

I. Introduction to John 10 and the Unsearchable Riches of Christ

Last week, we started John chapter 10, and what a goldmine of material that was to be able to study. I hope that many of you had time off this week and had things that you didn't have to do normally. I hope that you got a chance to get in and put a lot out into your Bible and get a lot of that down.

Paul, in Ephesians chapter 3, verses 8 and 9, talks about the unsearchable riches of Christ. Obviously, he is talking about the Word of God. Last week, we saw a glimpse of what that really means. Out of one little parable, one little story, we have at least 20 or 30 ways to be able to study different aspects of what he is telling them in that story. That is really the way the Bible is. The Bible is a supernatural book. Man has always tried to control the Word of God and the things of God to try to make them not supernatural, but to make them just a normal, natural sense.

Yesterday was New Year's Day, and I do not know what you did, but I luckily found out that they were having a binge fest on Indiana Jones and his movies. All three of them were on. I watched them, and I just kind of enjoyed going back there, watching all that stuff. The first one, at the end, is about the Ark of the Covenant. All of those, if you ever noted, are connected to something that has to do with the Bible. At the end of the movie, I just stopped and thanked God that the Ark of the Covenant is not in a warehouse in Washington, D.C. someplace. It is up in heaven.

That is supposedly a great mystery in the Bible: what happened to the Ark. There are all kinds of things on it out there. I read one thing one time where the Ark was buried underneath the ground, right underneath where Christ was crucified, and that when He was crucified, the blood ran down the cross and went into the ground and seeped through the cave and then landed on the mercy seat. Well, that sounds great. Wouldn't that be wonderful if that was true? The last time you find the Ark is right before they go into the captivity, and then you find it nowhere. So all these conspiracy theories about what happened to the Ark—well, I got news for you. The next time you find the Ark, it is up in heaven. If you think God was going to relegate that piece of holy material that God gave Moses the directions for, and what it represents, to wind up in human hands, you do not know God very well. But that is what the world does. It always tries to take the supernatural things and take the "super" out of it, just make it a natural event.

Of course, we saw last week how this Bible is certainly something else. Certainly, the unsearchable riches are the Word of God. We talked and we defined for you, if you do remember, we talked about the door, we talked about the sheep, we talked about the shepherd, we talked about the porter, and then we talked about the stranger that is mentioned in there. Each one of them is their own study, and that is just the beginning of it. There was so much. Along with that, we looked at a host of keywords and Bible references that lay out completely the context of John chapter 10 in the first six verses. It is places like this that will really define what a real Bible student is. A real Bible student is someone who searches the Scripture. You will take what you

get and you will go home and not rest until that all gets put in a proper place in the Word of God that is your own Bible.

II. The Crucial Role of Doctrinal Correctness

One of the great things about the Bible will be the fact that it is always doctrinally correct. We live in a world where political correctness is the mainstream of the day. You have to be careful what you say. You do not want to offend somebody. You do not want to say the wrong thing that would give the wrong impression because people are so easily offended today. You want to be careful so that everything that you do, they have the term now, political correctness. Well, I care nothing about political correctness, but what I do care about is doctrinal correctness, the Bible, the Word of God.

In understanding that, you know that God never violates His own principles. This is one of the great keys to unlocking the Bible and finding things out: its consistency. A familiar verse that you probably all have memorized is found in 2 Timothy chapter 3, verses 16 and 17, where it simply says:

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, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

If you look at that, you begin to see that the first thing that he listed, the first order of importance in the working order of these things—and we have talked about this many, many times—is doctrine. Doctrine is absolutely crucial. It is doctrine first, and then it is reproof, and then it is correction, and then it is instruction in righteousness. I have given you the little basic outline: doctrine is truth, and then after you get the truth, the truth will reprove you. It will show you what is wrong. Doctrine shows you what is right; reproof shows you what is wrong. Correction shows you how to take the doctrine and fix what is wrong, and then instruction in righteousness shows you how to keep it fixed after you got it fixed. That is what it does, but it all starts with truth, with doctrine.

III. Beware of Leaven: The Danger of False Doctrine

Along with that, in Matthew chapter 13, one of the parables again, and we got into that last week, you are going to find in verse 33 he says this:

Matthew 13:33

Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

That is a picture of the woman, the Roman Catholic Church, taking false doctrine, leaven, and mixing it in with truth, and in time destroying everything that God wants to accomplish. It is a

picture of the mixing of leaven in Bible Christianity in 400 A.D. that brought about all the stuff that we have today and all of the disasters that we see of false teaching and an unbelievable heresy that just goes through. We talked about some of that last week, and we are going to talk about it again as we move into this and look at some things here.

Leaven in the Bible, just so you know, will be bad doctrine that will be added to truth that in time will completely destroy that truth. You need to remember that. In Matthew 16:6, Jesus told everybody around him that they were to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees. We have seen that in action as we come through this. In Galatians 5:9, Paul tells us that a little leaven will leaven the whole lump. Notice he says just a little.

It is the job of the pastor in any church, and certainly the leadership of the church, and the church in general, to keep bad doctrine out of the church. Every church at some point will have somebody that comes in that brings in bad doctrine. You just cannot stop it. It just happens. We get them here every once in a while. Some guy will come in with some off-the-wall stupid thing that is totally heresy and bad doctrine, and this church is like a brick wall. You may be able to go to a number of other churches and pass off your heresy. It will not work here. You guys are too well-grained into the Word of God.

Most people do not understand all that is behind our discipleship lessons. To me, when I developed those a number of years ago, obviously I had the four goals which you all teach and we accomplish when we go through those four goals. But the discipleship lessons were even more than that for me because in a church like this, in any church, the discipleship lessons are something that when somebody gets saved or they come into the church and they want to be a disciple, it is like coming back to America when you lived in a foreign country for a couple of months and you visited everywhere. When you come back to the States, you have got to go through customs. When you go through customs, there is a customs agent there that opens up your suitcase and he looks for all of the stuff that you may have in there that you cannot bring into the country. You cannot bring some plants in. You cannot bring some food in. You cannot bring animals in. You cannot bring certain things you just cannot bring in. So before you can get into the country, somebody stops and opens up your luggage, your baggage, and sorts out what can come in and what cannot come in. That is what the discipleship does. It opens up your baggage and it allows us to see exactly what you are bringing in and helps us fix what should be brought into the church because you will find people today who do not have the right Bible. They believe you can lose your salvation. They believe this, they believe that. Our first stopgap is discipleship. That is where you as customs agents go through and see and sort out the heresy.

