

I. Introduction to Defining Moments and the Book of Psalms

Thank you, John. A couple of weeks ago, we finished up John chapter 14, as you will remember. I was gone a week over at Bob Greg's Church, and then last week I came back and kind of gave you a follow-up, kind of like an interlude between chapter 14 and chapter 15. We talked about the defining moments in your life, and I told you how that everybody is going to have to face those. There will be times in your life when something will come up, not always good, that which way you go will define you as a Christian. We talked about that at great length.

I thought today, before we jump into John chapter 15, I would like to take a little time this morning. I felt like I kind of, even though I said what I said and it all fit into where we needed to have it fit, I felt like I left it undone as far as giving you a process to be able to understand how to get to the place in your life where you can make the right choice on your defining moments. So I want to take some time today and I want to spend a little time in Psalms chapter 119 if you will turn back there with me.

Psalms is probably the one book in the Bible that everybody knows. They may not know about Jeremiah, they may not know about Ezekiel. Lord forbid they would know where Habakkuk is or Hosea; they think he is probably the Mexican Apostle. But everybody knows where Psalms is at because Psalms touches us on all levels of our human spirit. It is an incredible book. Not only does it have great devotional material, it certainly does, but it is a book that also many people go to when they are faced with a time of trouble. Yet, it is a great book to go to if you just want to sit and praise the Lord and give Him the honor and glory for everything in your life.

The book of Psalms is basically, and I know there are a number of authors in it, many of them are unknown. Moses writes some, David writes some, Asaph writes some, but it is all built around David's life. Certainly, when we talk about defining moments, there is nobody in the Bible who probably was faced with more defining moments than David was. The whole book of Psalms is built around his life, and it shows us, among many other things, it shows us David's defining moments and how he dealt or how he did not deal with them.

Psalms will be three basic things concerning David and his relationship with God. Honestly, Psalms is probably the easiest book in the Bible to get a natural breakdown for. Every book in the Bible has its natural God-given breakdown by which God wants you to study it. Some of them are not always easy to see; we lay them out here all the time. But Psalms is probably the easiest one because when you look at Psalms, and I understand, Psalms has basically three applications to it, as all of the books of the Bible do.

- In the historical side of things, it is about David's life.

- In the doctrinal side of things, David is a type of the nation of Israel going through its tough times in the Tribulation Period.
- Then inspirationally, it will be a picture of you and me and the tough times we will go through.

Basically, the book of Psalms in those three areas breaks down around David's life like this:

1. You are going to find Psalms in there where David is a long way from where he needs to be with God. If you put that in the doctrinal context, it is a picture of the Tribulation Period where Israel is a long way from God. If you want to put it in your life and my life, it is when we are a long way from God.
2. Then you are going to find the second aspect is David calling out to God, wanting to get back with God where he needs to be. You will find these in the Psalms as Israel in the Tribulation, where Israel is suffering through the Tribulation and calling out to God for God's deliverance. In your life and my life, there will be times when we get out there a long way from God, and we know we need to get back, and sometimes we always cannot find a path to get there, so we cry out to God.
3. Then you are going to find the third aspect is David is back now. He is praising God, and he is praising God for all of His greatness, all of His loving kindness. This will not only historically picture David, but it will also, we will call these the Millennial Psalms, in a doctrinal aspect, it is when Israel is back in the land after the Second Coming, and they are praising God for all His greatness. But then inspirationally, it is a picture of you and me when we get back with God and we realize how good God is, how forgiving He is, how that His loving kindness in His hand in our life never fails us. It is a great picture.

II. David's Unique Relationship with God

So Psalms is a great book. I think probably David in the Old Testament is probably the most unique man in the Old Testament in his relationship with God. You find a lot of guys back there that have great relationships. Abraham has a great relationship, Daniel has a great relationship, Joseph has a great relationship. None of them have what David has or what we have information that shows us what David had. David is unique. In the New Testament, I have already told you this, I would say the most unique man in the New Testament would be the Apostle John, but certainly in the Old Testament, it would be David.

David in Acts chapter 13, verse 22, God makes some statements about him that He does not make about anybody else in the Bible. He says in Acts chapter 13, verse 22, that David was a man after God's own heart. That is quite a statement. Then He says in 1 Kings chapter 15, verse 5, that David did what was right in the sight of God all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. In all of his life, God only had one thing that He called into account, and yet the Bible says that God told us that he was a man after God's own heart.

I will tell you something else David, this is what really makes him unique: David gets something that nobody else in the Old Testament gets. He gets what is called in the Bible the sure mercies

of David. Now most people do not know what that is; they do not have a clue about it. But basically, it means this: because of David's relationship with God and the Word of God, and because of what he had with the Lord, God gave him a special grace where the Bible says that he got the sure mercies of David. What it is, it is a picture of eternal security in the Old Testament, where there was no eternal security. It is God taking one man and his family and saying to them, "I am going to give them My sure mercies," when He gave it to nobody else in the Old Testament.

Now that makes David unique. At the same time, it makes David a great picture of your life and my life because if you are saved here this morning in the New Testament sense, you got the sure mercies of David. Your salvation is sure; there is no chance you can lose it. There is no chance that you... I have got all these people out there today that think you can lose your salvation. You know what? If you can lose your salvation, you are going to lose it. I lose my car keys four or five times a day. I lose my cell phone. I have to have two cell phones just to call the one I lost so I can find it when it rings. My bad day is I put it on silent and I cannot find it. Bottom line is, God knows how frail we are. Could you imagine you and me having to keep our own salvation? Well, we would lose it in 15 minutes. You see, that is the blessing of it. God keeps it for me because He knew I could not keep it. He knew I did not deserve it, but He gave it to me anyhow. Then He knew after He gave it to me that I could not keep it, so He keeps it for me. Does it get any better than that? You see, that is what the Lord does, and that is what He did for David. David is one of the most unique men anywhere found in the Old Testament.

