

I. The Root Issue of Israel's Leaders

Last week, we were in John chapter 7, and we finally got to the root issue of the leaders of Israel when it came to the Lord Jesus Christ and their rejection of Him. We saw last week that, usually when there is a problem with somebody, what they tell you is not really the issue. Sometimes you have to dig a little bit to find the root problem, and we have seen that with them. We have seen a lot of different things, but now we know, as I showed you in Mark 15:10 last week and other places too, that the real issue they had was envy.

The fact was that they had no credibility as the scribes and Pharisees and all the leaders of Israel, and the people were following Christ in great numbers. We have already looked at the great story of the feeding of the 5,000, where in one place He had 5,000 people. People were flocking to Him because of Who He was. We saw this when we went through the breakdown of the book of Matthew: He had proved Who He really was by the signs and wonders that He did, which Israel was told to look for all the way back in Exodus 4. So, when the common, ordinary man saw that show up in Him, and nobody else could do it—the scribes and Pharisees surely couldn't—then they knew from the Old Testament Scriptures that He was truly the Messiah. The common man of that day knew exactly Who He was because they knew what was prophesied in the Old Testament.

Just like today, our modern-day scribes and Pharisees and Sadducees will never figure out Who He is, but the common man, people just like you and me, we understand it, and we get it, and it is easy for us to grasp that because we want to believe the truth. The scholars of His day, the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees, totally rejected Him on everything that He did. We have seen this now as we have come through, and I have taken the time because I wanted you to see the parallels. The fact is that they had no doctrine, they had no fruit, they had no power of God in their life, they had no authority; all they had was a lot of rhetoric, and they had no credibility.

Now, what they have done is they have driven a wedge in the nation of Israel, and there is a great divide here. The truth of the matter is, I do not know why people back then—I mean, there were a lot of people that believed on Him—but it shows you the dishonesty of the people that went with the scribes and the Pharisees. When you look at it, they had to know that the Sadducees and the Pharisees were never part of a biblical system that God had ever incorporated into the nation of Israel. You go back to the Old Testament through all of those books with the kings of Israel and the establishment of the nation of Israel, there are no Sadducees or Pharisees back there. The Sadducees do not even begin until about 167 years before Christ. The Pharisees start about 135 BC.

Anybody who was paying attention—and this is important because I am going to come back to this in a little bit—anybody who was paying attention would see that the guys who were claiming to be the real deal had not even existed for 150 or 160 years. They were not part of

God's original structure, but they were satanic tools that the devil used to divide the nation of Israel.

You remember I showed you that when you are dealing with heretics back there, or modern-day heretics today, the real issue with them will be the issues that we find with the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and that is that they desperately want legitimacy. They want you and me to legitimize them, to give them credibility. I told you last week that the way they want to do that is that they are always looking to debate somebody. Of course, if you have the truth, you do not have to debate anybody.

The great verse on this is Romans 1:29-32. I do not know if you have ever seen it, but it talks about this crowd, and it says:

Romans 1:29-32

Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

The thing listed in here is these people always want to debate. They want to debate because they have no history. They have no real biblical credibility like the scribes and the Pharisees. So, they are always looking to get that credibility by somebody providing for them a crowd of people, because they can never get a crowd of people to follow them anywhere. If they get a debate going with somebody, now they have an audience. A crowd of people will show up, and they can spew out more of their garbage. So, you do not give them that debate. You do not give them that credibility. You deal with them one-on-one with the main issue that I gave you last week: they have no legitimacy. They have no credibility at all. They were nowhere in history, just like the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees were nowhere in Israel's history.

II. The Importance of Context and Historical Perspective

Before we get into chapter 8—and I know we kind of finished chapter 7 last week—I want to stop and put all that we have seen so far into a proper context. So far, I have given you a ton of information. Thursday night, we had a great Bible question from a guy that wanted to know about the King James Bible, and we kind of went through all of that. I told you then that I was going to dovetail that into where we are at today and tie it all together. I have given you a lot of information in the last couple of months, but facts and information without any real context for you to understand it or to put it in is as worthless as the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees. You have to have, when you get a bulk of information that is true, you need to be able to assemble it into some kind of understanding format.

The only thing that we will do—and a lot of guys, they take pride in the fact that they can just dump out information after information after information, and you have to sort it out for yourself. That is not good teaching. Good teaching is going along and giving you a barrel full of information and then stopping, like today, and helping you assess it all. So, you go out of here today with a little better understanding of why things are the way they are, and really the greatest thing is how, wherever you go in history, some things never change. I think that is the most important thing: understanding why things are the way they are.

From a personal note, that has always been my driving force in learning. I was never satisfied with the status quo. I never took for granted that what somebody told me was the truth. Now, I may have believed that they were giving me the truth, but I also understood that it was my responsibility to understand that truth. There are a lot of Christians out there that will just take what somebody says; some of it is true, and some of it is not. But if you do not take it upon yourself to validate it for yourself, then you become vulnerable, and I just never was going to do that. I just never could. I have always looked deeper. I have always asked questions why and how does this really work, and how does it all fit together with what God is doing? Those are the things, no matter what it was, those are the things that I looked at. I knew that I needed to have a historical perspective, but I also needed to have a biblical perspective. I am going to tell you right now, you cannot separate the two. It has served me well in understanding what it is all about today because I also learned this: history by itself can be buried this evening.

Most people, history books—I have read them all—history books have never been my authority on history. History books, from my mindset, were always the information about history, but I learned a great truth early on when reading all the books on history. For me, history books were only the filler material that really either went along or did not go along with what God was doing through the Word of God. I think too many people make the mistake that they value the writers of history, and they actually think that if a guy wrote a book on history, that is probably really the way that it went down. That is not necessarily true. I will tell you why. Somebody said one time, a very wise guy, a very wise man, "The people who are the winners in history are the ones who write history." Because they won in history, they always write history from the winner's perspective. That is a truth. Now, you may want to know who that great wise man was who says that. It was me.

I learned that when, yesterday, obviously, we went down through the concentration camp display down there of Auschwitz, and it was very moving. It was very good and very informative. If it did not affect you in a way that made you appreciate what you have, there is something wrong with you. It was a moving thing. But I take that as an example. We won World War II. So, we get to choose who the good guys are and who the bad guys are. Now, I am certainly not telling you that the Nazis were good guys. But we make the concentration camp the focal point of a presentation focusing on the evilness of the Nazis, and that is absolutely true. But nobody said a word in there about the Russians. The Russians murdered more people than the Nazis ever thought about on their best day. They had their own concentration camps. The Nazis, when they had their concentration camps, it was during the war. Do you know when the Russians put their concentration camps into play? After the war. I will tell you what, they murdered and starved to

death and killed more people than the Germans ever thought about. But you do not read anything about that in history. Do you know why? Here it comes: World War II, they were our allies. We needed them. So, you have to look at history and understand that there is more to history than what you read in the books.