One of the things that is amazing about the Bible is how it always keeps that doctrine pure. That is what you always want to remember no matter what you do. Israel in the Old Testament, like we are looking at now in John, has a completely different set of doctrines than the church in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit of God will always protect the right doctrine. I cannot express to you how important it is to understand that. We saw this, if you remember last week, when we were talking about the parable in John 10:1-6. I showed you how that in that parable, it is all dealing with the nation of Israel. When it comes up to after the first coming of Christ where He is crucified, it jumps right over the church age and then lands itself into the tribulation period. I told

you the reason for that is because the Bible is very clear in Romans 16:25-26 that the church was never revealed. The church was never revealed before Paul shows up. So it would have been an inconsistency of doctrine, a breakdown of that consistency, if he throws directly the church age into anything in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It will all be dealing with the nation of Israel. Once you understand that, you can eliminate a lot of bad things and just get focused on it.

Last week, I used the example of the "Footprints in the Sand" poem. Honestly, people probably thought, "What is the big deal with that?" Let me ask you something. As a Christian right here today, and you are listening to me on YouTube, you have to decide at some point in your life how much bad doctrine you are going to allow into your life. You are going to have to decide, are you going to allow 5%, 10%, 20%? How much are you going to allow to come into your world or your family or your church if you are a pastor, that is not correct, doctrinally wise? Because as I have already showed you, it only takes a little leaven to leaven the whole lump. When you take that little thing that I talked about, the "Footprints in the Sand," which is no big deal, what it does, and what you need to understand, is that it destroys one of the seven mysteries, which is the mystery of Christ in you, the hope of glory. Because it gives the impression or takes away from the great doctrine that is in that mystery, that the day you got saved, Christ comes and lives inside your body, that you become one with Him. There is no more separation. It is like you and God can walk along the beach like there are two sets of footprints in the sand, and then that is doctrinally incorrect.

Now, what do you think? I am just asking. Knowing the devil the way we all do, we know him pretty good, don't we? Knowing the devil the way we do, what do you think he will do with that? You will think he is saying, "Oh, that is no big deal." No, I tell you exactly what he will do. He will take that and mix it in the truth. Then there will be people who will come along in life and they will actually believe that you are not part of His body. They will not understand that. They will actually think that you can walk down the beach hand in hand with Him and then that there is a time where He might leave you. Are you kidding me? Of course, this is the danger of just a little leaven. In time, it leads you to think that you are outside His body. You lose completely the doctrinal teaching of you in Him and Him in you, the mystery of godliness as the Bible lays it out. Of course, that is leaven; that is heresy. That is heresy. This is why, I am just telling you, you can test this for yourself. This is why you talk to the next 10 Christians and ask them what really happened the day they got saved, they will not be able to tell you because doctrinally, it has broken down of what actually transpired inside your body the instant you trusted Christ as your own personal Savior. For most of God's people, you are just walking along the seashore. That is not the way it works. But you see how important just a little bit of leaven comes in.

I will show you another example. Again, this makes some people mad all the time too. It is that sign of the fish, you all see. What you are told is that in New Testament Christianity, after the times of Jesus went back to heaven, when the Christians were being persecuted by Rome, they had to meet in secret. So wherever they were meeting, somebody would put the sign of a fish, just the sign of a fish. That would be, everybody would know that that is where the Christians were meeting. Now, I have got to tell you, that sounds cool. I really think that that would have been a neat thing. But to see the doctrinal side of it is this: back in those days, if you wanted to

find real Christianity, you did not find them in a locked room with a fish on the door. You found them in the Colosseum. You found them up against the Roman gladiators. You found them being ripped apart by lions. You found them being burned in pitch around the racetrack at night so Nero could watch the chariot races, but they did not have stadium lights back then. So God's people, tied to poles, soaked in pitch, became the lights. That is where you found them.

Now, which one sounds better? The first one, the idea that a bunch of Christians are running around looking for the fish sign. The truth of the matter is, and this is the doctrine of it: back in 1 Samuel chapter 5, verses 1 through 12, you had a false god by the name of Dagon. Dagon was a half man, half fish. He was worshiped by the pagans back there. That is where it all started. When Constantine brought Christianity and the Roman Empire together, his brand of it, not only last week did he bring in Christmas and Easter, but he brought in the sign of the fish, which is the sign of Dagon, the half man, half fish, back there in 1 Samuel 5:1-2. You have saved people today, God's people, with those satanic emblems on their car, on their Bible cases, and on their jewelry. I do not care. I really do not. What do you think God thinks? It is clear that all that stuff came in, and with most of God's people, maybe it is no big deal. But I ask you, how much leaven are you willing to let come into your life as a Christian?

Whatever happened, as Paul said in 1 Timothy 1:10, whatever happened to sound doctrine? I will tell you what happened. Leaven happened. The devil came in through his bride and mixed leaven, just a little bit, into the truth of the Word of God. This is what you have today. My, my, my, God's people are so fooled. They are so foolish in everything that they try to believe and hold on to. How do you read your Bible? Again, I am just asking. You say you have not got into the text yet. It is very small text. I need a lot of filler material here. Help me today. How do you read through your Bible? We get past Deuteronomy chapter 4, verses 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19. If you would just turn to it for a moment. I am talking about leaven now. I am talking about what the devil did to Israel and then what he is doing to us.

Deuteronomy 4:15-19

Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire:

Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,

The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air,

The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth:

And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

There is as good a piece of sound doctrine that you are ever going to get. It is just that simple. When it comes to God, whether it is in the Old Testament or the New Testament, He says, "When I showed up to Moses, I did not appear as any man, any woman, any animal form." He says, "It is the heathen that want to take God and make Him into some kind of man, woman, image." He says, "You saw no likeness of any male." I am reminded of the old country western song, "I don't care if it rains or freezes, long as I got my plastic Jesus sitting on the dashboard of my car. I don't care if it's dark and scary, long as I got magnetic Mary sitting on the dashboard of my car." You see, that is where it starts.

