key areas in Colossians chapter 2 that he warns us about, that we need to look out for, that do not allow to happen in our church because it has happened across Christianity. He says in two ways, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy, through vain deceit, through tradition of men, through the rudiments of the world." I could go through each one of these, but I do not have to. You are reasonably intelligent individuals. You can understand what we are talking about here.

The church has moved from the Bible into philosophy. Most big churches keep a certified psychiatrist or a Christian psychiatrist or a Christian therapist on staff so they can help you solve your problems. I had a Christian counselor one time. In fact, he was a doctor and claimed to be a Christian. I am not saying he was or he was not, but I knew him quite well. We had many, many discussions about his trade. He penned himself as a Christian psychologist that he could help you through your problems where the Bible would not. He told me one time, and I never forgot this, he says, "You know, we just differ on one thing," which was not really true. He said, "You

believe the Bible is absolute and complete all truth." He says, "I believe the Bible is truth, but I believe there is also truth outside the Bible." You know what his truth outside the Bible was? His philosophy.

This is the same guy I went to lunch with one time. I do not think he heard me, but he knew I heard him. Our table was ready. They came to get us, and I went ahead and walked because I am going to eat first. I heard him say to the waitress, "My name is Dr. So-and-so. If I get any calls, would you let me know?" Nobody is going to call this clown. He was a doctor, and he wanted to impress that little girl and the people there. I am sure she went back to her manager and said, "We have Dr. So-and-so sitting at that table. If he gets any calls, what do we do?" If she had asked me, "You are sitting with Dr. So-and-so, if he gets any calls," I would have said, "Hang up on him. I will take it." I will tell you what you do. Go over to, you have one of those loudspeakers you would like to get in the parks place, you know, "Parks, line three," you will get one of those. You get on there and say, "Calling Dr. Fine, Dr. Howard, Dr. Fine," call him that way. He will come right over, because he is one of the Three Stooges. That is what you are dealing with. He was so prideful of his credentials that he went to a restaurant where nobody cared about it, but he had to tell the little girl there to impress her or whoever. That is the kind of stuff you are dealing with.

Of course, there is vain deceit, tradition of men, rudiments of the world. Then the last thing in verse 4, which I think is one of the greatest studies you will probably never take, we are warned that we are not to be beguiled by any man with enticing words in verse 18. That word "beguile" is one of the greatest words that you will ever study in the Bible. What it means in the Old Testament, what it means in the New Testament, why Eve said, "You beguiled me, the devil beguiled me." What it means in Numbers chapter 28, where they find the word again. And then what it means in 2 Corinthians chapter 11, verse 3, where Paul says to the church, "Do not let the devil beguile you." You have got to study that word. The problem number one, putting it all in a nice big round ball, we can put her through the hoop, is the church today has been beguiled.

Then in chapter 3 and 4, as a New Testament Bible believer, he tells me now what my response should be to survive all of this. I am not going to have time to do it today, but in that chapter 3 and 4, there are six things that I need to do to survive what chapter 1 and chapter 2 are telling me is going on. Most of God's people have no clue. One of the most important books in all of the Bible that define the details of the Laodicean church in Revelation chapter 3, verses 14 through 22.

So with all that backdrop and foundation, let us go back and look at John chapter 4, verses 21 through 24, and begin to look in order, starting with what he says here and then coming through what happens and what you lose when you dump the Word of God. When I am talking about the Word of God, I am talking about a King James 1611 Authorized Version, the end result of the great Geneva Bible.

John 4:21-24

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

If you do not have verse 24 marked in your Bible, you better mark it. Christ is now telling her that there is going to be a change in how they worship God. In the Old Testament, you worshipped at Jerusalem, a place, kingdom of heaven. We already talked about that. But now, now is the time when you will now worship Him in spirit—that is your human spirit inside you—and truth—that is the Word of God that you have in your lap this morning. We know that the kingdom of God now is the spiritual kingdom. Luke chapter 17, verses 20 and 21, tells us it is inside of us.