Of course, the book is the way that you put history together, the importance of Bible and history going together. Most people come at it completely backward. They actually think that the Bible is a book about man, and God recorded the doings of man and where he is going and what he is doing. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The Bible is a complete record and picture of what God is doing for 6,000 years. It gives you the insight of how man either fits in or does not fit in with what God is doing. Of course, you know this from the book of Daniel, especially in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7, where he gives the great prophecies on the Gentile nations, which we find America, the gold USA, there in Daniel 7. His recording in prophecy, how history is going to go long before it ever played itself out.

III. The 20th Century: A Pivotal Era

Having said that, to understand the idea of John chapter 7 with the non-biblical system of the scribes and the Pharisees and the Sadducees rejecting Christ and trying to drive a wedge in God's people, I want to see and show you today how some things never change and how the devil has used what we have today as biblical scholarship as a mainline tool to do the same thing that they are doing in John chapter 7. Now, I know by saying this, some people are pulling their hair out and going crazy. But bald heads are in. We need to have a context today. We need to see the lessons of history that things really never change. The book of Ecclesiastes tells you that. It tells us that somebody says, "Oh, this is new." And he said, "No, no, that has been around a long time. There is no new thing under the sun." So, everything you are seeing that we are going through today went through a cycle. When you learn the cycle from the book, then you are not surprised by it. Also, you have a better appreciation and a better context of history.

We need to see today, based on what is going on in John 7, before we get into John 8, we need to put it into a perspective. We need to see where this starts. We need to see how it came to power and how it all includes everything today, what we call Christianity, learning the lessons of history from John 7 up through today. To do that, we must first quickly get a proper perspective and a context by a quick look at the 20th century. I told you a couple of weeks ago that the 20th century was probably the keyest century in the history of the world in respect to what God is doing and how God is winding up what He is doing. Within the 20th century, there is more information that shows you the context of why we are where we are at today than any other thing I could ever give you. Probably the greatest single century in the history of man, completely missed by everybody.

All of this that is going on, all the way back to the 20th century, is all part of 2 Thessalonians 2:6-12, which we have talked about many times, the mystery of iniquity. In Paul's day, it was already at work. I would say from the 20th century on, it shifted from a 40-hour week to an 80-hour week with overtime. This is where we are at today. In this century, depending on how you want to count them, there are probably 10 or 11 events that really come to the fulfillment of the

greatest biblical fulfillment of prophecy outside of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that will be the regathering of the nation of Israel. When they went into captivity in 606 BC for 2,500 years, they were a nation without a country. They were booted around the world, persecuted around the world, kicked around the world. You saw the end result of it in the 20th century yesterday down at Union Station.

Everything in the 20th century, we were told in Romans 11 and numerous places in the book of Ezekiel and Isaiah, that God was going to bring them back. That prophecy stood idle for almost 2,600 years, and then it got fulfilled in the 20th century. Most people did not even see it. They missed it, did not even understand it. But it goes back beyond that. It starts at the beginning of our 20th century, really back around 1880, but got into full force in the 1900s with what became known as the Zionist movement, a rebirth of an awareness that the nation of Israel did not have a homeland. Then, of course, in 1916, Archduke Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated, and that threw us into World War I. World War I lasted from 1916 to 1918.

What that did, if you are paying attention, it not only broke up the Muslim Ottoman Empire, who was in Jerusalem and had control of it, it also busted all the other European empires and only left one standing, which was England. At the end of 1918, here it comes: Zionist movement, 1880, 1900, now in World War I, England now has control of Jerusalem. That moves us into the next great thing that happened in about 1918 up to 1930, which was the Balfour Declaration. Robert Balfour was in British Parliament, and he recognized—he was a Bible believer, by the way—and he recognized that Israel needed to have a land. So, he put forth a declaration in Parliament called the Balfour, after his name, that said, "We need to give the land back to the Jews," and based it on the Bible, to Amos 9. So, they took up that declaration and were moving forward with that, and then it got shut down, and we do not have time to get into all that, but they reneged on it, so to speak.

Then that will bring us up to about 1930, and from 1930 on, we know World War II, from 1935 to really 1933 up to 1945, we see that the Germans now, under the slogan of the Nazis, tried to take over the world, and of course, they got defeated. The reason why the Germans lost World War II is because they tied their shoes in little Nazis. They could not escape, and we caught them. Put that in your Bible; it will be good sometime when you are teaching somebody.

At the end of World War II, now we see it all moving in a direction because in 1948, that great prophecy gets fulfilled. This was the prophecy of Matthew 24, Romans 9, Romans 11, Ezekiel 40-48, and everything in between, where now God has brought His people and regathered them back to the land. You can go back to the Old Testament and you can find the ovens in Auschwitz of the Jews being burned in ovens; you can find them back there in the prophets where the people are going to be burned. It is all right there if you are paying attention.

That moved us into the 50s and into the 60s with both Korea and Vietnam. Then we see the rise of the communist world, the domination start of the Cold War, and we see that both Korea and Vietnam then go communist. They were taken over by the Japanese. Vietnam was run by the French before World War II, and when World War II came, the French left, and the Japanese occupied it, as did Korea. Then after the war, the French wanted to come back in, and the

Vietnamese said, "No way," and that is how it started. They went communist, and that is where the Vietnam War got going from. During that time, or the next set, would be the rise of the Muslim nations. This is all key around 1948, and we are moving toward now, in the 20th century, we are moving toward the rapture of the church and the second coming of Christ and the establishment of Christ's kingdom in the millennium.

We saw after the rise of the Muslims the wars in the Middle East, the ones in 1990 in the Gulf War, and then of course Afghanistan, and we lost both of those wars as we did Vietnam, as we did Korea. We have not won a war since 1945 when we defeated the Japanese and then defeated the Germans. Now we see today, before our very eyes, we see the judgment of God on America, and there is no question about that. We have seen America reject the Word of God just like Israel did at the first coming of Christ, and we see its fall from God's grace and what will lead us in time to utter destruction. Where we go out in this in the rapture of the church is still to be determined, but things are not going to get any better. If you understand the 20th century, you know where this has got to head, and you can see now through protracted events where we are at.