He says the likeness of no man or woman. He says, "the likeness of any beast, any winged fowl," there is your dove, "the likeness of any creepeth on the ground and any fish and then the stars." Oh, I see this one all the time. For whatever reason, God's people are just bent on bringing the leaven of other gods into their life. I do not know how many times I see that six-pointed Star of David on somebody's necklace. We were in a foreign country sometime, when we had a pastor and his wife there, we were on a train someplace, and they were nice people. She was dressed very nice, a very elegant lady, but she had this necklace on with the Star of David on it. Now, I do not know if you know it or not, but the Star of David is found in Acts chapter 7. It is the star of Remphan, the false god. It never had anything to do with David. It never had anything to do with the Bible. It never had anything to do with the Old Testament. It was the nation of Israel going after the false god Remphan and worshiping a six-pointed star that you all know and love as the Star of David.

Yet, I said to her, I just said, "I really liked her necklace." She says, "Yes, my grandmother gave me that." I said, "Well, I do not fancy your grandma, but you do know that is the false god of Remphan." She got offended. She did not care what the Bible said. She did not care what it represented and what it really was. She needed, and this is where God's people are at, they need to believe that the idols that they have in their life are really of God. She would not have talked to me the rest of the trip, which I did not really care. But it is a thing where this is where people are at. God's people will be upset because you have your little Christian necklace with all the devil's symbols on it and you want to try to make it into God. It is unbelievable how little God's people understand. I think what God must think of that. Really, if you are going to get down doctrinally, down to back to the Bible, what does God think of that?

IV. God's Plan and Hebrew History: Israel vs. The Church

Today, again, we are going to move on into this chapter. After he lays out this great story, he now uses himself as the main ingredient to show Israel that he is their Messiah. Now that is another one. I hear Christians all the time, and it is all this new evangelical crowd, and a lot of goofy Baptist preachers that they get up there and they talk about. I heard it all during Christmas, how that Jesus was our Messiah. I am going to tell you something, folks. Jesus was not your Messiah. The Messiah means the promised one and the promised deliverer. I was at a Bible conference a number of years ago when a guy got up and he made this, and I had to preach after him, and he got up and he preached a whole sermon on "Jesus, my Messiah, my promised deliverer." I had to preach that, I changed my message. I got up afterwards because I did not care back then, I get up

and afterwards he says, "I just heard a great message on Jesus, the promised deliverer, the Messiah." I said, "I do not know how to tell you this, but Jesus is not my Messiah. My promised deliverer is FedEx and UPS." Jesus is not your promised Messiah. When you got saved, you got saved on the promises that He would save you on the spot. He is not coming to save you, He is coming to save Israel, but a little leaven, see? All it takes. We as God's people, it is no wonder Christianity is in the mess it is in. We are so far away from what the Bible really is and what it really means. It is unbelievable.

To fully understand this and what we are going into today, I want to try to put this into a workable context for you. I want you to allow me for a moment to just take a quick moment and walk you back for a second through Hebrew history. I think that it is an incredible study that everybody needs to take if you are going to be a serious Bible student. I think it opens up everything for you of where we are at today. We already know that there are two kingdoms that we deal with in the Bible: the kingdom of heaven for the nation of Israel in the Old Testament and the kingdom of God, which, and here again, you are taught everywhere, shape or form, that they are the same. Of course, we know that they are not, but God has a plan. God had a plan that He wanted to put into effect that was going to affect not only the planet earth, but in time, Isaiah 9:6-7, the whole universe. God has His plan, and we know that the devil has his.

I do not know how many of you got this this week, but I get good people out there that send me all kinds of good stuff and give me all kinds of good stuff. You know where we are living in right now in the world and you know where the world is at. Do you now know, maybe you already know this, that the last couple of weeks, NASA hired 24 Roman Catholic Jesuit theologians, NASA, to help prepare people when we meet the alien races? Now, this is so stupid. You cannot make this stuff up. Over in Arizona at Mount Graham, the Jesuits run an advanced technology telescope that is dedicated to finding life in outer space. The name of that telescope is Lucifer. You cannot make this stuff up. The problem is the world and most of God's people are so stupid. They do not even know who Lucifer is. It is run by the Jesuits, and the Jesuits are dedicated to finding life in outer space.

NASA, with all of the UFO stuff that is coming, they lied to us now for all these years. They actually believe there is life in outer space. It is getting closer and closer. NASA has hired 24 Jesuit theologians to help prepare mankind to meet the aliens. The last statement of this guy is incredible. He says this, "For as for extraterrestrial life, God by name definition is all powerful. He can create life wherever he wants. He does not need permission from human beings to do so." It goes on to talk about that he is one of the 23 other theologians that realize this. He says, "Those who would be troubled by the discovery of extraterrestrial life exhibit an exaggerated form of pride. Only humans can be saved by God's grace." Talk about pride. In his upcoming book, Davison quotes John Polkinghorne, a theological physicist, an Anglican priest. Well, that is a nice connection. "If little green men on Mars need saving, then God will save little green men." That is where you are at today.

You see, God has His plan. The devil has his plan. You know what the tragedy is? Not only the world, but most of God's people know more about the devil's plan than they do about God's plan. God's plan starts back all the way in Genesis. He starts with two kingdoms that He is going to

build everything on this planet around before He takes us out to do His job. It will not involve aliens or little green men. In the Old Testament, we see the development of the nation of Israel. In the New Testament, we see the development of the church. I have given you the five easy steps that break down the understanding of what God is doing, where He started it, how He is doing it, why He is doing it, and bring this right up to the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have told you before, the first thing that you want to know about Hebrew history and God's plan back then, which is going to go out to eternity, is the formulation of the nation of Israel. This will be the book of Genesis. In Genesis 11, after we see some things develop, God calls out Abraham. From Abraham comes Isaac. From Isaac comes Jacob. From Jacob comes the 12 tribes. Off you go. At the end of Genesis, where do those 12 tribes go? This is all the hand of God. At the end of Genesis, those 12 tribes go down to Egypt, a type of the world.