Now let us see how giving up your Bible affects our worship. Hopefully, if you have got any sense at all, you can see and better understand where this is the beginning of the problem, and then it all goes downhill from here. Let me just say this before I get going. This is true of people who dump the Bible, but it is also true of people that I have found that actually have the Bible. You just do not follow it. We like to think, and I want to make this very clear, we like to think of this very clear cut, "Well, we have all these people over here that dumped the King James Bible for an NIV, and they are terrible people." They are not terrible people, but they did that. "But I have a King James Bible, and I am real, da-da-da-da." What good is the fact that you have it if you do not follow it? So I want you to know going in that what I am about to say will fit in both categories. I just want you to know that.

1. You Lose Your Worship

The number one thing he says we have got to worship God in spirit and truth. This is the definitive passage on worship in your Bible if you do not have that marked. You know how important definitive passages are. As I have said before, they are invaluable. Today, we have completely lost the biblical definition of real worship. Because of that, we as God's church and God's people, we do not have a real biblical definition. We have deceived ourselves. We pretend.

I can just hear it now. "Well, how can you say that?" I will tell you how I can say that: because God is not doing one thing in your life or somebody else's life. I will tell you how I can say that. You have been saved, what, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, "bingo" years, and you have never won a person to Christ. You are going to tell me, are you going to get upset because I say that worship is out the door today?

So what we have done is we have made worship, and you see it all over the place. I know people are not going to like what I am about to say. Hey, that is my spiritual gift, taking people off. So what we have done now in Laodicean Christianity, hear me out, we made worship a service. We say we are going to worship God now with our tithes and our offerings. We tell people we are going to sing now, and we are going to have a worship time with God, and we are going to sing our song service, and we are going to have worship. We say that. We actually say that. We actually believe that in spite of Colossians chapter 3, verse 16, unequivocally telling you how

God looks at music and where music should start with God. Let us blow that part off. We want to get up and we want to feel in the flesh. We want to feel like we are doing it. It is not about your flesh. It is about your spirit and God's truth, not what you feel about it.

We, like Israel, have taken God, Christ, and we have changed the name now, got completely out of the Bible and a definition, and we are worshipping something else. Yet we are pretending, are we not? Yes, we are. "I do not know how you can say that." I say that because you are not doing anything for God. That is how I can say that. You think God died on the cross so you could just go live your merry life along on a little bicycle built for two? You actually think that God saved you and died on the cross and paid the price so you could just go on with life and not be inconvenienced until the rapture? Do not tell me. I was not on the Mayflower. I did not go through the Great Death, but I wish I was. There were real people back there. But here I am stuck in the armpit of humanity.

You do not worship God in a service. You do not worship God by giving money. You do not worship God by singing. You worship God in your own spirit with His absolute truth. It is an attitude that you have. You do not have a worship service. You live in a state of worship 24 hours, 7 days a week. This church does not have a call to worship. We do not have a worship service. I am not going to get up and say, "Let us give the call to worship." You were called to worship the day you got saved. You never stop. You can live like hell, do what you want to do, but, "Oh, going to call worship." That is how it works. That is why God's people today care nothing about God in their life. They care nothing about doing anything for God, so they do not understand worship.

It is like the word "revival." I do not want to have a worship service. I want to preach the fire out of you and give you everything I can so this whole church will live in a state of worship. It is like revival. "Come next week, we are going to have a revival, June 15th through the 20th." That is what we do. We schedule the Holy Spirit of God to come in. "Well, He may be at the other church that week. Did you check it out?" It is like worship. We are not going to schedule revival. We need to live in a state of revival. You had somebody saved last week, did you not? You had somebody saved last week. You have people get saved all the time. I get called on the phone all the time. Someone told God, "Save me." One of my brothers in Christ, one of my sisters in Christ. I want to be in His presence. That is revival! Your excitement! Your passion!

2. You Lose Your Furnishings

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

The next thing you want to see is that when you lose your Bible, you give up your Bible, you do not have any furnishings. That obviously does not mean much to many people because if you have an NIV or any other Bible, they change that word. They change the word "throughly." In verse 17, it says that the man of God may be perfect "throughly." "Throughly" is from the inside

out. All the new Bibles make it "thoroughly." Then they destroy "furnished" by putting in "equipped." They destroy two of the greatest words, and this is why God's people never do anything for God. They have no furnishings. No furnishings at all. It is "thoroughly." It starts on the inside when you get saved, and then it bursts itself out.