As I said, we have not won a war since 1945. There is a reason for that. We see attacks on American and American troops all around the world. There is a reason for that. We see violence in our cities to an unbelievable degree. Nobody is going to stop it. We see the mass at the southern border, and nobody is going to stop it. You can see this country and how screwed up it is when the news media and the liberals see a guy on a border patrol—and do not get me started on this, I am sorry you asked this question. They have guys on horseback down there, and the guy is leading his horse with his rein. He has not whipped anybody, and boy, that is all the liberals had to see. One lady from California, who I do not even remember her name, and thank God I do not, but anyway, she got on the news and she says that. Keep in mind, nobody got whipped. There was one picture; he just smacked his horse to get him to turn left or right. But that is all this world, that is all this crowd needs, and she gets on there and says that one image was worth all the slavery down through the history of America.

I have got to tell you something. If you are that stupid, and you are not, you know what your problem is? You have an agenda. They all have an agenda, and it is a thing where they will get up there, and that is a terrible thing. Nobody whipped anybody, nobody hit anybody. The Kansas City Police Department have their horses. Now the border patrol cannot use horses anymore. No more horsies down on the border. But you see, it is all right to put all those kids and all those deportees in rooms where they are sleeping on top of each other. It is all right to put them in places where they are not sanitary. It is okay for them to live under a bridge in 100-degree weather. You see, that is okay, but a guy on a horseback, see, this is the world we live in today, and I am telling you right now, it is not going to get any better. It is only going to get worse, and it is a situation where...

They asked Mel Sabaka one time, my father in the Lord, they asked him if he was enduring his salvation or enjoying his salvation. He gave one of the classic answers as he always did, and he thought about it for a second and he said, "You know what? I am enjoying my enduring." So, I give you a piece of advice this morning: learn to enjoy your enduring.

IV. Modern-Day Counterfeits: Neo-Evangelicalism, Neo-Orthodoxy, and Charismaticism

Let us put a real Bible-based context into the day and age that we live in, and let us look for a moment before we move into chapter 8. Let us get all this information together to show you how history repeats itself from the first coming of Christ in John chapter 7 to the second coming of Christ, where we are at. I want to show you this in the detail that I looked into it for myself. You do not want to get fooled by the smoke screens that are out there.

At the start of the 20th century, which, by the way, if you know your church history, was the end of the greatest period in church history we know as the Philadelphia church age, and now we began to enter into the worst period of church history, the Laodicean church period, which means "rights" or "justices of the people." Now we see that with all that God is doing to move forward to establish the nation of Israel, the devil is moving in opposition to that. The idea of modern-day scholarship, which would be likened to our scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees back in the first coming of Christ, will have their beginning in just three areas right around 1900, if you can believe that.

The first one is what we commonly call today, has been coined by this phrase:

1. Neo-Evangelicalism. The word "evangelical" means Bible-based Christianity, but I want you to draw your attention to the name that we have today: it is neo-evangelicalism. "Neo" means new. So, now in 1900, we got a new Bible-based Christianity, even though there was nothing wrong with the old one. The neo-evangelical movement, which started around this time, was basically a movement of reconstruction of theology—"neo" meaning new. It was a shift from hardline Bible preaching and doctrine to the churches now accepting that the number one doctrine for Christianity was getting people saved. The Bible did not matter anymore. The great doctrine did not matter. Amillennialism did not matter. Postmillennialism did not matter. None of the great doctrines of the Bible that it is built on mattered. All that mattered was you got people saved, and that moved into this area. Get everybody together; no Bible doctrine, salvation being the only issue. This is why you will find that they wanted to get everybody together, and no differences. This is what doctrine does: doctrine divides. So, if you get rid of the doctrine, you cannot have everybody together if you have doctrine. So, if you want to get everybody together, guess what has got to go? Doctrine.

It was a movement to take the Word of God out of the hand of the common man and put it into the hand of biblical scholarship. To take from you the Bible you have and tell you that you are a dumb redneck hillbilly from Raytown if you think you really can understand the Bible without these guys helping you. Of course, we see now the beginning of the rise of biblical education. This is where we now begin to see the great Bible colleges, the great Bible schools, the seminaries, the universities. Every one of them, no matter where they are at in the country, have one goal, and that is to take the Bible from you.

The greatest example of this is Billy Graham. Now, I am not against Billy Graham; I think he is an interesting study in history. He started out as a Baptist, and he wound up as a neo-evangelical.

He started out, and you can still go online and you can find him back in the 50s and the 60s where he is preaching. He is preaching the hell out of it, brother. I heard a message he preached a while back on the handwriting on the wall for America. He preached everything we are going through right now in 1952, and he was not so prim and proper back then. He was sweating like a stuck pig. His hair was all over the place. He was frothing at the mouth, and he was going up and down, and he was ripping them up. Then someplace along the line, the neo-evangelical crowd, the big money bags, got a hold of him and said, "Look, Billy, you have a great ministry. We have all these guys who are willing to put millions of dollars into your ministry that you will be able to preach everywhere as much as you want. Now, we are going to help you in your ministry, but you know what, Billy, you need to tone it down a little bit. People are going to be turned off while you are yelling and screaming and going up and down here." So, he made a gradual progression from a hellfire damnation preacher that believed in a literal hell, that before he died, he did not believe in hell anymore. He thought the Muslims were going to go out. He thought Pope John Paul was one of the greatest Christians of the 20th century. This is what they do, and he is a great example of what happened all through Christianity.

This is why, just so you know, many of the old traditional Baptist churches that stood for 100 years are now all taking "Baptist" off their name because they do not want to be associated with a doctrine that divides. They are told, and they believe, that people will not come to your church if you are a Baptist because of the fact that you are too hard-lined. So, they take that non-denominational approach. They take that approach where they pretend they do not have any denominations, even though when they become a neo-evangelical, they just stamp that denomination on their forehead, but in their mind, they do not have one. These churches are called "free evangelical," they are called "cornerstones," they are called "community churches," they are called "chapels," they are called "lighthouse church," they are called "outreach centers," they are called "Graceway," "abundant life," any name of a church that would only need denomination, and that is where they think they are safe there because if they associate it with Baptist, then they are going to be associated with a certain kind of people that turns people off.

Jesus turned a lot of people off. I cannot think of one time in His preaching where He ever cut it out of line or did not say something because He was worried about what somebody would think. I cannot speak for every Baptist church, but I can speak for this one: I am going to give you the truth, and if you do not like it, I do not care. Now, I want you to get saved, I want you to come to church, and we will help you any way I can, but if truth is your issue, you are going to have a problem here. You are going to have a problem because I am not going to sugarcoat it. I am not going to get up here and tell you everybody is nice here because you are not all nice. In fact, if I would count the nice people this morning, I probably could count it on the hand of a guy who lost three fingers in an industrial accident. We are all sinners, and I do not do you any favor by telling you how wonderful you are and not preaching the hell out of you. If that word bothers you, I can say it a few more times, or you will get used to it.