Then the second lineage you have will be the calling out. That will be the book of Exodus. It will also include Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. This is where God brings them out of Egypt and then starts them on a journey to get to the Promised Land. I cannot tell you how important the Promised Land is, the nation of Israel with Jerusalem as the capital, to God's plan. That is why it has been the battleground all down through 6,000 years of man's history.

Once Joshua gets on the scene, we go into the establishment. This will be Joshua up through 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Chronicles, where it deals with David and Solomon. You see now that the nation is established. God's hand bringing all of this through, developing all of this, getting it right where it needs to be.

Then we begin to see the devil do his work. We see the leaven begin to come in through Baal worship and all the other gods and the nations. We see the nation of Israel defying God and going after all the other false gods, and we now see the demise. This takes place after Solomon and it takes place in the books of Kings and Chronicles after the death of Solomon and David. What happens after Solomon is gone? The kingdom gets divided. Jeroboam takes half of it and Rehoboam takes the other half, and it is divided. Now the nation of Israel is on its way down, and for the next 200, 300 years, she spirals into the history books right up to the captivity. The end of the kingdom of heaven. The devil did his work. The devil did his work to stop what God was going to do by just a little leaven.

By the way, when he says in Matthew 13:33 and in Galatians that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, if you go through your Bible, you will find over there that that lump is the nation of Israel. Romans 9:21. That lump is the nation of Israel. So now we see the captivity along about 587 BC. Assyria, Sennacherib, comes down and takes the 10 northern tribes. You will find that in 2 Kings 17 and 2 Kings 18. Then in 2 Chronicles chapter 36, the one we are most familiar with, Nebuchadnezzar comes down, Babylon. He takes the two southern tribes, and we are most familiar with that because Daniel and Ezekiel go in that one. So we are more in tune with that one than we are with the other one. This captivity now goes on all down through the next, what, 300 years?

In the process of time, you cannot miss this. We are all headed for what we are studying in John chapter 10. We are all heading now in this of the first coming of Christ. But now Israel

completely gone into captivity. The kingdom of heaven is gone. The door is shut. The nation of Israel has scattered. The devil has scattered them all over the world. Sennacherib brings some of them down into Samaria and mixes the Jews with the Gentiles to wipe out and purge out the race. They become the Samaritans that we know so much about in the New Testament. But in the process of time, God's plan never gets stopped. In the process of time, both Babylon and Assyria, great nations that were used by the devil, they get destroyed.

The nation of Persia comes on the scene around 536 BC. When that happens, you have an amazing event. You talk about the hand of God injecting himself into history to get the plan done. When Persia comes on in world power, Israel is still in captivity. Persia takes over all the empires, and many of the Jews are held under the Persian king, Ahasuerus. Then you find in the book of Esther. Oh, what an amazing thing. Vashti was the Persian queen. Esther is a Jewish lady. Vashti defies Ahasuerus and gets kicked off the throne. Then Ahasuerus brings a Jewish queen to the throne, Esther. Most people read that and most people do not even see what that really represents. You know what that represents? That represents the time that we are living right now. Vashti was a Gentile. She gets kicked off the throne, and a Jewish queen comes on. That is a picture of the end of the times of the Gentiles and God beginning to bring back the nation of Israel.

You know what Esther does? She gets a hold of King Ahasuerus. Now that is not his name. That is a title. She gets a hold of the king and she starts to plead her people's plight. You know what Ahasuerus did? He allows the Jews, a remnant, to go back to Jerusalem. He allows them to go back out of the captivity. In your Bible, this will be the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. In Ezra, they go back, and in Nehemiah, they begin to rebuild. The amazing thing about that is that is the hand of God. A remnant out of what? 200 million Jews that have been scattered. If you go over to Nehemiah 7:66, 42,360 go back out of 200 million people. Ezra and Nehemiah shows you how that they begin to try to put it all together. In Ezra, they go back, and in Nehemiah, they rebuild.

This is the hand of God in history. When you try to separate history from the Bible, you lose all your perspective. The lessons of history of Israel and the church, because the Jew has to be in that land for the first coming of Christ. The nation of Israel has to be established even though it is under Roman captivity. The Jew has to be back in the land for the Messiah to show up. So God reaches down, He wipes out Assyria, He wipes out Babylon, they go into the dust of the history books. Persia comes on, and Cyrus, king of Persia, a little later on, or Ahasuerus, they get the decree. After 70 years in captivity, a small remnant goes back. God moves and the devil moves. So 400 years or so before Christ shows up to fulfill the scriptures, God gets a remnant to go back to the land. By the way, consistency: a group goes back to establish Jerusalem in Ezra and Nehemiah for the first coming of Christ. Yes, and in 1948, they go back the second time to get ready for the second coming of Christ. You do not beat the Bible. History. This is where we are at today. This is why you are seeing all that you are seeing going on in this world today, preparing for what we know is coming, and the world just thinks it is going to be wonderful.

Lessons of history. During this 400 years or so when they are down there rebuilding that thing, the devil knows what is coming. He knows that the first coming of Christ is a couple hundred

years off. So what does he do? Little leaven. A little leaven leaveneth a whole lump. What does he do? In 167 BC, he creates a group called the Sadducees. About 135 years before Jesus shows up, he establishes a group called the Pharisees. Then already the scribes and the leaders of Israel have been corrupted, so now they align with the political side of things. In our history timeline, which is found in Daniel chapter 2, you will find that Assyria goes into the history books. Babylon goes into the history books. Persia comes on, but then she goes into the history books. The Greeks under Alexander the Great come on the scene. They go into the history books. Now, right before the first coming of Christ, the devil's favorite nation, his bride, his church, takes over world domination: the Roman Empire. Once Rome comes in, she never goes out. She just changes format, but she is still in power today just like she was at the first coming of Christ. Sometime on a Thursday night, I do not have time to get into it today, sometime on a Thursday night, ask me the question about the parallels between the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ. Unbelievable.