You know, the story of David's life will be an incredible study. I would suggest to you that if some time in your life, and I think everybody ought to do this at some point, maybe you do not want to run out and do it today, but at some point in your life, you are going to have to do an intense study of the life of David. I might suggest to you probably the greatest book that you will ever find on the life of David is a book that was written by Arthur Pink way back in the day, simply called *The Life of David*. It has got so many avenues and dimensions of David's life. You could probably spend the rest of your life gleaning out of that everything that he says.

III. The Word of God as a Lamp and Light

But the real key to David was his love for the Word of God, and this is what I want to focus on today because there is going to come times in your life, like David, there is going to come times in your life and my life where we are going to be faced with a decision. We are going to be faced with something that we are going to go the right way or the wrong way, and that is going to be the defining moment in our life. Some of you may be here today and you have never trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. Today could be a day that you make that defining moment in your life to make the right choice. It can also be the day that you continue to stay the way you are and in that defining moment go your own way.

We all have them; we are all going to face them. Last week I kind of gave you the cold water in the face, and you looked like, most of you looked like a deer on a highway with the headlights in your eyes, but you understand now that none of us are going to escape it. We are all going to have to deal with it every day of your life, and many times, if not most of the times, it is through

some tough times and some hard decisions. I want you to see today that the key is becoming a David in your life in your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, facing the defining moments like he did, failing in some, getting the victory in others. We all will. But at the end of the day, here is the question: at the end of the day, will God say about you what He said about David? Will He say about you and me that you and I were a man after His own heart? That is really the question. You learn that by studying his life and based on that love.

The book of Psalms, you have the longest chapter in the Bible in Psalm chapter 119. It runs 176 verses in one chapter. When you look at it, the beauty of that chapter is that every verse in that chapter will deal with a different aspect of the Word of God in your life and my life. Something it will do for you, something it will do through you, something that God will use you to do once He gives you His Word. It is an incredible chapter, and each verse will deal with how the Word of God will help you and how important it is to get it into your life.

Most of God's people, honestly, and you know this is true, most of God's people, if they get saved, they go to church, the Bible, they never crack the Bible again. They will tear it on Sunday, they open it up for the preacher, but they never study it. There is no depth to them; there is no getting into the Word of God and wanting everything that God has for them. That is why when their defining moments come, they really have some issues. I want to show you today what the Bible will do for you once you get it down because I told you this last week: defining moments will only be the victory for you and for me as we use the defining principles in the Word of God.

I want to look at just one verse today, and again, this is verse, this is the verse out of my little things that I gave you several weeks ago about all the little three, four, five-point outlines in the Bible. This is another one out of my list. As I thought last week and what I said about the defining moments in our life, I wanted to, I did not want to leave that without giving you the real way to be able to make those things happen in your life.

So if you would please, I want you to turn to Psalm 119, verse 105, and I want to show you how that this chapter is going to be such a blessing to us in this verse in particular, and how important it is to our growth as Christians.

Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Let us pray. Father, Thank You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. Thank You for all that You do for us. Thank You for the folks that are here today. Truly, Lord, maybe there is someone here that is facing their own defining moment. Maybe it is someone here that in the crossroads of life, they are in the crosshairs of the world. Help us, Lord, to always go back to the Word of God. Help us first of all to see its importance. Help us to see how that without it, we are nothing. Help me today to show these good, dear people in the most simple, basic form that I can, how that the Word of God in David's life made him a man after God's own heart, and it will make us the man or the woman after God's own heart. Help us, Father, we are a needy people today, and we need You, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

IV. The Bible as Light from God

Now I want to talk about the Bible as the light from God in our lives and light on our defining moments. You know, light is an incredible thing. I do not know if you know it or not, we can even use this room. If you have something that is dark blue on this morning and you come up to here, it could be mistaken for being black. If you have something dark black on, it could be mistaken for something being dark blue. In other words, this light all through here, as good as it is, and we all need it today, but it does not show you true colors. Things do not always appear in artificial light.

I mean, I have seen people get dressed, and they come to the point where they are not sure what color if it is a match. It is only because the light in the house does not always show it. You know what you have got to do to get the true color? You have got to get into the sunlight. You see, artificial light will never show you the true color of things. But when you step outside and get the sunlight, a picture of the Word of God in your life, you get the true picture of the color, and that is what people need today. We have enough Christians who bathe themselves in artificial light. They will go to church someplace, and they will hear a sermon that they like and tickles their ear, and they think it is good, and they walk out thinking that they are okay.

I have got some terrible news for all of us: none of us are okay this morning. We all are needy people, and what we need is not the artificial light from artificial preachers from artificial sermons that give us an artificial spirituality. You need to be bathed in the light of the Word of God, and that shows us our true condition, whether you are saved or whether you are lost. That is exactly what the Bible does: light on our defining moments.

We talked about John chapter 14, and as we came through that, it was a great chapter. We saw how that He predicted and told us the coming of the Holy Spirit of God, and He laid out the basic aspect, and I told you back then, the real defining chapter on the Holy Spirit of God in the Bible is John chapter 16, but He gives us a couple of little insights in John chapter 14. Simply put, when a person becomes a Christian, when you got saved, or if you are not saved this morning and you ever do get saved, fundamentally, basically, all that really happens is you, through salvation, come out of the darkness of this world into the new creature Christ Jesus, light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

The world is darkness; everything about it is darkness. There is not one speck of true light in the world. There is a lot of artificial light. You can get on your favorite TV program or your news broadcast or look at the state of the world or the state of America, and as black as it is, you always have news commentators and people out there trying to tell you it is not as bad as it seems. I will tell you what, when you look at the world, America, and life from the Word of God, you see how bad it really is.