Neo-evangelicalism has taken over Christianity in America because nobody wants the truth anymore, and it was their beginning that started to take the Bible from you, the common man, and put it back into scholarship. They did that by erasing all doctrinal truth. That we all can get

along, and salvation of souls is the number one thing that we are all concerned about, and that way they got rid of everything. That is why back in 1994, the neo-evangelicals and the Catholic Church got together with the Catholic-Evangelical Accord, and here are two groups that you would think would never get together, now are getting together because they want to work together to reach the lost in the next millennium. Let me ask you a question. I could ask this to kids in our junior high class: How do you think that is going to work with those two groups? It will work when you take away doctrine because now we do not have any real issues. All we do is want to win people to Christ, and I am all for winning people to Christ. I think soul winning is absolutely important, but not at the expense of God's truth. If I lay out the plan of salvation and the truth to you, and you decide not to get saved, I am not going to change my stand so you will get saved. Jesus never did, and His thing was, "The blind lead the blind, both fall into the ditch." That is what it is.

Now, the second thing happens around the same time:

2. The Neo-Orthodox Movement. Orthodoxy means what is the standard of what we believe. We are Orthodox. When you talk about an Orthodox Jew, then you are talking about Jews who are buried deep in New York City someplace, who still wear the pigtailed down on their hair and the beards and all that stuff are over there. Not the ones over in Overland Park. They are not real Jews. I mean, they may be born Jewish, but there is a real difference from Jerusalem Jews than Overland Park Jews. I do not have time to get into that, but take my word for it. So, this is a neo-orthodox, this is a neo-orthodoxy, and this is a movement of social reconstruction. It starts around 1900, and it is a movement to change the Bible, the church, and Christianity to make it go along with the social adjustments as society changes. Their issue is not doctrine; it is race. Their issue is not fundamental truth; it is human rights. Their issue is not the Bible; it is social issues. They preach a social gospel that if you want to go to heaven, follow the Sermon on the Mount, do good to your fellow man, and do unto others before they do it to you. Oh, that is the Baptist code. There is a "do unto others" and "you have them do it to you."

Of course, they accept women pastors, they accept women deacons. They have homosexual pastors and lesbian women that are their pastors. It is all a situation where there is no more sin. Everything is a disease now. If you are an alcoholic or a drug addict, it is not your fault. It is a disease, it is a sickness. You probably had it in your DNA and your genes from your mother to your father, so it is really not your fault. I am going to tell you something: when sin ceases to be your fault, you are never going to get over it. Do you know why? Because we all like to sin. How easy is that if I can blame my sin on the fact that it is not really sin, it is a disease, and I am a helpless victim? Can you hand me another joint? That is what it is. That is what they do.

There is one church here in Kansas City, right up here in Lee's Summit. It is a big church. I could tell you the name, but I would not want to embarrass them. But it is a church, it is a big church. In fact, it is not even a neo-orthodox, but it is following their line of reason. It is a neo-evangelical church. Their stand is that they have a homosexual guy on staff there who is a confirmed homosexual. Their position is that you can be a homosexual and be a pastor as long as you are not a practicing homosexual. In other words, you can think about men, you just cannot

be with them. I look at the—here again, I have got to go deep. I look deep. So, I ask myself, "Where is the hypocrisy in that?" So, if a guy is a pedophile, he can be in the ministry as long as he is not practicing pedophilia? Where do you end that? You see, and this is the problem. This is where we have it. When you get rid of your Bible, these things come in.

Do you know why kids in school are in the mess they are in? Do you know why kids in school are in the travesty they are in? I will tell you why: when they took the Bible out of the schools, all that other stuff came in. When I was in grade school, we did not start class every morning before somebody read the Bible and prayed over the PA system. Now, that person may not have been saved. It does not matter. There is an acknowledgement that there is a standard of right and wrong. We do not have that today. "You are okay, I am okay." Situation ethics: "It feels good, do it." That is the mindset. That will be today, just so you know, that will be your Methodist churches, your Episcopalian churches, your Catholic church, your Lutheran church, your Presbyterian church, the Unity church, and all that. They follow that line of reasoning that the church needs to change along with the changing society. So, wherever it goes, the church is going to accept that, and that is what Christianity really is, of course.

Now, the third one was what would be:

3. The Charismatic Movement. That again starts about 1900, and it starts with a woman, Amy McPherson Simpson. Then it later moved to the Bethel Bible College out in Topeka, Kansas. Of course, they take the stand that the sign gifts given to Israel are given to the church. These three absolutely destroy any realm of any kind of doctrine for the church. The Charismatic church has absolutely no doctrine.

Four characteristics that I found over there:

- The total disregard for the authority of the Word of God.
- A complete lack of church history.
- No Charismatic, everyone was a serious Bible student.
- There are two main goals that they exist for, the devil uses them, is to confuse young people, young Christians, and of course, keep them from growing.

There are all kinds of flavors of these churches by name. You find these as the Pentecostals because they base it out of Acts chapter 2 there, where the day of Pentecost. You find them Charismatic, and the word "Charismatic" means "gifted one." So, they believe that because they have the sign gift, they again have exalted themselves over you. They are called the Church of God in some places. They are called the Church of Christ. They are called Free Will Baptists. They are called Hard Shell Baptists. They are called Four Square Baptists. They are all Charismatic in their mindset. And Church of the Four Corners is another one. I think there is one right down the road. My grandma used to say, and she was wise, she said, "You ought to go to the Church of the Round Table." And I said, "Why is that, Grandma?" She says, "Because the devil cannot corner you there." There is a lot of insight, my old grandmother. She was a terrible cook. I think I told you a story about that. I will not bring that up again.

V. The Devil's Strategy: Removing the Bible from the Common Man

In all of this, from John chapter 7 to where we are at today, the first coming to the second coming, the great plan of the devil through everything that he is doing—and this is a context—was to get rid of the Bible today, just as they wanted to get rid of Christ in John chapter 7.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Jesus Christ was the visible appearance of the Word of God that they wanted to get rid of. He went back to heaven. Now you have the Word of God, which was manifested through Him, and they wanted to get rid of that, taking the common Bible out of the hand of the common man and putting it back into scholarship.