V. Israel's Rejection and the Parables

That will bring us up to where we are at now in John chapter 10 at the first coming of Christ. You see, all history in the Old Testament, or the ancient history that you read about and hear about in school, will be nothing more than the struggle of God and the devil fighting over that kingdom and the establishment of the kingdom. It is nothing more. The nations, the Gentile nations, all you go to school and you read about all the great, you know, the Egyptians and the Babylon and all these guys back here and all that stuff. In Daniel chapter 2, you were told very clearly the order of those nations and why. The Gentile nations are nothing more than a little moped things you see people riding around with downtown in Kansas City, those little scooters. That is all they are to get the devil where he wants to go. Nothing more about it than that. They do not figure at all in history. There is only one nation that figures in history, and that is the nation of Israel.

So when Christ shows up in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, He now gives them, as we have seen, all the proof in the Old Testament that they can see who He really is. He fulfills 147 prophecies in the Old Testament that He is Israel's promised deliverer, the Messiah, and they reject Him. They reject Him in Matthew chapter 12, and in chapter 13, we see now that it goes into the parables. Here are the Bible references for the parables, and you will want to get this down. First one, turn over to Matthew chapter 13, and this is where after they reject Him in chapter 12, this is what He says in verse 13:

Matthew 13:13-15

Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Now, He referenced Isaiah. That is Isaiah chapter 6, verses 9 through 12, if you do not have it in your Bible.

Isaiah 6:9-12

And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

That is the second coming of Christ, by the way. Paul, all the way at the end of the book of Acts, makes a reference that it is the exact same thing in Acts chapter 28, verses 25 through 28, where he says this:

Acts 28:25-28

And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

You see what he is saying? He is saying God is done with Israel for now, temporarily. Paul puts the icing on the cake. We see now in chapter 12 they rejected Him; chapter 13 it goes into parables. We are looking at one of the great parables now in chapter 10. So we see this is the state of Israel at the first coming of Christ. The devil has done his work to destroy God's people by taking the Word of God from them, the Lord Jesus Christ, John 1:1, adding leaven to it, and completely destroying God's plan of the Old Testament temporarily to take the Word of God to the world. Lessons from history. So we see this will be the issue at the second coming of Christ. The devil doing his work through Rome in both cases to destroy God's people, the church, at the second coming of Christ by taking the Word of God from them and adding leaven into it, and God's people are just all for it. Doctrine. Doctrine, purity. Doctrine. The consistency that God never violates His own principles.

VI. Christ as the Door and Shepherd of Israel (John 10:7-9)

With all that in hand, and that is a handful, let us read today our second installment on this story of John chapter 10, and we will put this together for you now that you have a complete picture of history and how it all works and how it all fits together and the consistency between the first coming and the second coming and how that God started the plan in the Old Testament. Israel rejected it, went to the Gentiles, and now we have rejected it, and in both cases, as in Nehemiah and Esther, as in 2021 and 2022, all that God has to work with is a remnant, and I might say, and proud to say, that this church is part of that remnant.

Now here is what he says:

John 10:6-11

This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Let us pray. Father, help us today to grasp this great passage and to put it into a context of everything You have given us up to this point. Help these people learn the Bible, learn the truth of the Word of God, and to stay doctrinally pure and correct in a world that cares nothing about it, in a world that is filled with leaven. Lord, let us be like the Old Testament, the bread that God baked and the priest baked was not allowed to have leaven. Keep the leaven out of our book, our bread, the Word of God, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Now, verse 6 clearly tells us, as I have already stated, they did not understand what he just told them. Now we know why. We know why that the parables came in. We know why from Isaiah all the way through Matthew, all the way up to Paul making a reference to it. Now he explains to them how all this is about him as Israel's shepherd that has come to them. Verse 7 says he tells them, "I am the door of the sheep." You remember verse 1 last week says that there is a door, a literal door, a real one of the sheepfold, and that in verse 2, that it was Christ as the shepherd entered into this world through that door. So that is a literal door. When Christ says, "I am the door," he is not talking about the door in verse 1. He is talking about the fact that Israel has to go through him. He is not the literal door; He himself came through that door. But if Israel wants to get through that door, they have got to go through Him. This is like John 14:6 where he said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." In other words,

he is telling Israel, "You have to get to Christ, you have to get through Christ to get to God, and I am Christ." So, "I am the door to God just like there is a literal door that you have got to take to get up to that, that you have to go through that I came down through." Again, you have to keep in mind that directly doctrinally, this has nothing to do with the church age. Of course, one of the great easiest ways to understand that is the fact that as all this stuff we are reading in John 10, the church is not even into effect yet. There is no church age. So you cannot start taking things that he is saying before the church age and then pretend that you are in the church age. He is dealing with Israel here, as you will see.

Now let me show you. Look closely in verses 8 and 9 again. You will see this as Israel:

John 10:8-9

All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Again, that is the nation of Israel. You cannot put that into the church in any way, shape, or form. Obviously, the thieves and the robbers here will be the religious leaders of Israel: the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees. But look at verse 9: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in." Now here it comes, "the man," "any man." I have told you I do not know how many times that every time you find "the man" or "a man" or a story about "a man" in the Gospels, it is always Israel. That is what you have here. First of all, it says, "if any man shall enter in, he shall be saved." That is Romans 11:25-29 where all Israel shall be saved. Then he says, and where he knows is where you know it is not the church, he says then he goes in in verse 9, "and then he goes out and then he finds pasture." Cannot be the church. That is Israel going into the tribulation, coming out of the tribulation, going into the millennium where he finds pasture. That has nothing to do with the church.

I understand there are a lot of things in the Old Testament and a lot of things that we read that we take a liberty with in an inspirational way, and I am actually okay with that. But I think that one of the things that really shows you this here is come back to Psalms chapter 23 for a second. This is the Psalm that everybody goes to, and I think it is a great Psalm. You ought to memorize it. You ought to take it, read it. It is a beautiful thing. Some of it you can put to you and some of it you cannot. It always amazed me that all the liberal guys who work their way to heaven and all the guys who think that you know you have got to, who are against the Bible and salvation, whenever a disaster falls, they always read Psalm 23.