We have our presidents all down through history, somewhere in their time as president, they give one or two what they call the State of the Union Address, and it is a time to give everybody what they think is the state of the union, and it is true. I will tell you right now, the state of the union, it is a mess. I had a FedEx guy the other day drop a package off; it had to be signed for. Barb got to him before I did, and I do not know what they were talking about. I asked him why they had to sign now, and he says, "Yeah, that is the way it is right now. You have to sign for everything." I

said, "Yeah, that is the world we live in." He looks at me and he says, "What do you think it would take to change this world?" Well, I said, "UPS." I said, "I said the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God." And he said, "Amen, that was the answer I am looking for." We got talking back and forth, and you know, he is walking down the yard, and I said, "Praise the Lord, brother," and he says, "Amen." This guy was a FedEx delivery driver, and he knew what the problem was in this country. You know, you have got pastors, politicians, people who have high political status, they cannot figure it out. Here is a FedEx guy who got it together. See, like most of you do.

It is a thing where this world is darkness, and when you got saved out of the darkness into the light, God took you out of that dark world, and now you are basking in the light of God's Word. Now the world is darkness, and what the devil has done, he knows it is darkness. He thrives in the darkness.

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

I preached that one time, I got ahead of myself and I said, "Men love darkness rather than light because their sneeds were evil." So you have got to think before you say it. But what he has done, he uses the darkness. He has strewn through the darkness of this world snares, pitfalls, everything to trap you, everything to enslave you, everything to give you a false understanding of what true light is as you stumble through the darkness. This is why so many people wind up with the disasters in their lives. It is why they wind up with the personal problems they have of drugs or alcohol or whatever. It is why marriages fail. It is why kids go into the world. The devil thrives in the darkness, and what he does is he strains the dark world with every entrapment and pitfall that he can to snare us. The Bible is the light of God. It will give us the light to see those entrapments, to be able to avoid them. This is the importance of understanding definitive verses. Defining verses in your life and my life will be: you are faced with darkness or light. You are faced with one way you have got to go, and you may not be sure how to go. The light of the Word of God will illuminate everything around you and show you the right way and the wrong way. Then it comes down to your choosing. It comes down to you deciding which one you are going to do, and the Bible is the light of God's Word, and it gives us the light and shows us as a trap.

Our verse says that the Word of God is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I want to take a few moments out of this verse, it is all I want to deal with today, and based on what I said last week and what we saw in John chapter 14 and what I have told you before, I want to show you five kinds of lamps, five kinds of lights for you and for me that the Holy Spirit of God through the Word of God provides us in life, that as we come out of the darkness and into the light, you do not ever have to fall for anything that the devil throws in your path through the Holy Spirit of God, as I said in John chapter 14, the light that shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not, the true light, the light of every man that cometh into the world.

V. Five Lamps of the Word of God

➤ The Bible as a Reading Lamp

First off, the Bible is a great reading lamp. You know, I cannot do this anymore. I start to read before I go to bed, and I am about two minutes into it, and I am asleep. But there was a time, and a lot of you like to read before you go to bed, and you know, maybe your spouse, you know, you cannot keep the light on because your spouse wants to sleep, you want to read. So you get one of these little lights that you put on the headboard, and it kind of just shines down on you so you can read while it is still dark, and your spouse can continue to go to sleep, and it is not a problem. The Word of God is just like that. You know, it shows me the importance of building a relationship with the Holy Spirit of God.

The Bible to an unsaved man or woman is a closed book. We know that from 1 Corinthians chapter 2, verse 14, where it says:

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

An unsaved man or woman has no spiritual discernment. Therefore, they get caught up in the false light. Therefore, they get caught up in the entrapments of the darkness, and they never see life, their life, the world as it really is. They walk through life in this illusion. When you read the Word of God, and the tragedy of that is this: the Bible is not only a closed book to unsaved people, the tragedy is it is a closed book to most saved people. They do not get it either. It is a thing, it comes down to our refusal to allow the Holy Spirit of God to turn on the lights in your life with your Bible.

You know, we in our bookstore over there, and if you take one of these as a gift, you can have something else. These are invaluable in Bible study. These are called China markers. I searched this on the web, and they actually originally were made in China, believe it or not. These are made in Peeker, Canada, but that is beside the point, which I think is a province of China. But anyway, these are invaluable when it comes to doing your Bible because there are things in your Bible you want to highlight. If you would look at my Bible, you will find red and yellow China markers all through my Bible. I use yellow to illuminate the things that I want to catch my attention. I use red for the things that I really want to catch my attention.

Now a lot of young Christians make rookie mistakes when it comes to the Bible. You will go out and you will get a new Bible, and you want to highlight some things, so you will go buy one of those magic marker highlights. Do not ever do that. They will bleed through your pages, and while you are underlining this verse in this page, you are underlining the next 10 verses in the next 10 pages. It bleeds through. These do not bleed through. On the first day, God made heaven and earth. On the second day, He made China markers. Third day, made duct tape, but that is another message.

But this is what you want to use, and many of you people, you know what I am talking about. You will go through the Bible, you will see a verse, you will see a principle, you will see something, and you will highlight it in this so it stands out. That is exactly what the Holy Spirit of God will do for you when you build a relationship with Him. It is like your little night light. It

shines light down on what your spirit will do for you. It will light down on what you are reading, and there will be times that you will be reading the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit of God will illuminate something to you. The Holy Spirit of God will lift something out that He wants you to see, and then you obviously mark it. But this is what the Holy Spirit of God, it is a reading lamp. It illuminates what you are reading, and it comes to the point where it shows you everything that you need to see. This is what the Holy Spirit of God does when you use Him as a reading lamp through the Word of God. He highlights those things in the Bible. He will show you as you are reading through there, and maybe you have a tough time and something that you are going through, and all of a sudden, out of nowhere, there is that verse, the verse you needed. You know how you found that? You found that because the Holy Spirit of God gave it to you in a time of need. When you have a defining moment, the Holy Spirit of God will be a reading lamp to you. It will illuminate the very text that you are reading. It will give you exactly what you want.