The truth is, there is only one institute that is set up by God, ordained by God, or however you want to say it, that is fit to teach the Bible from God's program, and that will be a New Testament local church. Now, I know everybody screams at that, but that is okay. Your screaming is about to intensify as soon as you die and you go to hell, but that is okay. That will be the New Testament local church. That is defined for you in the book of Ephesians, but we are way past the Bible now at this point. Who cares?

I am going to come to these guys: Bible colleges, universities, stay with me here. Is it of higher biblical learning or not, or were they ever the plan of God? Of course, it all comes out of the Counter-Reformation with the Catholic Church when they start their great institutes of learning, and then it carries into the churches in England, and then of course, the Church of England, and that is where it all begins, it gets its start. God's system has never been any of those things. God's system has always been for you to learn everything about your Bible in the New Testament local church. But when they take the Bible out of the church and they put pastors in who do not believe that, then he ships you off to a Bible college, and the devil does his work. I am going to show you that in just a second.

Higher Bible education, it has a cult-like mindset. They accuse us of being a cult. I have got news for you, buddy. You define the word. We go back in church history to the second, third century. You find that the rise of a group of people called the Gnostics. It is called Gnosticism in its final form, and the Gnostics were men who actually thought and told people that they had a greater knowledge of the Word of God than the common man, and that if the common man wanted to learn the Bible, they had to come to the Gnostics. In Revelation 2:15, this is called the Doctrine of the Nicolaitans. "Nicolaitans" has two words there. "Nico" is to conquer. "Laity" is the common man. The Doctrine of the Nicolaitans was a priest class that set themselves up over you to make you come to them because they were of the Gnostic mindset that they had the Bible that you could never get on your own because you are too stupid. It is men putting themselves over the common man when it comes to the Bible.

Here is how it works in a practical way, and I have seen this for 50 years. If a young man wants to learn his Bible today, all the way back to when I first got saved, I mean back in the 70s, you have to come to them, the higher education, and they will give you the secrets of the Greek and the Hebrew to unlock the Bible. Of course, it is kind of like the secret organization like that other demon-possessed group of Masons. You get to be a 32nd degree Mason, it is all cloaked in mystery, and they have all their secrets. Well, that is what the Bible colleges all do. In time, as you spend a lot of time there and a lot of money, you can get on any level you want. You can get an associate's degree in Bible, you can get a BA in the Bible, you can get a doctor, you can get a PhD, or you can get a Doctor of Divinity, which in the Bible realm is the highest thing you can get. Now your God becomes education because now you have entered an institution that takes the Bible from you, and every one of these guys is the same. Because now they come out of their Bible college, and they are more loyal to their Bible colleges than they are their Bible.

If you are in this world, they all judge how spiritual you are by where you went to school. Somebody said, "Well, I went to Bob Jones University." Somebody else said, "Well, I went to Tennessee Temple." Somebody said, "Well, I went to Springfield." Somebody else said, "Well, I went to Northeast by Northwest." Somebody said, "I went to Cedarville." Somebody judges your spirituality on the academic level that they think that school is. It has nothing to do with your Bible anymore. When churches look for a pastor, they candidate a guy and bring him in and ask him questions. Do you know the first thing they ask him? "Where did you go to school?" They do not care how many people he has won to Christ. They do not care what he is going to do in the church. They do not care. They just want to know where he went to school because to them, education means everything. Of course, education means nothing. Education without salvation is a damnation, by the way. So, it is a thing they go there. So, they go to school, and they are more loyal to the school.

I told you that all these Bible colleges, going way back in time, go back to the Catholic Church and the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation. So, that is why, and I hear these guys talk about that, they will say, "Where is your alma mater?" "Alma mater, where is your alma mater?" That means, "What school did you go to?" And they use that term like they have good sense. And it says, "Where is your alma mater?" "Alma mater," do you know what that means? "Alma" means virgin, and "mater" means mother. "Where is your virgin mother?" All goes back, all roads lead to Rome. It is nothing more than 20th, 21st century Gnosticism. Churches today, pastors today, have fallen into this. Of course, giving up their birthright for a mess of pottage, that they were given the mission by God to teach the Bible. Pastors being turned out then, generation after generation, with no loyalty to the Word of God, but to their education. So, a young man or a young lady leaves their church, gets shipped off to a Bible college, where you get your faith destroyed in the Word of God. Then you are now a full-blown member of what Dr. Ruckman used to call the Alexandrian cult.

Oh yeah, and I forgot to tell you this, back in my day, and it is true today, when a church had its favorite Bible colleges, it was all "you scratch my back, I will scratch yours." You send all your kids down to Bible college, and they get money off of them, and you have a pipeline of your kids coming into there every year, 10, 12 kids. After four or five years, do you know what they do?

They call that pastor down, and they want to recognize the great work he has done, and they will give him an honorary doctor's degree. Nothing that he earned. It is a kickback, is what it is. "You send all these people down to me, we are going to reward you now and give you an honorary doctor's degree." So, now he gets all puffed up, goes down for graduation, puts on one of those big old Catholic robes, and gets up there and preaches to the graduating class, and they give him his honorary doctor, and here it goes. That is just the way it works. It is a failed system.

When you go off to these Bible colleges, a young man or a young lady, these bastions of truth, you will learn the trade language because now you are going to be part of an exclusive club. You are going to learn a new system of terms and words, "neo." You are going to now come to the place where you are going to be becoming an elitist. In the world we live in, all doctors, lawyers, dentists, veterinarians, all professional people have developed their own trade language. So, you cannot ever get to be what they are without going through what they went through. Try to read your doctor's prescription sometime. You cannot. Pharmacists can. You cannot. It is just that simple. You go to the dentist, and he looks inside your mouth, and he says, "Well, your bicuspid and your molars and your incisors." You see, if he had said, "the big teeth on the bottom and the little ones in between," he could not charge you \$200. So, they have got to talk like you cannot understand them. That makes you dependent on them.