I was watching a documentary over the last couple of days on the Titanic and the aftermath of the Titanic and what they were covering the bodies and doing everything. They actually interviewed the grandchildren or children of the survivors that got off of it or some of them that died on it. One of them said that they could not find all the band members, the little orchestra, and none of them survived. They came to find out that when the ship started going down, they all got together and the last thing anybody heard them playing was "Nearer, My God, to Thee." Of course, it was a very fitting thing to be playing at that particular point in time where they were all getting ready

to meet Him. Somebody else said that one of them was a Catholic priest, I guess, on there, and he had a bunch of people on the fantail back there as the ship was coming up there, and he was reading Psalm 23. Wherever there is a disaster, people just want to read Psalm 23 because they think that is going to get you to heaven. If I was on the Titanic, I would not have been reading Psalm 23, and I sure would not be "Nearer, My God, to Thee." I would have been on the fantail preaching that you better get saved because we are all going to die and meet God in about 30 seconds. Of course, Psalm 23 is not going to do you any good. But this is where we always go, and it sounds so wonderful.

Psalms 23:1-6

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." There is the pasture. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters: he restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness." Now just let me stop here for a minute. By the time you are reading this, if your soul is not already restored, you are in trouble. You are not going to get your soul restored by laying down by the pool and going down there by the still waters and finding a nice grassy place and munching on some grass. You are not going to find it there. You got your soul restored the day you trusted Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. But there is somebody who goes into the tribulation, comes out of the tribulation, and then finds pasture. Here they are right here. Then he says, "he restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness." Now I will stop there. How can you as a Christian be led in the paths of righteousness when you are saved? You have already got God's righteousness for you. It is not a matter you are going to be led in it; it is going to be a matter of do you obey it or not. He is not going to lead you nowhere if you are saved. You already got God's righteousness. But they do not. It fits. Now I am okay if somebody gets up and wants to make this a devotion. I am okay for you. It is good. We are good deal.

"He restoreth my soul and leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Ah, here is a good one. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Now I like that one, and that is okay because I have said it many, many times that when you die, we do not ever taste death. We may walk through the shadow of death, but we are never going to really see death because Romans says what Paul says. But I have got to tell you, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the

shadow of death," you better take about six months of your life, go back and get your concordance, and study in the tribulation period. The shadow of death. The shadow of death is something in the tribulation period. Now I know inspirationally it can be, you know, you are going to die and you are kind of going to that before you go home to be with the Lord. You are in there walking through the shadow. I get all that, and that is okay, that is good. But if you want the pure doctrine, you go back in the Old Testament and you find in the tribulation period there is a shadow that passes over that kills people that is called the shadow of death. It is the difference between playing with the Bible and knowing the Bible doctrine.

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." Well, I can apply that. I mean, that just means that somebody does not like you and they are after you, that God will take care of you. But doctrinally, after Jew in the tribulation period running into the wilderness and being fed by the manna from heaven, Exodus chapter 16, that God prepares for doctrine. "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." You are, you have already been anointed with oil. It has got nothing to do with your head. The day you got saved, you got all the Holy Spirit of God there was. That is a little tough to put into the church age, but it is okay.

Ah, here we go. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." Not true of you and me. I am dwelling in the house of the Lord forever. I am going to reign with Him through all of eternity. But somebody else is. What is that house? "I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." The house of the Lord forever. The whole house of Israel. Yeah, it works. Now you can take an inspirational thing to that, and I am fine with that. But my point in telling you all that is this: that is a millennial Psalm. That is a Psalm that a nation of Israel going through the tribulation. Now we are going to go through tribulation, so there are some aspects of that that we can apply. But you see, you have got to be careful, man. You have got to be careful. I can take things out of there and apply them to my own life as long as I understand what I can and when I cannot. The problem is most of God's people have no doctrine in their life. They have no Bible basis in their life, so they are susceptible to the leaven that comes in. They are susceptible to what guys will tell them about the Bible, but they do not know how to figure it out for themselves.

VII. The Hireling Shepherd and the Danger of False Leadership (John 10:10-13)

Now look at verse 10, back to John 10:

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

All this is a reference to the religious leaders not only back in the day, but our religious leaders today, whom the devil has taken and given to Israel as a false shepherd. Notice they do three things:

1. To steal. They steal the kingdom of heaven away from the nation of Israel.
2. To kill. Christ in particular, anybody else that gets in their way.
3. To destroy. To destroy God's plan to reach the world through the nation of Israel and put it in NASA's hands when the aliens come down and we can all be buddy-buddy.

You see, our lessons on Hebrew history that I gave you a few moments ago kind of put all this into context. It says here that they came, and this is where it is at today, brother. If you think the devil missed out at the second coming what he was doing at the first coming, he has got his own scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees out there. They will want to steal everything from that Bible from you. They want to tell you that you cannot know the Bible yourself. They want to take the truth from you. They want to add leaven to it. They want to bring in goofy, silly little stories that have nothing to do with the Bible to get you mesmerized in some kind of false spirituality instead of Bible truth. You know what the tragedy is? God's people are okay with it. They will steal from you that book. They will steal from you the truth of that book. They will steal from you the truth of that book, and it will kill you spiritually, and then it will destroy whatever God has to do and wanted to do with your life. Some things never change, folks, and the only way you can sort it out and keep it clean is doctrine, knowing the consistency that God never violates His principles and always operates in a consistency mode that it always repeats itself.

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

He does, and this is Christ dying on the cross. I have got to tell you this too. Now I feel like I am destroying everything you ever knew about Christianity, but maybe it needs to be. The crucifixion, we always look at it as, and I get it, you know, we look at it as that is where Christ died for us, and no question about that. Praise God for it. Thank God. We sing all kinds of songs, "On a hill far away, the old rugged cross." Praise the Lord, the blood. I get all of that. But you need to understand that all that only comes into effect after Acts chapter 7.