I have been in situations before, and you know, the older you get, the higher up the levels that you go of Him illuminating things. But I have been preaching places before and doing things, and I do this, it happens in institute all the time, or it happened when I am preaching many, many times. I have got my sermon together, I am going to town on it, I am doing it when I laid it out, and suddenly right in the text, God will just pop something up that I never saw before. He will illuminate that text. That is what He does. Most of God's people try to read the Bible without any illumination. They think that you get about, you get saved, and you get a Bible, you just start reading it. No, well, you start reading it, yes, but you have got to develop a relationship through the Word of God with the Holy Spirit of God, and He illuminates what you are reading. He will show you everything as the Bible says, He will lead and guide you into all truth.

➤ The Bible as a Heat Lamp

Then the second light or lamp is the Bible will be a heat lamp. It keeps the cold out. The Word of God is likened to light and heat. If you look at John chapter 1, it is like when you go back to Psalm chapter 19, verses 1 through 6, it is likened to heat. Nothing shall be hid from the heat thereof, talking about the Holy Spirit of God and the Word of God. It is a thing where you know this world is hostile. It is, I already told you that it is dark, but it is like the outermost planet in the solar system.

Now the planets here, we have nine planets in our solar system, and you know, they are all notable some way or the other. Mercury is the closest one to the sun, and you would think it is the hottest, and it truly it is. But Mercury's revolution around the sun is the same as its revolving 88 days. So having said that, the same side of Mercury always stays toward the sun. On the sun side, it is hot enough to melt lead, but on the other side, it is cold enough to freeze oxygen. It is the only, it is the coldest and the hottest planet, so they say, in the solar system.

Then when you come to Venus, Venus, you know, is kind of a hot place. They say it rains sulfuric acid there all the time, not a place you want to go on your vacation. Then you come to Earth, and Earth is here we are. You know, I read a book the other day that says, "Is there intelligent life in outer space?" I am going to write one that says, "Forget that, is there intelligent life on planet Earth?" Here we are, this is our planet. You know, you ever notice how God fixed this thing so it

is just right? People think that it is summertime because the Earth is closer to the sun in the summertime, and it gets cold because it is farther from the sun in the wintertime. A lot of people think that. You know, that is not true. It has nothing to do with the distance. In fact, the Earth is closer to the sun in the wintertime. It is the angle of the Earth.

A lot of people have a tough time. Years ago, I had a girl in my Sunday school class, and she was a nice girl, really was, but she was not the brightest light bulb in the box. I would hesitate to say that she was blonde because we have so many blondes here today, but so I am not going to say that she was blonde. But she is the kind of gal, she is the kind of gal, we went to the mall one time, and it had this big sign showing the whole mall, and it said, "You were here." And she looked at me and she says, "How do they know that?" She is a gal that drove down a road when it saw the deer crossing signs, and she says, "How do they get them to cross right there?" You know, one time she said she read on the internet that they were going to take a, they were going to take it, try to send an astronaut to the sun, bogus obviously. And somebody said, "Susie, they cannot send somebody at the sun." She says, "Oh, I thought they would go at night." That is where she is at. In the wintertime, it is not cold because the sun is farther, and in the summertime, tomorrow it is going to be, tomorrow is going to be in the 90s for the Fourth of July. Yeah, simple digits, man. But anyway, heat in there. But anyway, it is not because it is closer, it is because the angle. If you look at it, you will find that God put the Earth, chose the Earth the way that He wanted it to be because God has a plan for planet Earth. You are told that in the Bible. God created the Earth to be inhabited. He has a plan for it. You will find that in all the nine planets in our solar system, you are going to find that the only one that God named was Earth. The Romans named the other ones after gods, and the only one that God named was Earth. You know why? Because it is special.

So everything is perfect here. I know man is messing it up, and you know, all your gas-guzzling cars are destroying the ozone layer, and all your ladies with hairspray, you are destroying it. This is what man has done. Omel Savaka used to preach a message about the women's hairspray, and he said, "Let me told his wife that if you prayed as much as you sprayed, we would have a revival." Because back then, you do not do this now, and most of you young girls do not know that, but back in the day, what, 30, 40 years ago, hairspray was the key. You put your hair a certain way, then you sprayed it, and you could actually hit it with a hammer, and it would tinkle, but it would never, I mean, it was, it locked it in, man. But you had to put a lot of that stuff on it, man. I will tell you what is scary about that, you take a hand of hairspray and put a match in front of it, you have got a flamethrower. But you know, it is what it is.

But then you get out into the other planets. You see, they are all forbidding. Outer space is very uncooperative. Outer space is very unforgiving. This is why man was never given dominion of outer space in Genesis. He has got dominion over the land and the sea, the birds of the air, but not in outer space. That is somebody else's domain. So as you go through our solar system, the farther you get, the less light you have, and the darker and the colder it is. It is a lot like for you and for me as a Christian. The world we live in, the farthest planet we have is Pluto. Most people think that Pluto was named after Mickey Mouse's dog. No, that is not true. Pluto is the farthest planet. In fact, it is over five billion miles from the sun. It is the farthest planet. It is the darkest

planet. In fact, if you would stand on Pluto and look back at our sun, it would just look like, now you walk out to now in the sun, and it blinds you. If you were on Pluto and you were looking back at our own sun, it just looks like a bright star. There is no sunlight on Pluto, total darkness, and it is frigid. It is down, they say this, down they say of 380 some degrees below zero. That is how cold it is, almost absolute zero. It is freezing and it is dark. The people who named those, the Romans, they saw that distant planet out there that was in darkness, that was cold, and they named it Pluto because in Greek mythology, Pluto was the god of the underworld. So they thought that was very fitting.

In your Christian life, this world we live in, just like that, it is forbidding to you. It is uncompromising for you. It will destroy you. It will not cooperate with you. It will leave you in darkness and leave you out in the cold. That is why God gave you the Word of God to warm your soul. There is nothing that is warmer in that feeling in your life inside your soul when you are saved, when God is taking care of you, and you are having a good time with God. It does not matter what is going on in the world, you have got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in your heart, and it keeps you warm in this cold, dark world, and it is a heat lamp.