Have you ever been in a foreign country where you did not speak the language, and everybody is talking, and you know they are talking about you? You feel... And so, when you go into these guys, you go to a lawyer, and he says, "Well, I have just got rid of habeas corpus." You thought they found a dead body in your house. They talk in a language that the common man cannot understand. It is even true in the animal kingdom. In Raytown, we have more coyotes than you ever could shake a stick at. They are walking down the street in pairs. Somebody, if I were like—I have some neighbors out there—a neighbor the other day said, "Man, you know, well, actually, one took a little puppy out of somebody's yard and ate it." I know it is terrible. It is kind of like Auschwitz. It was a terrible deal. So, they are talking about it, and we are talking about coyotes. Now, they know I am a pastor, and they know that, and I do not ever try to be ever smart of them because I am probably not. But how would it have went up there if I had said they were talking about coyotes, and I would have said, "Yes, those *Canis latrans* are really a trouble." See, that is a professional name for coyote. *Canis latrans*. Now, why cannot you just say "coyote"? Because you cannot make a living as a professional using the word "coyote." You guys who like to fish use worms. You do not use worms anymore. Now they are *Lumbricina*. That is an earthworm. Walk into your bait store and say, "I want a box of *Lumbricina*." It is worms, man. Your dog, you love your dog. That is a canine. You have got a cat. That is a feline. I do not call them those names. See, so you have got to get with the scholars to learn the trade talk to be one of them. All desire to keep you in the dark until they enlighten you, and you have got to go to them. And you pay for it. You cannot talk in a common man, common language and be professional. You have got to get the trade language. That is the real bottom line here. If you do not do that, then you are like, as I said, the redneck unlearned men from Raytown, Missouri, which you find in Acts 4:13, that the learning guys could not understand why these guys could have power with God and they could not.

Here is the issue: context. When you go to a Bible college, you learn, as I said, a system of terms. The trade talk. The union dialogue. You cannot talk plain anymore and be respectable as a scholar. On Thursday night, somebody would say, "I have a question about angels in the Bible," which happens from time to time. If I were to get up and say, "Yes, I will answer your question on angelology." See? Sam says, "I would like to study man's fallen nature." "Yes, we can study that. That would be a study, take your Bibles, and I am going to teach you about anthropology." See? Some of you guys got saved over the last couple of weeks. How would it work for you when you said, "I really want to get saved," and the guy that won you to Christ said, "Well, I am glad because soteriology is for everybody." That is salvation. Anthropology is the study of man. Angelology is the study of angels. We talk about the church. That is ecclesiology. We talk about Jesus Christ. That is Christology. We talk about the Holy Spirit of God. That is pneumatology. We talk about the defense of the Bible. That is apologetics. John Wayne said, "You never apologize to anybody." We talk about teaching the Bible. That is hermeneutics. In most cases, hemorrhoid nudics, but it is the same. We talk about laying out the Bibles and dockets. That is exegesis. We talk about the practical application of the Bible. That is hortatory.

You see that? You leave your church, and you pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for school, and all you do is learn to talk like nobody in the Bible ever talked. Did Jesus ever talk like that? Did Paul ever talk like that? Did Timothy ever talk like that? Did Titus or Philemon ever talk like that? I mean, how stupid are you? You go there, they take the common Bible from you, and then they teach you a trade language that nobody in the Bible ever taught. But you have got to use it so the world will go, "Ooh, he is really intelligent." Well, I have learned this a long time ago. When it comes to the Bible, it is never your intelligence. It is how stupid you are. The more dumber you are and stupid when you come to the Bible, the better off you are going to be. You see, but that is just the way it is. It is a thing where this is modern-day Gnosticism. It reminds me of that old song that Dick Van Dyke—remember Dick Van Dyke? They had a show one time when he came out in a cowboy uniform, outfit chaps with a big hat, and those things like that. His wife came out, what was her name? Whatever it was. She had a cowboy suit on. So, they walk out to this crowd, and they sing a song. They say to each other, "I see by your outfit that you are a cowboy." She says, "I see by your outfit that you are a cowboy too." Both of them. "We see by our outfits that we are both cowboys. You get you a cowboy suit, and you can be a cowboy too." That is what it is. You get the Greek and the Hebrew, you can be a Bible scholar too. You go to Bible college and learn our trade talk, you too can be a cowboy. That is how it works. That is exactly how it works.

It is a thing where, now let me be clear on this. When it comes to doctors and the lawyers and dentists and all that and pharmacists, I want them to learn everything they can learn. I am not talking about that. If you have a problem, you do not want Billy Bob with a fire hose trying to figure out what your problem is. You want the very best you can get. I get it. In the secular world, I understand why they do it, but it never should be with the Bible. Never should be in the Bible.

2 Corinthians 11:1-3 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband,

that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The lessons of history are the devil beguiling God's people's minds, getting them to believe that the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees at the first coming had the real truth, and Christ, the Word of God, was out. As a second coming, the Bible scholars have the real truth, and the King James Bible is out, destroying, taking from you the simplicity.

Now, the law of first mention, we have talked about it many, many times, so I have got to throw this into you in Acts 19:9. You have recorded for you in the book of Acts, and we all know how important the book of Acts is, the first Bible college in the Bible. The first Bible college you are going to find in the Word of God is Acts 19:9, and in that one, they are teaching against the Word of God. Back in 1532, we talked about William Tyndale the other night on Thursday night and that great question, and he did the first or did the second English translation, and he was in England, and he was talking to all these scholars, and he was looking out the window, and he was getting ready to put out his English translation, which they were against. He saw this plow boy across the road there plowing a field, and he turned to these guys, and he said, "Gentlemen, someday that plow boy will know better, know the Scriptures better than all the scholars in England." That was a sound piece of advice.

So, we have seen now how the devil, through the 20th century, has used neo-evangelicalism, a reconstruction of theology, neo-orthodoxy back to the world system, and then a charismatic movement all based on emotion and feeling. All three of these are driven by higher education that puts them over you, but all part of the history of iniquity. All three are completely different in their theology and their format, but all three have one thing in common: they all have no absolute final authority. Just like the scribes and the Sadducees and the Pharisees of the first coming with the incarnate Word, they are against the written Word that is with Christ, and some things never change, but it is the lessons of history. This is why we are where we are, and you have to see how it did not change from where it was there.

VI. God's Faithful Remnant: J. Frank Norris and Peter S. Ruckman

All down through history, God has had His faithful remnant. I said, I am an investigator of history. I never take anything at face value. When I see something, I want to know why. I grew up in the 50s and the 60s and the 70s when I actually began to see Bible-based Christianity turn away from the Word of God, and I looked at those things and I asked why, and I looked deep to find out why. So, down through the 20th century, you are going to find that God has His faithful remnant, and God used many people to help hold that line, but in reality, God used two key men to keep the lights on for you and for me. I would be so bold to say that if you are a Bible believer today and you have a King James Bible that you hold dear to you as the Word of God, the only reason you have it is because God used these two men.