I do not know if you know this or not, but if you would go back to the Old Testament, there is a thing called the Tabernacle back there. It is a great study. Get Arthur W. Pink's on the Tabernacle. It has Larkin's book on it, the big one. It has some great stuff on it. That tabernacle was the center of Israel's worship before they got into the land and built the temple. I do not know if you even know this or not, but there are seven pieces of furniture in that tabernacle. I already told you that in the New Testament, your body is God's tabernacle. You know what? You should have seven furnishings inside your tabernacle today. Have you ever looked at what those seven were? I know. I mean, I get it. Did you ever look and see what those seven were? How they apply to you?

When you looked at that tabernacle, the first thing you had right here was that brazen altar. That is the picture of Christ dying on the cross for you. That brazen altar is where you got saved. That is where they burnt the sacrifice. Then when you went inside that tent, that is a picture of you getting in Christ, your fellowship. Right before you went in there was a laver of water there with little spigots on it. You did not get a drink from it. You washed your feet. That priest went in and out of there, and every time he had to go back in, he had to wash his feet. You know why? The tabernacle had a tent, all kinds of skins and everything, but it did not have any floor in it. Every time the priest would go in to do the work in there, he would have to come out and wash his feet because his feet got dirty. It is a picture: before you can do the Word of God, you have got to get yourself clean. You have got to get your feet clean. "Wherewithal shall a man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word." He washed his feet every time he went in and out, and we have got to get clean with God in our walk through the water of the Word.

When you went in there, when you walked in, it was completely dark. No light from the outside. The badger skins and all those skins completely kept out the light from the world. The only light that was in there over here was a seven-pronged candlestick that burnt continually. That is all the light you had. That is a picture of this world being in darkness, and the only light you have is the light out of that book through the Holy Spirit of God, the seven-pronged candlestick.

How many of you guys have been to a movie theater? All of you. You know what happens. You are out here in the sunlight, and you walk into that movie theater, and it is dark, and you have got to stop a minute. You are going to step over everybody sitting there. It takes a while for your eyes to get adjusted to the light in the theater from the light that you just came from the world. When that priest went in there, he had to stop for a moment because it took some time for his eyes to get adjusted from the light of the world to the light of the candlesticks. When you get saved, this is why we disciple you. This is why we work with you. This is why we help you. This is why we invest in you, because it takes time for your eyes, spiritually, to adjust from the world's light to God's light.

So you had those seven-pronged candlesticks, Holy Spirit of God, and then you had on this side what they called the shewbread on a table. There were 12 loaves baked fresh every morning. One, two, three, four, five, six. One, two, three, four, five, six. That is a picture of the Word of God. Six and six because your Bible has got 66 books in it. When the priest went in there, he worked all around. But here is the case. It is a picture of you and me. He could not get in front of the light because then he could not see what he was doing, so he had to get behind the table and let the light shine on what he was doing. That is the problem with so many of God's people. You have gotten in front of the Holy Spirit of God. You are doing it on your own.

Then you had the altar of incense. That is where the incense burned continually. The fire for that had to come off the altar, the brazen altar. There is another study in that we do not have time to get into. What happened was that is a picture of our prayer life. The Bible says, "Pray without ceasing." But then there was another little laver that the guy carried that had burning incense on it, and that is a picture of your personal prayer life every day as you talk with the Lord.

Then the last piece of furniture was going into the Holy of Holies, the Ark. Only one man got to do that, the high priest, every year. To me, that is the ultimate relationship that we could have with the Lord Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, most of God's people never go behind the veil. Incredible stuff. But you see, when you change "thoroughly" to "thoroughly," "furnished" to "equipped," you lose all that.

I remember when we first moved into our house many, many, many, many years ago. We were going through it, and I remember going into the garage, and it was completely barren. Nothing had been moved in yet. I remember the garage door came down, and the light went off, and I was over in the end, and it was completely darkened. There was no point of reference. There was nothing. It was cold, it was damp. It was wintertime. It was cold, it was damp. It was stone wall, stone floor. I remember thinking, when Jesus Christ comes into your life and He wants to tabernacle among you, and your body is the tabernacle, those furnishings are not only for you, they are for Him. You know what most of God's people have done? They put Him in a cold, empty, dark, dank basement and shut the door and turned the light out and said, "Now you have a good time." That is what we have done. No furnishings.