You know what, guys are on submarines and in the Navy, and they are down many times underneath the ocean for two or three months at a time. You do not get the vitamins from the sun, you get, so they have special lamps down there that every guy is required to spend a half hour a day or every other day or whatever under this lamp that he makes sure he gets the vitamins that he needs. You know, when we are out in the sun all day, we do not have to worry about it because of the fact that we just naturally get them. But that is what the Word of God does for it. It not only keeps you warm, it gives you the spiritual vitamins that you need through that warmth to carry you through. So the second thing, it is a picture of a heat lamp, and it is just that simple.

My job, you know, and in my job is to, and most people make this mistake, they think that, you know, they think that we have the world out there, and the world is cold, and you have the Word of God that keeps you warm. What the Word of God does is isolate you from the world, and it does not just isolate you, then it insulates you because isolation is not enough. Parents make this mistake where they think if they send their kid to a Christian school or they do this or they do that, which I am all for, I think that is a great idea, or you homeschool your kids, I think that is great, I think that is a wonderful way to do it. I think there is a lot of biblical background to that. But I am telling you this, if you think just because you send your kid to a Christian school that when they walk in that door, there is a big sign up there that says, "Devil, you cannot come in here," you are wrong. Many parents think they can just isolate their kids from the world, and they will be okay. No, you cannot. Yes, you have to isolate them, but you not isolate them. Sooner or later, they are going to get a job, and they are going to have to deal with unsaved people. Sooner or later, they are going to be out in the world on their own. It is not enough to isolate them; you have got to insulate them. When you insulate them, it keeps the warmth of the Word of God in and keeps the cold of the world out. It is a heat lamp.

➤ The Bible as a Safety Lamp

Then I will tell you the next thing, the Bible is my safety lamp. As I said, early in the world, the world is darkness, and the devil has booby traps everywhere around us. Yet the Word of God is a lamp unto my feet. Notice its feet, not your head, not your arms, your feet, and a light unto your path because as a Christian, once you get saved, you have a journey you have got to walk through for the Lord, and it is a thing where he puts those traps and those snares on that path that will trap you.

In Vietnam, I mean, it was always bad in war, but Vietnam was terrible. The Viet Cong were ingenious at booby traps. I mean, the Japanese, well, those Shemites, the Japanese did it too, but nothing like the Viet Cong. I mean, the Viet Cong, one of the rules in combat in Vietnam was never walk the same trail twice. If you go up the trail to go someplace, you better find another way back because as sure as you are walking, Charlie has booby-trapped that puppy, and you cannot see it. They would take those things called punji sticks, and those punji sticks were bamboo poles that they would sharpen, they were razor point, and they would dig a hole in the ground, and they would stick them up, and they would coat them with something, but I cannot tell you what they coat them with, but you can figure it out in your own mind that the moment you stepped on one, you got instant infection. So they would, they would coat them with human waste. They would put them in the hole, and they would cover it up on the trail that you could not see it. A GI would come walk along, and they were set up that they had, they had, they had a trap plate that you stepped on, and then two side plates, and when you stepped on it, it went through your feet, and then both side things come up and impaled both sides of your legs, and they were terrible. They had them across the trail where you would walk, and you would catch on your foot, and a thing would swing out and impale you in your chest with eight or nine of them. They were incredible. They did all kinds of things like that. After a while, you know, we learned how to deal with that from the aspect that, you know, you just be smarter than the problem. But they were incredible at booby traps.

The devil is incredible at booby traps. He will, he will, he will all across your path of life, he will, he will put entrapments for you to catch you, and they are all going to deal with your feet because it is your feet that carry the gospel. It is your feet that takes you down life's road with God, and they are going to get it all the time that way. It is a thing where, you know, the Word of God now will be that lamp under your feet and a guide under your, under your path. That is why the devil hates the Bible. The Bible takes away his ability to trap us in the darkness. The Bible is your light that illuminates your path.

Now back in my day, when this came out, back probably in the late 60s and the 70s in the military, somebody invented what they, it had changed warfare, and they invented what they called a starlight scope. A starlight scope was an intensified tube that drew light from the stars and actually took black night and turned it into day. You would, you would be up in a bunker someplace and be a field down there, and you would take a starlight scope, you turn it on, you look down through it, and it would illuminate everything. You could see who was coming, where they were, and it illuminated warfare. Now they have defined that to this point now where every GI in the Middle East, you see those goggles on his, on his helmet, they all got them now, and when they go into a dark room, they, and the phrase, the phrase has become among GI soldiers

is, "We own the night." You see, the Viet Cong did not have those. Most of the Middle East do not have those unless they get them from us. But they, but they, they, they no longer can hide in the darkness. You take, you breach a dark room or a dark house, I mean, these guys got their goggles down, everything in there may be pitch black to my, it looks like daytime in there. They can see everything.

You know, I have always seen things like that, and you know, I understand, you know, I understand that Christianity is, is, is nothing more than, than, it should be an army, and I know we, we, you know, we got more conscientious objectors in, in Christianity than we got soldiers. But the bottom line is, we are an army. He has told us to endure good and hard, good hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the Captain of my salvation. You are going to find that the great battles in the Bible from Joshua all the way up through the Bible, there are pictures of the spiritual battles that you and I will, will face in life. I have always thought it, you know, that, that, that the world is darkness around us, and yet we have to travel, we have to, or we have to, we have to look around us to keep the safety of where we are going. For me, my Bible has always been my night vision. I like to, you know, because we are an army, and I treat you like an army, and I train you like an army, and you know, a little different than most churches, but you will notice that we do things around here and pick up logos out of the military that I think fit right into Christianity.

When you folks go over to our bookstore over there, you are going to find a bunch of green hoodies on hangers over there. Take one if you would like one. It is one of those little things that we did, and it has got a black image of a soldier kneeling down in combat, got his helmet on, his rifle and everything, and he is looking through his night vision scope, and with a phrase underneath of it, "We own the night." That is Christianity. We own the night. Night is a picture of the church age in the Bible. You have, you have before you the starlight scope that you need. You never have to be in this dark world ever again where anything can entrap you. This Bible will show you and illuminate the darkness around you and will show you every pitfall that the devil has laid for you. We own the night if you believe what the Bible says and you take and use the Bible, and that is, that is what we do here. It is a thing where, you know, there is absolutely no reason, absolutely no reason for any child of God to ever get caught back up in the world again. There is no reason; there is no excuse.

