

I. The Importance of Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

You remember last week, and I like to keep a continuity going between what we did last week and what we are going to do this week because they all flow together. We looked at the next level of the importance of rightly dividing the Word of Truth. We have always preached that. I have always taught that. We have talked about it in Bible study many times. I have talked about it in preaching many times. You have gotten it one-on-one from the people through discipleship and all the things that we do.

I cannot speak for you, but I know for me right now, I feel the urgency of the next level of where God is taking us as a church for all of us to get and understand how important it is to be able to do that. We have talked a lot about understanding, how that a man will get facts, that is knowledge, a man will get wisdom. Any unsaved man can get facts and knowledge and convert it into wisdom to do something better than maybe the ordinary person. But understanding in the Bible, you have heard me say this many, many times, only comes from God. Understanding from the Bible standpoint is how God is really doing things and why He is doing it the way He is doing it.

Last week, we gave you the verse on it in Job 32:8-9, that we get understanding from the inspiration of the Almighty. That was clearly clear last week, and that simply means that you get understanding through the book that God gave us that is inspired, that is perfect, that is the complete revelation of God to man without any error, that being a King James 1611 Authorized Version.

I showed you how that the Bible last week was a living book, unlike any other book that you are going to pick up and read. The thing that makes it alive and a living book is the fact that it is complete in three parts. We talked about the doctrinal application, the inspirational application, and the historical application. We have talked about that many times. Just like you and I, what makes us complete is that three part of the body, soul, and spirit all connected to God. Between the two, the Word of God rightly dividing it, and it coming alive, and you and I becoming alive in Christ Jesus, the key to all of that is a good balance.

Many churches, all they get is the inspirational. Many churches, all they get is the historical or current events of what is going on today. The thing that is definitely missing in Christianity today in preaching anyhow is a balance. God's people need to have a balance. The only way you get a balance is to be shown through the Word of God and its teaching how to have a balance. I showed you how that I used the example of an engine in a car last week and how you can have the most powerful engine on the planet, but if you pull the spark plugs out of it, it is not going to go anywhere and the engine is dead. I showed you how that you can have the Bible, which is an amazing book and the greatest book that was ever written, but you lose the doctrinal aspect of it. It is like somebody pulling the spark plugs, and it becomes just a dead book.

I told you we defined, if you remember, two key words last week. One of them was the word doctrine, which I have talked about that before, it means to teach. But doctrine is when we talk about doctrine being a teaching, it is the central teaching or the central focus of the Word of God. That is what the doctrinal application will always be. It will be the central teaching and the central focus of the Word of God, and listen to me, that will be built around the theme of the Bible. The theme of the Bible will always be the second coming of Christ and establishment of His kingdom.

When you read in the Old Testament and you get a doctrinal application, it will throw you forward to the prophetic side of things in the future. This is what makes the Bible come alive. This is where you can look at history. You can make the parallels from history into the Word of God and what God is doing. It is the doctrinal application that will take all the information you get and form it around the theme of the Bible, which is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I showed you also along with that, I showed you the parallels between the nation of Israel and us as the body of Christ. We have been talking about how to be able to read something and see who it really applies to, that you do not get into bad doctrine trying to apply something to the nation of Israel and stick it into the church. We have spent a lot of time doing that and we will continue to do that to keep everybody fresh on that. But there are some parallels, and this is your ability goes back to rightly dividing and getting those three areas, doctrinal, inspiration, and historical, working in a balance for you.

I know a lot of what I am saying this morning, some of you are sitting out there and you have just gotten dialed into the Bible. You are growing, you are being disciplined, you are new to this church. Let me just say this to you, it will come in time. You have working with you, whoever is working with you, the best that this church has to offer. I do not put second stringers to work with people in helping you with the Bible. They have proven themselves to me, and I know they know what they are talking about, and I know they know what they are doing. So you have got the best of the best. You have Thursday night, you have our one-on-one time, you have what we do on Sunday morning. You have everything you need to get there in time. You have to stay diligent in learning this stuff, applying this stuff, and then letting God take it and grow you.

The parallels between the nation of Israel in the Old Testament and the church, you and me, the body of Christ. Both, as I said last week, are called God's son in the Bible. Actually, in Exodus 4, Israel as a corporate nation is called God's son. You and I as individuals, once we have experienced a new birth and been complete in Christ Jesus, we are God's son. You are going to find a lot of things that Israel does will mirror what we have to deal with and what we do.