In Bible Institute right now, for those of you that are gutsy enough to get in it, we are going through the book of Acts, and we are breaking that baby down where you can actually see how that thing works. It is probably the single key book in your New Testament that pulls it all together because we think about the crucifixion. I know I do. God died on a cross for me, and I have preached on it a thousand times, the crucifixion, what it means to me. But none of that came into effect until after Acts chapter 7. Everything from Acts chapter 1 to Acts chapter 7 is about Israel. You could not find a Gentile in Acts chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 with a laser beam and a flashlight. They are not there. You have five messages preached by Peter, the apostle to the Jew. Remember last week, he had the keys, the porter. Five messages that he preaches to Israel about. You see what most people do not understand is that the nation of Israel has three chances to get the kingdom when Christ shows up the first time. Three chances. The first one was John the Baptist. What did they do with him? They killed him. Second was the Lord Jesus Christ. What did they do to Him? They killed Him. But on the cross, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Now we like to spiritualize that and think that means us, and that is okay if you want to do that, but doctrinally, it did not mean you, it did not mean me. It is

the Jews that are crucifying because they know not what they are doing. Peter reinforces that in the first five messages that he preaches in Acts chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Stephen preaches the last one, and he gets killed. He goes through that whole thing, and God honors that request of His Son and gives them one more chance, Israel. That is why the church age, as far as the Gentiles are concerned, me and you, does not even get rolling until after Acts chapter 7.

> *In Acts chapter 8, guess what happens? A revival breaks out down in Samaria.*

> *In Acts chapter 9, the greatest apostle to the Gentiles gets saved, Paul.*

> *In Acts chapter 10, your first Gentile gets saved.*

> *In Acts chapter 11, the first called Christians at Antioch.*

> *In Acts chapter 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, the missionary trip to Gentiles.*

But not until after Acts chapter 7. Doctrine. How much error are you allowing in your life or will you allow in your life? For me, zero, and I am sure I have some, but I will keep it to a minimum. You know why? Because I know a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. I know what the first coming of Christ, the Hebrew history, tells me. God's plan was to bring about a salvation to a group of people that was going to take it to the Gentile world, and the devil stopped it with leaven. Then I know that in the New Testament, when Israel failed, He is going to bring the church, His own body, and He is going to give them the message to take to the world for the second coming of Christ, and the devil through leaven stopped it.

John 10:12-13

But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

That is two great telling verses. Now here is where we are going to get not only the history and the doctrine, we are going to get a little inspirational here. This here is the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees. They are called hirelings. A hireling will be somebody that has been hired to do a particular job or he has a particular job, but he does not really care about the job. All he cares about is the money he is going to get from it, the power he is going to get from it, or the status he is going to get from it. Most politicians will tell you when they are running for election that they will work for you until they get in office, and then they work for themselves.

He said down first in verse 12 here, "leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catch at them, and scattereth the sheep." I do not want you to miss that one. If you do not have that in your Bible, put down there that is 70 A.D. That is 70 A.D. in history when Titus comes down and destroys Jerusalem and he scatters the sheep. When they see the wolf coming, they do nothing because they really do not care about the people. They only care about their income. They only care about their own status, their own power. Of course, you see that clearly when Titus came down in 70 A.D., and boy, I cannot tell you the devastation that he did when he came into Jerusalem. Unbelievable. The devil took his revenge one more time on that nation and has been

doing it ever since. You see, one will love the sheep and protect them from the leaven, the bad doctrine, and actually give his life for them. That is Christ. The other will not care and allow all kinds of bad leaven to come into their life, and like the brethren in John chapter 10, they steal from God's people your millennial inheritance. That is what is going on today.

I know people get upset when I talk the way I talk. I do not care. Honestly, I do not care if you lose your millennial award. That is your choice. You have to look at life, the Bible, and everything that you are involved in, the church you go to, the pastor you listen to, and you have to decide for yourself how much error am I going to allow him to give me and then how much am I going to take into my own life.

Allow me to add a personal note here. As a pastor, I cannot speak about mechanics. I cannot speak about telephone operators. I cannot speak about plumbers. I cannot speak about carpenters. I cannot speak about, I do not know anything about that, so I cannot criticize them. But I do know preachers and I do know pastors, and I know a little bit about the Bible. This is what you get today, whether you like it or not. This is what you get today with 99% of the pastors out there, the big-time guys, the mega-church guys, the neo-evangelical, and a lot of Baptist guys. They care nothing for the people. You are just a giving record. You are just somebody that they want to pack the place on Sunday.

I had to laugh. It was probably last year, and I used to, when I was getting ready, I have got to be at church earlier now, but when I used to have to leave a little later at the old place, I used to catch the first 15, 20 minutes of Joel Osteen, and I just would do it for the joke. Sometimes they were good, sometimes bad. But I remember one time he had a, he was giving a, a guy had died in his church, and he was preaching on service, and he brought up this guy's name and he said how that for 30 years this man had been faithful at welcoming visitors to his dad's church and his church. For 30 years this man was faithful in his service for God. Then I just stopped right there. You know the next thing he said? "I have never met that man, but brother, he did a good job." What? The guy was faithful for 30 years. I guarantee you some of your other hirelings had to tell you what his name was. I will tell you something else, I bet you did not preach the funeral. I will tell you something else, I bet you did not even know he died until somebody told you. See what it is? They do not care about you. All they want is your money. They have got this big Taj Mahal that they built, that is their millennial temple, and they have got to have you to pay for it. That is why you will get in any sermon, you will get a half-time show, the Super Bowl, and you will get about a 15-minute message, and then the rest of it will be about, "We need to give you more money." I said that wrong. They are not going to give you any money. "We need you to give me more money." Senior moment. I am okay.

They are locked away in a little office suite, guarded from all the common folks by a secretary or a staff member or a personal assistant to the pastor. Now I must confess to you, I have a personal assistant as a pastor. It is the Holy Spirit of God. He is the only one I need. Of course, these guys cannot get along with that. They have to elevate themselves. First of all, they live in houses that their ordinary people in their church could never live in. They drive cars that their ordinary people could never drive. They have an income that the average people can never have an income like they do. They live so far above their people that they lose touch with them because

they are hirelings. They are held up in esteem because there is some great Bible teacher. If you took all the Bible they knew and put it up against somebody who knew the Bible, they could not fill the left eye of a blind mosquito. But yet there they are, the church, the pastor, and it is all paid for by good people who do not know the Bible, have the Bible stolen from them, have the millennial inheritance stolen from them, and are given a lump of leaven to destroy any truth that God could give them. Then they buy into it and they think that they are actually doing what God wanted them to do by paying for some millennial temple that is going to do nothing but destroy theirs when they get to the second coming, and they do not even know that their people are alive or care what they are going through. I am not going to get into this, but a great example of this in the Bible would be Saul back in 1 Kings 12 and 13. He would be the great example of this.