I have seen guys and gals, you know, they come to church here, and they get going for a while, and then they get drawn back into the world. They get back with their old buddies, they get back with their old friends, they start going down that old path that God delivered them from, and you know what? There is no excuse for that. You do not have an excuse. There is nothing you can say. There is no reason that you can give anybody of why that happened. You know why? Because you have got the book that is a lamp at my feet and a light under your path. You should never get entangled in the world again. You know why you do? Because you want to.

➤ The Bible as a Traveler's Lamp

Well, then the fourth thing, the Bible is my, it is my reading lamp, it is my heat lamp, it is my safety lamp, but it is also my traveler's lamp. You see, God has, we saw this in John chapter 14,

God has called all of us to do His work, and like the study in Abraham's life, we too have been called out to be used of God. Where Abraham was called out of Ur of the Chaldees to go to a place, the promised land that God had for him, the day you got saved, God called you. He has got something He wants you to do. He has got some place He wants you to go. Now, it may be right here in Kansas City, but within Kansas City, He has got some place He wants you to go and something He wants you to do, and He wants to use you.

What God, you know, in the Bible, He talks all the time, He says, He says, "Straight is the way." He says, "You know, straight line is your Christian life." You get from point A to point B. Point A is the day you get saved. Point B is where God takes you and He uses you, and it is a straight line. It is not complicated. Every one of you, if you are saved here this morning, the day you got saved, God plotted a course in your life. He had something He wanted you to do, and He gave you the Word of God as your traveler's lamp that would keep you on course. How did you get off course? What happened? It is not complicated. Oh, I know the theologians would go into all these great things. The psychologists would tell you all these things. I will make it real simple for you. God wants you to go from point A to point B.

Make it even simpler. Let us all go to Wichita, Kansas. How do we do that? Wichita, Kansas. If you get in your car, get on a freeway, head out west, and in about three and a half hours, you will be at Wichita. Now look at that as you getting saved, Kansas City, and then you are winding up doing what God wanted you to do. Point B, be Wichita. You should be in Wichita in three and a half hours. Some of you will get there in two days. Some of you will get there in 12 hours. Some of you will get there in two weeks. You know what messes up every trip we take from point A to point B? It is all the side roads we take. It is all the little side trips. You are going down the road to Wichita. About 30 miles down the road, you see a big sign, "15 miles, the world's biggest ball of tin foil." You just got to see that. So you get off. Now you are eating up time with the world's biggest tin foil ball. You get back on, and you start going down, and there it is, the world's biggest, 50 more miles, the world's biggest prairie dog village. Oh, we got to see that. So you get off there, and it is late now, so you decide to stay at Prairie Dog Village Motel, and it is just a hole in the ground, and you go, you know, you, you, you hang out there for a while, and now your three and a half hours have turned into a couple days. I am telling you, this is what has happened to so many of God's people. This is what has happened to some of you. God had a straight place, a straight course. He plotted your course. You just got to take all those side trips.

Now I got to be honest with you, I think one of the greatest inventions that the world has ever come up with outside of duct tape is the GPS. Now years ago, most of you do not remember, I remember when the first calculator came out. You take it all for granted. You have one in your phone, probably several at home. I remember when before that, you had to think, and then somebody come up with a calculator, and now, you know, you do not have to think anymore, which I am thankful for because I am terrible at math, and I like that. Now you got one on your phone. But when GPS just came out, remember they were those big things? Remember cell phones when they first come out? They were a 55-pound bag. You had to, you had to get a, you had to get a courier to carry it on his back for you. They were big bags, heavy, and it did not have very good reception, and if you wanted to call another state, it was like \$50 a minute. Now they

have refined it down where everybody has got one, and you have got everything you want. But I remember when they first came out, most of you could not get through your life a day without your cell phone, without your iPad, without your iPhone, without your Apple, without your Blackberry. They never bother you while they name all that stuff after fruits. It bothers me, but I do not have the answer for it, so I will not go, I will not give away. But anyway, you, you cannot get through life without it. What did we do before we had that? Changed our world, did it not?

GPSs, I remember when they came out, they were like this. You had to put them up in your dashboard, lick that sticker, and put it on the windshield, which fell off in about 20 minutes. Then you, you come to the place where you, you had to program it in, and it would pop up, and it would show you how to get there, and it would have this woman's voice, and she would say, "In two miles, you are going to turn left." And then when you did not follow it, she would say, "In another half a mile, make a U-turn and go back on thing." When you, I just went so long, and she really got upset with me after a while because I would not follow. But anyway, you go down, now you have got them in your phone. You just put it in your phone. What is that lady's name? Selsa, Saucy, Siri. Yeah, Siri. Yeah, you just tell her, "Hey, Siri, baby, I want to go here." Give her the address. "I am working on it now. Do not call me near." And then you come, she comes, it is incredible stuff.

But I am going to tell you like this, we are all the same. Every time it tells me how to get there, I think I know a better way to get there. I think I know a quicker way, and it usually gets me lost. We all have this ability or inability, or we have this infirmity that we think we know more about when somebody tells us the right way to go. You know, it started, it started with your parents when you were 18 or 19. They tried to tell you which way to go. You did not believe them anymore than I believe my GPS. But it all goes back to God because God has a course laid out for you that He wants you to go on, that He wants you to follow, point A to point B. But we just think we know a better way to get there, a shortcut. When it comes to St. Louis or it comes to Wichita, you may be able to find a shortcut and get there, but when it comes to God, there are no shortcuts. You have got to go the way God wants you to go, and that is, that is why the Bible is such a traveler's lamp. You know, I tell my people when Bible, in the two, we are in the book of Acts right now, and I tell them that, you know, the book of Acts really is the key book in the Bible that is the traveler's lamp down through church history. It shows you every straight way to go. It shows you the detours that they took. It shows you the problems they got into because they took those detours, and it just shows you what Jesus knew exactly what He was saying when He said, "Straight and narrow is the way," and that is the way we should go.