I showed you how that you and I need to abide in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ through our fellowship. We do not have to abide in our salvation. You are sealed unto the day of redemption. You can never lose your salvation, but you can lose your fellowship. It is a thing where I showed you out of John 15:11, the parallels between the Gospel of John and the Epistle of 1 John. How the Gospel of John deals with salvation, but the Epistle of 1 John deals with our fellowship. In both cases, the parallel being our joy to be full. That is what God wants. The world does not have

any joy for you. It has a lot of things that are smoke screens and mirrors that looks like it has some good stuff for you, but it does not. The only real joy that you are ever going to experience will be the joy that you have through your relationship and your fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ through the Word of God. That ought to be the number one thing you guard above everything else in your Christian life. Because you lose that, you may still go to heaven, which obviously you will, but you will go to heaven in a miserable state. God never intended us not to have joy. That is why He told us in 1 John, and we saw it last week in the Gospel of John, that the Word of God that He wrote to you and me was that our joy may be full. That is what He wants for you. That is my goal for you. I cannot make you have that joy, but I can teach you the things that will bring you into that glorious time of the joy and the relationship with Him.

II. The Definition of Ordained: Bearing Fruit That Remains

I talked about the second key definition that we looked at was found in John 15:16. This was our verse last week, and we are going to kind of move on, but we are going to come back to this one.

John 15:16

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

This was an understanding from a Bible standpoint of the word ordained. The word ordained, and I told you last week, means to invest in something. It means to establish something. It is the understanding that when we win someone to Christ, when someone comes into the church and gets saved, we have an obligation to bear fruit. Praise the Lord. But we also have an obligation that our fruit is to remain. We are not just to bear it, but we are to try to make everything we can do to keep it where it needs to be and to keep it to grow. We do that by investing in somebody to establish somebody. That is the Bible definition of ordained.

Now, reality check, I get it. Over the years, and I am sure that you have seen this with the people that you work with, and even in the 19 years plus we have been here, you are not going to keep everybody that comes through the door. You are just not going to. No church is going to. There is no church where everybody that ever shows up says, "Wow, this is it. This is where I want to stay." People come and people go for various reasons. Sometimes, it is just too much damage has already been done. I believe that God brings people here to show them the truth that whatever problem they have got, they can fix it. In reality, there is nothing that you are struggling with, nothing that you are going through, nothing that you are having an issue with that cannot be fixed.

The other Thursday night, we talked about the great physician, the Lord Jesus Christ. We talked about the aspect of how to break strongholds in your life. I told you that the Bible is a book of spiritual prescriptions. It will fix any problem you have got spiritually. It will help you get through it. But many times people have so much damage already done, and they have made so many bad choices that they just cannot get past that. They are like somebody with terminal cancer. They just cannot get to the point where they actually get the help that they need. It is too

late, too little too late. Our job is to give them the best chance we can. We do not always keep everybody, but we do what we can do to get everybody the truth that if they want to do it.

In other words, what I am saying is we make the initial investment. We do not ask you to invest in our church first. That would not be fair. It would not be right. We ask you to allow us to invest in you first. Once we get you established, then you can invest in what God is doing here. But you need to understand what is happening. You need to get a foundation in your life. You need to be able to look at the building blocks of the Word of God that will build your life.

III. God's Plan to Bear Fruit Through Investment

God's plan all through the Bible, and this is what you have got to begin. I am going to broaden this thing for you about bearing fruit. God's plan all through the Bible has been to bear fruit through investment to establish His plan, His work. It is a great study in itself. We see all the way at the beginning in Genesis 1:28. When God put Adam and Eve down in the garden, what was the purpose of that? What was His plan?

Genesis 1:27-28

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

That is the beginning of God's plan on earth. He takes Adam and Eve and sets them down there and He says in essence, "You are to bear fruit." The fruit that you bear is going to build men and women to have a relationship with Me. In time, this is the eternal fruit bearing process that was given to Adam and Eve that would have fulfilled God's plan that we find in Isaiah 9:6-7. Well, what happened? It got canceled. God gave them the commission to bear fruit, to bring the world into the light of God's Word and fellowship and fulfill the eternal destiny of the increase of His government. There shall be no end, and it got canceled.