People have a tough time with that sometimes, but then when you put it in a broader sense, that is what God has done down through history. He used Paul to change the whole world from the Jews to the Gentiles. In church history, He used John Antioch, the golden mouth. He used Savonarola against the Catholic Church. He used John Hus to take the whole nation of Czechoslovakia and turn them to Christ. He used Martin Luther to turn the whole world, Germany, away from the Catholic Church. He used John Knox to do the same thing when Bloody Mary was on the throne in England. He used Wycliffe to do it with his translation. He used Tyndale to do it. He used Jonathan Edwards to do it when this country was formed and the devil tried to bring it back. He used Jonathan Edwards. He used George Whitfield, and then of course, in our own 20th century, He used guys like Billy Sunday, a single man that God would use and raise up to keep the lights on for the rest of us. I cannot tell you how hard that must have been. We see it with Paul. We see it in our own world with a guy like Billy Sunday. He was hated, but then he was loved. When he died, his body lay in state in Madison Square Garden. A New York Times reporter recorded the events, and for two days, people filed by his casket, over a million people. The reporter said almost everybody said to themselves or the person they were with, "I would be in hell if it was not for that guy. He saved my marriage. He saved my family. He got me off alcohol. If it was not for that man's preaching, I would be in a lake of fire." At the same time, the educated world hated him. Everybody hated him. You watch a movie sometime, and you will find that Sinclair Lewis hated him with a passion. He made a movie about him, *Elmer Gantry*. *Elmer Gantry* was a movie that was made specifically to portray Billy Sunday and his ministry as phony. You have got to hate a guy in what he preaches to do a whole movie about him. You have got to watch it sometime. He was hated, but he was loved. God used him to bring about an evangelism and a great awakening in this country, but he is not the two guys.

In the 20th century, God raised up two key men.

4. The first guy, you have heard me talk about him before, is J. Frank Norris. He lived from 1877 to 1952. He is a man that God raised up. Do you know what he did in the early part of the 1900s when the neo-evangelical movement was coming in? Back then, the Baptists were only in three flavors: you had the Southern Baptist Convention, which was the largest; you had the GRB; and then you had the American Baptist. You did not have any fundamental Baptists like you have today. The Southern Baptist Convention was the biggest organization of Baptists in the world. By 1920, they had gone into complete apostasy. They bought into the neo-evangelical movement. Their big school down in Louisville was teaching evolution. It taught that the Bible, that Christ did not come out of the tomb. It taught that Noah's flood was a fable. It taught that Adam and Eve was a fable. They turned out generation after generation after generation of men and pastors who pastor churches even today, and they are handing it down, that believe nothing about the Bible.

J. Frank Norris was God's atomic power sledgehammer to break the back on the Southern Baptist Convention. He is from Alabama. He later got to be known as the Texas Tornado. Boy, I will tell you what, he was the fair-haired boy of the Southern Baptist until he got into the organization and saw the corruption, and he preached about it. He was the most powerful preacher in the early

part of the 20th century, and he ripped them apart. He took the whole Southern Baptist Convention on and fought them and took it from them and gave it back to them. He was fearless, and they hated him. He left the Southern Baptist Convention around 1930 or 1940 somewhere, and he started what we know today, what we would call today, fundamentalism. Every Baptist church from 1950 on came from J. Frank Norris. I am from the Canton Baptist Temple in Canton, Ohio. My pastor's name was Harold Henniger. He was one of Norris' boys. There used to be the Kansas City Baptist Temple here in Kansas City. Its pastor was Wendell Zimmerman originally. He was one of J. Frank Norris' boys. All across this country, when they left the Southern Baptist, J. Frank brought all these young men that wanted to believe in the Bible with him. He started his own Bible school. It was in Texas, Fort Worth. Up on the sign of that big building of that local church was the sign in big letters, "The only school in America teaching the King James 1611 at the end of the Word of God." He was hated.

I will tell you what, he was a character. I am not going to stand up and say that he was a saint and he was perfect, but boy, I will tell you what, he got the job done. A guy one time called him up on the phone and said, "I am coming down to your office to kill you." He said, "Well, I will be here till four o'clock. Try to get here by then." The guy comes into his office, pulled a gun. He outdrew him and shoots him right in his own office. From that point on, they called him the pistol-packing preacher. He was something else. It was incredible. One time they had a guy that was going to hang him, and they were downtown with a big pickup truck, and there were only 100 guys down there. They were going to come down and get him and hang him. Somebody said, "You better get out of town, J. Frank. They are coming down here to hang you." Do you know what he did? He went right down and got on the back of that truck and preached to them, and 20 guys got saved. He was something else. He broke the back of the Southern Baptist Convention that kicked those men free to build Baptist churches that would hold the line with the Word of God that you would have the Bible today.

5. Then God raised up the second man, gave him His Word. We all know him as Dr. Peter S. Ruckman, 1921 to 2016, affectionately called God's Junkyard Dog. The difference between the ministries of these two men is very important to see and understand as you put this in a context. Norris took on the number one Baptist Institute of America that had been in complete apostasy, and he broke their back, and he split from them. Then Baptist churches began to form. Ruckman came on the scene, and he took the whole realm of scholarship, who by 1950 had began to take the Bible from you, and he took them on in mass, and he preached as an evangelist for years in all these churches of Norris' guys. He was not a Norris guy, but he got saved after that, but he believed the King James Bible. I actually saw it happen. I got right with God in the early 70s, and I watched all of J. Frank Norris' churches begin to bend towards scholarship. Everybody wanted to be a doctor. Everybody wanted to have a degree, and the Bible colleges were passing out honorary degrees if you would send their kids to them, and they all fell for it.

Ruckman held the line. He went into these churches. He preached the King James Bible. I heard him. The first time I heard him, I could not believe it. Meredith Poole was here someplace. Where are you, Meredith? Her daddy was saved through Gary's preaching, and he impacted the

whole country. It was not the world. He took them on. In my mind, he has been God's joke on scholarship. He was a common man, and God gave him the education of three earned PhDs from Bob Jones University. He had a photographic memory. He had a mind to absorb everything he read, and he read a book a day almost all of his life. He had an unparalleled ability with the Greek and the Hebrew for one reason: God raised him up for one reason, and that is to throw him in the face of education and neo-evangelicalism and scholarship to hold the line and to take for us the stand that we had a perfect Bible that you and I have it today. Without any stretch of imagination, he was God's junkyard dog.