➤ The Bible as a Nightlight

Well, then the last thing, the Bible is my nightlight by my bedside. Now in the Bible, you know this, of course, we are likened to children. You have got people who get educated with the Bible beyond their intelligence, and they think they are really smart, and they know more about everything even than God does. But in bottom line, Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, He said:

Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

You see, the apostles had gotten really big now and professional, and I am sure they had ordered a big Greyhound bus for the Jerusalem tour, and they were out there hanging out with the Lord doing all these great things and seeing all these miracles, dead people being raised, lepers being healed. I mean, it was a great deal, it was a good gig. All of a sudden, all these little children, you know how children are, dirty, they are little, they are snotty, they come running up around the apostles and Jesus. Well, they all got big, stark white robes on, the last thing you want are little dirty fingerprints on your white robe, and they, they say they try to forbid the children to come to Jesus. That is a great illustration in the Bible because it shows us that if you are going to come to the Lord Jesus and you are going to get anything from Him, you have got to drop your PhD and your doctor's degree, and you have got to come as a little child, just childlike faith, and just believing what God tells you.

Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

You know, years ago, my girls might remember this. Years ago, we were driving back from Ohio. We were there on vacation. Early in the morning, we leave like four o'clock. It must have been around 5:30, Barb is asleep, and the two girls were up, and they were very little, and they were very little, and we are driving along, boring morning, you know, but they are down there, we are talking, and they are up, you know, bright eye and everything. Okay, so I am in the inside lane, this big Cadillac Eldorado comes pulling up alongside, and then just moves on ahead. We all looked over, the guy early in the morning, probably had a cup of coffee there, he had a seat back headrest, probably got his two fingers on the steering wheel, does not like this. But from our van, it looked like he was asleep. My girl said, "Daddy, look at that guy, he is, he is driving while he is asleep." Well, being the father that I was at that particular point in time, I said to them, "Yes, girls, that is one of those new automatic cars that you can sleep while it drives." Little did I know that they have those now today. So then I start to really get into it. They are into it. They are saying, "Really, Daddy?" I said, "That is right." And he says, "How does it work?" And I said, "Well, you know, back then, you guys older people know, remember them fender things they had sticking out there that you said you guys already got too close to the curb?" Well, all big Cadillacs had them, and you know, so they are hanging out on the veils, and I said, "You see those little wires hanging down there? They have sensors in them, and you see the white lines on the road? It kind of keeps them from going left and right. It just keeps it in the middle." I said, "You see those lights on the back?" I said, "Those are, those are electronic sensors. They pick up when somebody gets close. He has got them on the front, and it picks them up when he gets too fat, and it moves him all around." And I said, "You can get in there, push those buttons, turn it on, and just like he is, just go to sleep." Well, they are ecstatic at this point, and they are yelling, "Daddy, can we get one of those? Daddy, can we get one of those?" And about that time, they wake up Barb, and she was not happy that I had told that story to the kids.

But I thought about that for years and years and years and years and years later, especially to my life today as a Christian. You know what? That is just the way God wants me to be. He wants me to believe everything He says, every story He tells me, no matter how ridiculous it may sound to the world, no matter how it may be out of touch with reality as the world is concerned, just a

childlike faith that I will believe everything that God tells me, no matter what it is. If I walked out there and the moon was that yellow colored, and God says, "That moon is, that moon is that is cheese, Bob," I would say, "Man, I bet the angels have the crackers." I would believe Him. You know, when God took Abraham out back there in chapter 12 and 15, He showed him the stars of heaven, and He said, "Someday your seed is going to be like." Abraham believed Him. It is that childlike faith, folks, that we just simply believe whatever He tells us. That is the key to not being afraid.

As little children, they always get scared of the dark, so you have to leave a little night light on for them in the room. There will be times when we get scared in this old dark world, and you know that is true. You know when you get into a dark place, the darkness makes your imagination run wild. You see things that are not there. You hear things that mean nothing, but yet they scare you. I mean, you look over at your door in this dark, just enough, just a little bit of light, and you are sure there is somebody standing up against your door, and then you turn on the light, somebody hung a robe up on the door. See, there has actually been a number of cases where a guy was working midnights and came home off early after shift about one or two o'clock in the morning, came into the house, his wife woke up out of a sound sleep and shot him, thought he was an intruder. Darkness and being scared of the darkness impairs us to good judgment because it scares us.

The Bible is my nightlight. It just takes away the fear.

1 John 4:4Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

It talks about perfect love casting out fear in verse 18. I do not know if you know that the devil has, if you are saved this morning, the devil has absolutely no power over you. He cannot do anything to you. He cannot hurt you. He cannot give you cancer. He cannot put you in a car wreck. He cannot do one thing to you without God's permission, and he knows that. But I will tell you what he does and what he can do: when you do not have your Bible down and you do not have the sure Word of God in your life, he plays on your fears, and we walk right into it because that is all he has. When we do not know our Bible, he will play on that unknown, and we, when we have those Bible principles, will, will, when we do not have those Bible principles, will allow fear to run our life.

2 Timothy 1:7For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Throughout the Bible, you will find God says over and over and over and over and over again, "Fear not, fear not." I do not have to be afraid of this old world. I do not have to be afraid of the darkness. I am a little child, but my nightlight is the Word of God, and it will show me within the world of this darkness what will scare most people, and you do not have to be afraid. It will show you the reality of it. It will show you over and over again. He says that the entrance of thy word giveth light and it gives understanding to the simple. When God illuminates the darkness of that room, and that little nightlight shows you what is really going on, or you are in the world, and you have got your night vision scope, and you are seeing everything out there on your path and

your, on your way, you are going through life, we do not have to be afraid. There is no reason to be afraid.