3. You Lose the Working of God in You

1 Thessalonians 2:13

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Now I will tell you, there is no working of God in you. Receiving the Word of God is not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God. He did not say the originals. He did not say a translation. He said the Word of God. When you get your worship right and you get your furnishings right, then the Word of God will work in you. The key word will be "effectually." Not only you and me getting the most out of God, but God getting the most out of you and me. Verse 13 says, "effectually worketh also in you that believe." That is not believing in Christ to be

saved. I hope you did not think that. The context is very clear, but believing the book that God gave you is His Word as it is in truth, the Word of God. Then it works in you.

We as God's people, and I put myself right in the middle of this, we are horrific. Where some preachers get up and would say, "You are terrific," I will tell you, we are horrific. It is close, but no cigar. We are, without a doubt, the most unthankful, miserable, perverted bunch of Christians on our way to heaven that you will ever find in your life. I tell you, when I start talking like this, and I put myself in the middle of it, but I know you have some of you pious gas bags out there who are listening to this, probably not here, but you are thinking, "Well, I just do not know how he can say that." Well, let me say it again so you do not miss it. We are horrific. We are John Dillinger, Alvin Karpis, Pretty Boy Floyd, Al Capone, had nothing on any of us. In fact, we probably are worse than they are.

I watch and listen to God's people all the time. Hey, I listen to myself all the time. They will go through things like whining about the problems they are going through right now. I do not mean whining in a bad way. They will complain. They will say, "I am praying. I lost my job. The job is gone." They will call me up or they will say, and this is no reflection on the prayer list because all of those, as far as I am concerned, are legitimate. But I am just telling you, I get it all the time. "Oh, pray for me that God do this. Pray for me that God give me this. I have got this great issue in my life, and I do not know how to pray about it. Pray for me." They ask for prayer. We want God to work for us. "Oh, God, help me." We get into a jam. "Oh, God, I lost my job. I do not know where the money is going to come from. I do not know this. My health. I got a bad doctor's report. I mean, I am struggling with this. I am worrying about this. Oh, ask God to help me. Ask for prayer. Help me in my issues, my infirmities. Help me with my job."

But in their life, not one single time have they ever done what God has asked them to do. It is about us wanting everything from Him and giving nothing back. It is about when we get into a jam, the first thing we do is, "Oh, God, help me. I am struggling." But you did not do one thing in your life that He has asked you to do. We want God to work for us, but do not ask me God to work for you. Never horrific. It is all about us getting from Him the quality of life we think we should have and never about giving your life to Him with any quality at all. No book, no working in you. So we are a bunch of God's people that have great infirmities. We are so stupid, me. We are so ignorant, me, that all God does for us, we ask for more. We have the audacity, we have the guts to ask God to do this for me, do this for me, please do this, fix this, give me this, give me that when we are not willing to cross the street for 10 seconds to do something for Him. Then we wonder why it does not happen. Then you know what happens? We get mad at God. We blame God. "Well, God does not love me." He does not love you if you do not love Him.

4. You Lose Your Love for God

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

As I said, I have seen this, all of this, in God's people too who have the right Bible. This is not limited to just those who have given it up. I have known many a young man or a young lady or a mom or dad who had the right Bible, but in their minds, they are going to do it their way. The real definition of my love for God is based on my understanding of God's love for me. That would be the book of Song of Solomon in the Old Testament, the book of Ephesians in the New Testament. You put the two together with understanding, and you have got the right love affair with the right person.

I always hear all the time, the book of 1 John, "You know, one of my favorite books in the Bible," they always say, "Well, the theme of 1 John is love." Every book you read, every guy you hear, that is Laodicean junk. The theme is not love, but rather the theme is to know. You would think in five chapters, if you read it and you actually read it and you found 26 times he talked about knowing God, you would think that maybe that was the theme. But Laodicean Christianity, it is famous. God's people, me and you, we are famous for loving God without knowing God. This is why the divorce rate in marriage fails. We fall in love with things today and fall out of love with them tomorrow.