If you are studying, now I am almost done, and this little inspirational tirade I am on right now, since I am already here, let me give you five things that you want to look for if you are in a church like this. My advice to you, if you hit three out of the five, you need to get out. If you hit five out of five, you need to steal something on the way out. They are stealing from you your millennial inheritance. They will kill you spiritually just like the scribes and the Pharisees and will destroy you in time from ever accomplishing what God really saved you for.

These are goofy, but I am goofy. These are five little things here that are goofy things. If I was speaking before the world assembled congregation of preachers, I would never use this. I would find something really big and with volume to it, you know. But I am talking to you guys, and this is it. This is simple. It is basic. It does not take a lot of Bible, it does not take any Bible to understand this. If you find in your church, if you are listening to me this morning, if you find in your church the pastor does any one of these five things, get out. I do not care, but I am telling you, you are losing everything God had for you.

What is the first one? I am almost embarrassed to say this.

4. If you cannot get his personal cell phone number. You say, "Bob, that sounds so stupid." Try to get it. Go up to your pastor as he is walking down the shag carpets with the \$600 suit on his way out to his Mercedes Benz and say, "Pastor so-and-so, could I have your cell phone number? I would like to call you this week." See how far you get. See how far you get. You say that sounds so stupid. Try it. Try it before you call it stupid. Try it, and you will see how incredibly wise it is. Just get his personal cell phone number, or if he does not have a cell phone, get his home number.
5. Can you stop him in the hallway and say, "Pastor, I really need to talk to you for a moment"? Now, if he is off in the hallway, he is going someplace, and I guarantee you wherever he is going is more important than what your question is going to be. I will tell you right now what he will say, "Call tomorrow, and we will get you hooked up with Pastor so-and-so." He does not have time for you. He does not have time for you. Look, if you have a problem, you catch me in the hallway, I will put the service off 20 minutes if I have got to deal with something you are going through. You know why? Because at that point in time, you are the most important person in my world. If you do not have that, what do you have?
6. You cannot call him on his phone and say, "Pastor, this is so-and-so, and how are you today? I am fine. I would like to get an appointment with you next week. My wife and I are just

having some problems, or having a problem with our kids, or, you know, I just got an issue I want to talk about." You know what? You will not be able to do that because you will say, "Call my secretary," and he will not even say that because you will not have his phone number in the first place. You will call the church and you will say to the church, "I would like to schedule an appointment with Pastor so-and-so." They will automatically change you over to his secretary. Martin Bormann. How many know who Martin Bormann was? See, everybody thinks that Adolf Hitler was the powerhouse in Germany. He was not. You know the most powerful man in Germany was his secretary, Martin Bormann, because Martin Bormann got to decide who got to see him and who did not. That is power. He got to say, "Yes, you can," or, "No, you cannot." That is power. He had the, he could limit the access to whoever you wanted to see, and that is what the secretary does. If she does not think, and I will guarantee you, if she does not like you, you will never get in. If she does not think your problem is worthy, she will probably ask you to explain it to her, and then she will decide for you if you are good enough to get your problems legitimate enough. Is that what you want? Are you glad when you pray to the Lord Jesus, it does not stop and the porter up there examines your prayer before it goes through?

7. If you do have a problem, don't let him pass you off to some second stringer. If he is the main guy, he is the one that you want to talk to first. Now he may give you to somebody else to help you, but he has to be the one first to decide that. Walking down the hallway and you say, "Pastor, I got a problem. I need to..." "Hey, yeah, call Brother so-and-so. He handles all of that. We got a psychiatrist and a psychology therapist on staff. Call him." No, I want to talk to you. You are the main man. You and God walk along the beach together.
8. Most important to me anyhow, ask him if he will sit down with you one-on-one and teach you the Bible. Just ask him. Or better yet, just say, "Can I call you next week? I have a Bible question." Just ask you. Or, "I really want to learn the Bible, Pastor, and boy, you are a great preacher, and I know you really know the Bible. Would you spend an hour together with me this week showing me how to put the Bible together?" Try it. Take my word for it. If any one of those, I have not got to the best one yet, that would just have you get out anyhow. If any one of those, and you probably hit five for five in most churches today, he is stealing from you your millennial inheritance.

The most important one as far as I am concerned: if he is not teaching you out of the King James 1611 Authorized Version, what is the point? How much leaven, how much error will you allow in your life? How much will you put up with some guy teaching you incorrectly when it comes to the Bible? I know nobody is 100% perfect. I am not 100% perfect. But come on, man, it is one of those things, you are in the wrong place.

VIII. Conclusion: Preserving Doctrinal Purity

Finally, verse 13, and we will end today with this:

John 10:13

The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

There it is. Some things never change. As I have said over and over again, what was the leadership of Israel at the first coming of Christ is the same mindset of the leadership of the church at the second coming of Christ, and they both got there 2,000 years apart by the same road: leaven. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, and they destroy, they steal, they kill everything spiritually in your life.

This chapter is a great one, and it leads to so many other areas in your Bible, which you have seen today and have seen last week. Now get these things into your Bible. Get these key places lined up in your Bible. Do not wait. Do not say, "I am going to do it later." You will never get it done because next week we are going to get into the third lesson on this great story, and we are going to then tie it all together and see how it comes. But you got a gold mine today of how it all goes back to the Old Testament and how that the devil sowed leaven in the lump, and the lump is the nation of Israel, and then it destroyed everything else. Get into Christianity. That is great.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. Thank You for all You do for us. Thank You, Father, for the truth of the Word of God. Thank You for the consistency of this book. Thank You for a book, Lord, that we do not need anybody. We may need somebody to help us just understand the basics of it, but once we get those things down, get out of the way. That is all we need. My own personal assistant is the Holy Spirit of God that leads and guides us into all truth. Thank You, Father, for this book. Thank You for these dear people who love this book. Thank You, Father, for making it real to us. Thank You for all that You have given us last year, and how we look forward to this next year. But most of all, Father, take care of our folks that are sick. Watch over them. Help them. Heal them. Bring them back, and that we can continue to do the work in this next year for You. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name for His sake we ask it. Amen. God bless you. You are dismissed. Be careful going home, and I will see you Thursday.