I will tell you right now, outside of just getting back into the world, which a lot of God's people do, the thing that will keep most of God's people from ever serving God is you are afraid. You are afraid what people will think about you. You are afraid what people will say about you. You are afraid of what your friends will think. You are afraid of what is going to happen here. You are afraid God may put you some place that you are not ready to do what God wants you to do. It is fear. It is fear. Fear is the greatest deterrent that God's people have because the devil will play on it. It is always God, and we play right into his hand because we do not have the assurance of that book, the sure Word of God, to illuminate everything around us and give us what we need to know.

Now that is how you allow the Bible to work for you, to work through you. That is how when you are faced with the defining moments in your life, you use definitive verses. This is why you are all going to be faced with things that will scare you. There are things that will unnerve you, and your first reaction will be fear. I am telling you, it is the difference between reacting to something through fear and then responding to something through the principles of the Word of God, and it brings you to the point where you realize that perfect love casts out fear, that we do not have to be afraid of anything. We fear the Lord, that is what we fear. The Bible says that we are better off to fear not them that can kill the body and soul, but rather fear Him who could destroy both body and soul in hell. Fear the Lord. But unfortunately, we fear the world more than we fear the Lord, and that becomes the problem.

Allowing the Holy Spirit of God to do His work through the light, the lamps of the Word of God, five of them. Psalms 119, verses 1 through 176, is the greatest chapter in the Bible that is completely dedicated to you and me getting everything out of the Word of God that we can. I am not kidding you, just look at it. Every verse will have something that the Word of God will do for you or God wants you to do for Him once you get the Word of God.

VI. The Importance of Loving God's Word

I always tell you this, and I have said this for years and years and years: the key to learning God's Word, boy, it looks like a mammoth task, it is not. But you want to remember, the key to learning God's Word will not be that you study it, though I am going to tell you right now, study to show myself approved. The real key to learning God's Word will not just be reading it, though you are going to have to read the Word of God. The real key to learning the Bible will not be just memorizing the verses or passages, though you are going to have to do that. But the real key to learning God's Word is simply loving it. If you will love it, you will learn it. If you love it, you will memorize it. If you love it, you will study it. If you love it, you will read it. That is just as simple as that.

I leave you with again, Psalm 119, one of my favorite passages that have meant so much to me, and hopefully after today, it will be highlighted in your Bible if it is not already.

Psalms 119:97-104 O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

This church, I, as your pastor, I have three fundamental goals, three reasons that we do what we do.

4. The first reason is to show you the truth to get you saved. Men and women come in here that are good people, but they are not saved. They do not know for sure if they die right now that they would go to heaven. That is a terrible situation to find yourself in, to be swallowed up in the darkness of this world, only to be swallowed up in the darkness of eternity. The Bible wants you to see the truth, and maybe through what I have said today, if you are here and you do not know for sure if you die right now that you would go to heaven, maybe it helps you see the truth of God's Word that hopefully you will want to do, want to get saved.
5. The second thing is after you get saved, to show you the truth that will lead you through life. Again, there is no reason for you to go back into the world. There is no entanglement that is permissible. God will always do what is right by you. He will always give you the light to show you the obstacles. The problem is the reason why, and if you are here this morning and you are back into the world as a Christian, there is one answer to that, pal. There is one answer, sweetheart. You shut off the light, and you, you shut off the light not because God did it. You shut off the light not because your batteries in it went dead. You shut off the light because you wanted to shut it off.
6. Then the third thing, I want to show you the truth to get you saved. I want to show you the truth after you get saved, and then I want to keep you in the truth to keep the light on that you never have to face the darkness of this world ever again.

There may be times in your life, it is easy now when we are all here. It is easy now when we are all together. It is easy now after the song service or during the song service when everybody is singing and praising the Lord. It is easy throughout the day tonight when we are all together, tomorrow when we are all together. But I am going to tell you right now, and you need to listen to me very carefully, there may come a time in your life when you have to stand all by yourself. There may come a time when the person sitting next to you, behind you, in front of you, or the person that is discipling you or working with you is no longer able to do that. There may come a time in your life when you have to stand on your own two feet, just like so many people have done in the Bible. You will not have anybody to run to. You will not have any pastor to call. This world is going to get so cruel and is going to put such a clamp on everything that God is doing that you may find yourself out there all by yourself.

I am telling you right now, the person that is discipling you, you, me as your pastor, this church, everything here, as good as it is, in time, if you do not develop yourself, will just be as good as it is, will become a crutch. It will become your place of refuge that when you have problems, you

have not developed yourself to the place you have to run back to mama, so to speak. I am telling you that is okay, I get it. But I am telling you right now, and it has been true all down through church history, there may come a time when you have to stand all by yourself, and the only thing that is going to get you through is the light that shineth in darkness. The only thing that is going to get you through is, "Thy word is a light under my feet and a light into my path." That is the only thing that is going to keep you that when you are faced with everything coming down around your shoulders, you do not have to have fear. You understand it because you have understanding that is given to the simple because you just simply believe whatever God told you to believe.

Now I know I talk like this, and somebody out there just let it go one ear and out the other. But I am just telling you, we live in a world that is like living on the farthest planet in the solar system, and we live in a world where the devil has one goal, and that is to destroy you, your family, your marriage, and everything that God has put in your life, and the only way he can do that is for you to invite him in. It is up to you.

Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. We ask You, Father, to take what we have talked about today and to help us not only to understand the defining moments, but now have a better appreciation how to take the Word of God and make it work for us in those defining moments. We love You. If there be somebody here today, Lord, that does not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior, let him come and talk to me this morning. Let us take the Word of God and show them how they can know for sure that they could become a Christian and have a home in heaven and know that their sins are forgiven and know if they would die this very moment that they go home to be with You. We love You. We thank You for this church. We thank You for all that You have given us. We just pray, Father, the rest of this weekend You will bless us, keep us safe, but let us have a good time as a family, and we love You and thank You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen. Make sure you.