I have had people 10, 20, 30 years that I have known, been with me in ministry, and I have watched them that each year, instead of it getting closer, instead of it getting warmer, instead of it getting hotter, instead of you getting more on fire, they get colder and colder and colder and colder. Pretty soon, it is gone. You know why? Because they quit knowing who He was a long time ago. I am not saying they are not saved. I am just saying they gave it up. They gave up caring about Him, and their love grew cold. It is a thing where you might love Him intellectually, but Song of Solomon is nowhere within a hundred light years of your life and your relationship. No book, no love. "I love God." This is what we say. "I love You, God, for what You gave to me. But dear God, not enough to give You back the love that You gave to me." That is the Laodicean love fest. "Oh, I love what You did for me, but do not ask me to do anything for You because my love is not that deep." You are like old Ruby, "You take your love to town."

5. You Lose Your Abiding/Fellowship

John 15:7-8

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Here, "abide," I want you to understand, has nothing to do with your salvation. You are sealed at salvation unto the day of redemption, the book of Ephesians tells us, but rather "abide" deals with our daily fellowship, my relationship, my prayer life, the things that I have, the intimate things with God. Notice, that is not Christ abiding in you, but His Word abiding in you. So you know what that tells me? You do not have His Word, you do not have any abiding. See how simple that is? John chapter 1, verse 7, "If you walk in the light, as he is in the light, you have fellowship one with another." See how simple that is? No light, no fellowship, no Word, no abiding.

If the Word of God abides in you, then it will do three things for you. The first one will be your prayer life, your conversation. The second thing is you will glorify God with your life. The third thing is you will bear much fruit. Then he says, "And so shall ye be my disciple." That is abiding. No words of God. He did not say the fundamentals. He did not say the originals. He did not say the manuscripts. He did not say the message. He did not say the story. He said the words. No words of God, no abiding. Now you can see where Christianity is falling right into this.

6. You Lose Power in Preaching

Jeremiah 1:7-10

But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

The next thing we see that when you lose the Bible or you give up the Bible, you throw it away, this is why there is no power in preaching. Preaching is a lost art. If you are a collector of Japanese stuff, samurai swords are one of the premium things some guys like to collect. There is a process, and I do not know what the process is so I will never get into it, but there is a way that you pull the handle off and you can actually see the maker, and most of those things that they carried, the guys sent home from World War II that they carried, their NCOs and the, they were made 5, 6, 7, 800 years ago. Sword making was an art. You go to the gun shows now, they look good on the fact that you can buy a samurai sword for \$19.95. It is not the same quality.

But I learned a great lesson. I was there at one time at a gun show, and this goofy kid, about your guys' age, he wanted a samurai sword, so he bought one. He was looking at it, showing all his friends. So he took it into the restroom, and I had gone to the restroom, and I walked in, and there was a trail of blood everywhere. I walked in there, and the paramedics were in there, and they had this, you know what this idiot did? He took it out and he ran his hand down that blade to see how, they may not be as good quality, but they are still sharp. He learned the hard way.

That always reminds me, preaching is an art. But you do not find many preachers today that can preach a \$6,000 message you get in 1995. Back in the day, my day, I would hear the old guys preach like B.R. Lakin. I would hear those guys get up there, and they would preach messages that would actually paint pictures that were so powerful. I have heard them preach on hell so hot you could feel the heat. I have heard them get up there and lay things out and actually paint a picture for everybody through the words that they are using, through the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit of God. Why? Because God put His words in their mouth, and He touched their lips. When He does that, you become an artist. You paint Word pictures. People come away with a vivid understanding of what you just said. They would paint a masterpiece

through their messages. All that is gone now. All this because God would touch their mouth and put His words into their mouth, and they would speak.

But there is no preaching today. Today it is all teaching. It is all soft. It is all effeminate. We do not want to offend anybody. There is no doctrine. We do not want anybody to come to church and get their nose out of joint because I say something that maybe they do not agree with or they do not believe. What has that got to do with truth? I will give you a 15-minute message, and then we will talk about the building fund and raising this for this over here and how we need all this stuff done. No book, no power in your preaching. The reason why most young preachers get up and most preachers get up and their preaching is not exciting is because they are not excited about what they preach. So instead of painting a picture with words, they bring in a rock band or they bring in this and that and a light show and smoke coming up under the thing, and they entertain you because they have nothing else to give you.