Where J. Frank Norris, he had two churches. He had a church—he was so powerful and had so many people—he had a church in Fort Worth and then a church up in Detroit, Michigan. He would preach at one and get on a plane and fly down and preach at the other one on Sunday night. He had a following, and it was unbelievable. When it all fell apart right before he died, it all fell apart, and all those guys that he raised started churches. 20 or 30 years ago, I cannot remember what it was, I was actually offered a position at the Detroit church because they were a King James church, and the pastor that had taken it was not a King James guy, and he knew that if he took me up there and put me in there and offered me a Sunday school of 2,000 people and wanted the King James Bible, and he was looking into me to keep them under control, but he had given them what they wanted. I saw that thing coming a long way; I wanted no part of it. But that church was one of Norris' churches. Do you know where it is at today? It does not even exist anymore. It is gone. The one down in Dallas, Fort Worth, gone.

VII. The End of an Era and the Call to Action

Then God raised up Ruckman. Our roots in this church, our roots in this church go through that true line of men, 2 Timothy 2:2, who were committed to passing truth on to faithful men. It started in Norris; he passed it on to Ruckman. Ruckman got it; he gave it to my Father in the Lord, Mel Sabaka. Mel Sabaka got it; he gave it to me as his Son in the Lord, and I give it to you as my Son in the Lord. That is how it went, me and you. You are going to give it to people that you work with, and it just keeps on going and going and going.

Ruckman died in 2016. To me, knowing the context of the 20th century as it runs back to John chapter 7, that was just another sign that it is over. Because there is nobody left now to take their places. There is no giant out there who is going to take on what they took on. God accomplished what He wanted to accomplish with those two men's lives, and now it is simply up to churches who still believe the Bible, pastors who believe it, but there will be no more Peter S. Ruckman, there will be no more Norrises. It is a thing now where doing the work that God has called churches to do and holding that line with the truth that you have and just waiting for our translation out of this place. It is over. God is not going to send another J. Frank Norris or Peter S. Ruckman to lead us. God gave us everything we need. The question was not, "Did they do a good job?" The question is, "What did we do with it? Where are we at with it? What do you know about it?" The average Baptist that claims to have the King James Bible, they would not know who J. Frank Norris was or anything that is going on that I gave you this morning because they are oblivious to it. Do you know why? You do not dig deep enough. You are satisfied with

the status quo. I never was. I want to know why I believe what I believe. I want to know if I am going to give my life for it, I want to know if it is worth giving it or not. That is just the way it is.

All we do here is what we are supposed to do: build people, build character, build leaders for one purpose, to carry on until the Lord comes back. It is just simply giving you the simplicity of Christ, protecting you from what is out there that wants to take that Bible from you. As I said, we are at the end. We now must bear our cross as these guys bore theirs. We are now in a position as a church where we are in a nation that is divided, we are in a Christianity that is divided, we are in churches that are divided. We have got to hold the line until He comes. We have got to do the work. We have got to get the Word out to as many as we can in the time that we have left. There is only one way we are going to do that: is to keep the Book. It is not about you or me. It is not about this church. It comes down to the Bible that we believe. The fruit is not in you, the fruit is not in me. The fruit is not in this building. The fruit is in the greatest Book the world has ever seen. When we embrace the Book, the Book gives us the fruit.

It all goes back to the glory of God. If you are saved here this morning, you are saved for one reason, not because of me or the person that won you to Christ. We are just links in a long chain that goes back to the church in Antioch. We are just an unbroken line of truth. It is not because of me, it is not because of you, it is not because of some message I preach, it is because God gave all of us a Book that is worth preaching. We do not have it, we have not got nothing. So, instead of sitting you down and winning you to Christ and calling it soteriology, we will just talk about Jesus dying on the cross, shedding His blood that your soul could get cleansed from its sin.

This church is the base of operation to allow God to bring people to us, that we may give them the truth. Our church is about to enter into a whole new operational level. There is no accident that all that is unfolding around us with our church, which you know clearly well, and the leadership that God has brought and the young men and the young ladies, that is what it is going to take. It is going to take young men and young ladies with steel in their backbone and the NCOs of this church who have been around for a while to help everybody do what God wants us to do. It is going to require everybody here to step up to another level, to do what you have to do. Maybe none of it will be the same. Things are going to have to be done to bring this thing up and maintain it on that level because I do not know if you can see it or not, just in the last, what, month? Look how many people come in and got saved, moved across this country. Come here because they want the truth. Well, what do you think is going to happen when God raises up three or four more levels? They are going to come in out the woodwork, but we have got to be ready for it. We have got to be able to stand up and take and do what God calls us to do.

I do not know how long we have got. I do not really care. I just know what we have got to do to go out of here. Our church is about to enter into a whole new operational level. The key will be getting the men and the women that God sends us, the moms and the dads, and getting them up to an operational level as quickly as we can. I know it will not work for everybody. I know there will be ones that will bail out and will not carry. I do not care about that. I want the ones that are going to do what needs to be done, and we will kick it from there. Watch what God does. Look what He is already doing with what we have done. We have only just nicked the surface. Where do we get up to this level that is coming our way where we have the ability and everything that

we need to accomplish everything on that level? We are already going around the world. I get people from Belfast, Ireland, from Africa to Mexico to Guatemala to Holland to France to... I mean, they are all over the place. It is all because of the Book that God gave us and our willingness to pay the price to put it out. That is what it is going to take. That is why our great, great, great, great, great grandfather, J. Frank Norris, will be proud to see that this little church has learned the lessons of history and to carry it on. The price that he paid... I cannot even tell you. I could take time today to tell you the unbelievable, unbelievable price that they paid for you to have your Bible.

Ruckman was hated by Bible colleges so much. I have heard him in the town of Mel Sabaka where he was crying one day at camp, one night when they were talking, how they had just finished a revival down someplace in South Carolina at a Bible college down there that hated his guts in a hotel room by himself trying to preach, sent call girls over to his room to try to get him to fall. Christian organization, Bob Jones University, if you want to know who it was, all because they hated a man. Why did they hate him? Because he believed the Book, and he paid the price. That is just the tip of the iceberg of what he paid. Now the question is, you got it pretty free, did you not? You got it pretty good. I mean, I gave it to you, it did not cost you much, you did not have to put anything in. Now the real question is, based on you understanding the context of the 20th century, what happened back then, where we are at now from John 7 to today, and what we are faced with of the Second Coming like Christ was faced with of the First Coming, now the question becomes academic. What price are you willing to pay? Because that is the only real answer. I was going to ask you the only real question. You are the only one that can really give the answer. You have a context now. I did not want to just move into chapter 8 without taking all the information that I put out there. Now you know. It is on the record. Now you know who we are and why we are. So, now we can be proud of that, or you can say, "I do not want to be part of this," and there is the door back there. It does not matter to me. Bottom line is, if you all leave, I am staying and doing the job. Because that is the bottom line that God called us to do. So, we will hold up there.