I want you to notice here. Real Bible-based preaching does six things found in our verse here, verse 10:

- 1.) It roots out.
- 2.) It pulls down.
- 3.) It destroys.
- 4.) It throws down.
- 5.) It builds.
- 6.) It plants.

Let me just get personal here for a moment. In all of our lives, I think there are some things we need to root out this morning. Amen? There are probably some things we all need to pull down this morning. Do not you worry. There are probably some things in our lives we just need to get rid of and destroy. There are some things that we need to throw down. But I want you to notice, you have got to root out, you have got to pull down. That is real preaching. Then look what happens. You root out, you pull down, you destroy, you throw down. Then you are building and planting. There are some things you have got to get rid of as a Christian when you get saved before you can ever do anything for God.

7. You Lose Your Inheritance

Joshua 1:6-9

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Now the last thing you lose here is probably the most tragic end. The most tragic end and result of a world of ministry, a church, and pastors or Christians without God's Word. That is, you lose your inheritance. I cannot stress this one enough. Everything we do in Christianity has to go back to the pure, absolute Word of God that is God's Word. It is not an issue anymore or a controversy that God's Word is only found in the King James 1611 Authorized Version. History in the last 20 years, along with our Bible studies on Thursday night, has proven that fact. Mark it down, John chapter 1, you cannot separate Christ from His Word. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Listen to me. Every pastor, every missionary, every evangelist, every Christian that ever lived, no matter what they do for the Lord, no matter how popular they were, whether they had their own TV evangelism show, they had 30,000 people coming to their arena, no matter what. Come to hear them preach with great times of great crowds of people. If all he did did not start with God's Holy Word in a King James 1611 Authorized Version at the Judgment Seat of Christ, he has lost everything. That is hard for people today.

It is like prayer. You know why in the tabernacle that altar of incense, which is the picture of prayer, had to have the fire that kept that incense going, had to come off the brazen altar? You know, there were a couple of guys that were priests that offered strange fire. They started that fire from the wrong place, and God killed them. Remember that? Why did that incense, a picture of your prayer, have to be lit and keep lit from the brazen altar? I will tell you why. You are not going to like it. Laodicean Church 101: if every prayer you ever prayed, if every desire you ever had, if everything you ever wanted to do for God, asked God for, told God you would do, if it did not go back through the altar of incense to Calvary's cross of what He did for you, you are out of luck. That is tough, is it not? That is tough for a Laodicean church that you just want to throw up your prayers and God grab them. "Oh, okay. Let us get these sorted out. They need this stuff."

You remind me of a preacher one time, a Pentecostal preacher, he took the offering and he said, "What are you going to do with that?" He said, "Oh, he would do it simple around here." He says, "What do you do?" He says, "We throw it all up in the air. What God wants, He keeps. The rest of it all down mine." That is the way it works with our prayer. We just throw them all up to God. We do not care one thing about it originated with the cross of Calvary. You know why? Because if your prayer life, if everything you did went back to what He did for you, you probably would not have to pray for the things you are praying for. Welcome to Laodicea.

As I said, this is not just about somebody who dumps God's Word. I have seen God's people, Christians, who had the book. I have seen them align themselves with some cult group, some charismatic, some other false teaching, some pastor, some Bible study, some godless thing that has nothing to do with the Bible and a guy cares nothing about the Bible. They are so stupid that they actually think because they want to see people saved. They want to see, they think that God is going to actually honor that, and you are going to get some kind of—let me tell you

something. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, you are going to lose it all. You are going to lose it all.

I have met a lot of people who think that is a radical position. I guess for the Laodicean church period today, that is a radical position. But let me show you radical. I used to hear my kids, when I raised my voice a little bit, they would say, "Dad, do not yell at me." I would say, "I will show you yelling." "Dad, you are yelling at me." "No, I am not." "Yes, you are." "You want me to show you yelling?" "Remember?" "You want me to show you yelling?" And what was your answer? See? So you want radical? You do? You want radical? You think I am radical? I am going to make sure you are radical. Maybe this will help you.

God rewarding anybody and giving them their inheritance when they have rejected His Word and took up the devil's Bible and defended it and taught it as it was the Word of God and have damned and messed up people for 20 or 30 years with the devil's Bible. God giving them an inheritance because He is going to bless you through the devil's book. Really? Now, that is radical. You must be a Mormon. You must, because they believe that someday God and the devil are going to pass up their differences and be buddies again. You are out of your mind.

The problem with us, we have lost it all. We do not understand it anymore. We do not know who God is. We do not know what He expects. We do not know what He wants, what He demands. All we know, all we know is what we demand. "God, give me this." When I used to go to lunch with Mel Sabach or a dinner, he would say, "You pray." And I would say, "God bless this food." He stopped me and said, "Why are you telling God what to do?" He said, "Do not tell God to bless the food. Ask God if He will bless it." He said, "That is the problem with you young kids. You are always telling God what to do." I thought about that right when he said that, but I thought about that years later. He is right. In prayer, we are always ordering God around. The Bible to you is not a book of worship. The Bible to you is a Sears catalog. You order things from it. You have a need, so you tell God, "Give it to me." We are in a demand business. We are not servants of God. We demand things.

Any Christian, for whatever reason, hooks up with the heresy and helps anybody continue in that heresy, I do not care what you think you are doing for God and you are winning people to Christ. You really want to see people saved. When you align your spirit with a devil's spirit and a devil's Bible, it is out the window. The problem is you are too stupid to see that. Maybe you are too bullheaded to see that. Now that is radical.

As old Bob Jones Sr. used to say, "It is never right to do wrong, to get the chance to do right." Remember, and I hate to bring this up, keep coming back to the Bible.

2 Timothy 2:5

And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

God's people are like, "Oh, I am doing the best I can. I am striving for the masteries. I want to do this. I want to do that. I want to see people saved. I want to do this. I want to do that." "If a man also strive for the masteries, yet is he not crowned." You mean after all he has strived to do for God, he is not crowned? Why is that? "Except he strive lawfully." You have got to do it God's

way, not your way. You cannot decide, "Well, this is what I am going to do," and then order God to bless it. You cannot decide you are going to do it your way and then say, "God, You just go ahead and bless it, and I know at the Judgment Seat of Christ, it is going to be okay because I got the right heart attitude." No, you do not have the right heart attitude. You have your heart attitude. The right heart attitude would be to worship Him in the Spirit and truth. Paul said it. Jesus said it Himself. He says, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Welcome to Laodicean Christianity.

We now know what we lost when we gave up. Now you have the complete two-part series that you can go back the rest of your life. It will be on the archives until Jesus comes back. Now you know why we are in the mess we are in, not only in America, but in this country and around the world and in Christianity, and it does not start with the Democrats or the Republicans. It is people just like me and you who think we know more about it than God does, and we have fallen into and been beguiled. Study that word, something like that. We have been beguiled to the point now where we have lost everything. We do not know who He is. We pick and choose out of the Bible what we want. What we have today, and I am done with this, what we have today is a lawless Christianity filled with lawless Christians. We just want to do it the way we want to do it and do not care what God's Word says about it, do not care to find out. We have got our own agenda, we are going to do it, and we are just going to tell God, "Now You bless me, Lord, because I am doing this because this is what You told me to do." And God comes back and says, "I am not blessing anything because you have got it backwards." But that is where we are at. Welcome to America in the 21st century. God, I hate the 21st century.

Let us pray.

Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. Thank You, Father, for Your truth, which takes us all the way back, shows us how You had this country, what You wanted it to do. I have only touched the tip of the iceberg this morning, what You had for this country, what You gave it, how You protected it. Lord, I look at where we are at now, and I look at the state we are in in Christianity. God's people pretending they know what they are doing, pretending they are doing something for You. When it all comes down to our worship, and our worship is nothing more than my spirit in Your truth. That means and necessitates I do it Your way, not my way. Thank You, Father. We love You. For this church and for the men and women, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas who do it by the book. Continue to help us hold the line for You. Help us to be that church of the open door. Help us to be, Father, the church that stays open in the midst of a closed Christianity. Let us always proclaim the truth. Never back up on it. Never apologize for it. When it is clear teaching of the Word of God, then it clearly needs to be taught. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. For His sake we ask it. Amen. God bless you. Make sure you get your application back.