The next thing we see is God raises up a man named Noah. Once it got canceled with Adam and Eve, the world goes upside down into sin. It is a mess. So what does God do? God looks down and He says, "You know what? I am going to wipe out planet earth and I am going to take the wickedness off this planet and I am going to start again." So He finds a man named Noah. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. After the fall of Adam, He turns His plan to now a literal kingdom. He knows it cannot be the same thing as it was in Genesis with Adam and Eve. That is gone. But now He wants to establish a literal kingdom. So He takes a man Noah, who we know as the father of the Gentiles in liturgy. He is the 10th from Adam. He wipes out the wicked earth that is controlled by Satan. All the sons of God, kills everybody. But you have Noah and his family. When they come out of that ark in Genesis 9, the Bible says:

Genesis 9:1

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

He gave him the exact same commission to bear fruit that He gave Adam, just in a different set of circumstances. But it got canceled.

Then we see God turning to the establishment of the nation of Israel, do not we? We see from Noah, just two chapters later in Genesis 11, a guy by the name of Abraham pops up who later becomes Abraham. We see God calling him out and taking him to a place that God is going to make him the father of many nations. We see through him, his sons, we see the nation of Israel being born and brought into prominence through Jacob, the 12 tribes. We see now again that Israel was God's identity to reach the world and to bear fruit. God this time was going to do it through a nation. He started with Adam and Eve who was in the image of God, they lost that image. He then went to Noah and that fell apart. So now He calls out a nation. This is going to be God's structure throughout the Old Testament, the nation of Israel.

God's plan for them was to raise them up, to establish them, to invest in them, to establish them as God's nation. Then they were going to reach the world in the Old Testament with God. It comes very close with Solomon where if you read it, you do not get this in secular schools or anything, probably most Bible colleges, but it is true in the Bible. There was a time when the nation of Israel was the greatest known nation on planet earth under Solomon. All the other nations of the world knew where God was, and God was moving toward that. He wanted the nation of Israel to be the blessing that families and nations would all find God. Israel was to bear fruit, to take the message of God, who God was, what Jerusalem was to the world and take it to the world that they may bear the fruit that God could establish His kingdom.

Matthew 21:33-38, probably one of the greatest places in the Bible. If you want a capsule understanding of God dealing with the nation of Israel, I cannot ever find a better place. It says this:

Matthew 21:33-38

33 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

Let me just give you the key players here. I am not going to get into this for a long time, but here is how it works. The householder, that is God the Father. The vineyard, that is the nation of Israel with particular reference in the Bible to Jerusalem. The husbandmen will be the leaders of the nation of Israel, the kings that get established in 1 and 2 Chronicles and 1 and 2 Kings. The servants will be the Old Testament prophets. As we get down here toward the end, His son obviously is the Lord Jesus at the first coming of Christ.

So with that little information here, let us look at it. It says, "Hear another parable, there was a certain householder," now we know God, "which planted a vineyard," now we know Jerusalem, "and hedged it round about and digged the winepress in it and built a tower and let it out to husbandmen and went to a far country. And when the time of the fruit drew near, He sent His servants to the husbandmen that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took His servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another." You will find all these, the beat one, that killed another, and stoned another, you will find them in the Old Testament identified as the prophets. "Again, He sent other servants more than the first and they did unto them likewise. But last of all," here it comes, "He sent unto them His son," first coming of Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ, "saying they were to reverence My son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir, come let us kill him and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught Him and cast Him out of the vineyard and slew Him."

My point is simply this, Israel was commissioned to bring forth fruit that it might remain. It got canceled too. All three of these, you will see God calling them, see God investing in them, and you see God establishing them. Now you have got to get this. If you do not get nothing else out of what I say today, you need to see this. Because where we are going and what God has for us to do is the same commission to bear fruit that our fruit might remain. So you better learn the lessons of history today or we will fall into the same trap. No, maybe you will, I will not.

In all three of these, God called them: Adam and Eve, Noah, the nation of Israel. He invested in them. He had Bible studies with Adam and Eve in the cooler today. He met with Noah and all the things that He did. Then of course the nation of Israel. Then He established them. But in each case the devil, get this, do not lose it. We have got one more to look at after these three, and I want to make an emphasis on this before we get to that. The devil in each case, listen to me, he infiltrated them and destroyed the plan of God and the work of God to reach the world. Everyone that God put into the Old Testament, the devil infiltrated, found a way to stop it, and found a way to destroy God's plan.

Now that sounds like poor God better get on the stick and find out what is going on around here. No, no, no, no, no, no. God knows what He is doing. His Bible tells us He created a devil for a purpose. So we are seeing the unfolding plan of God, but you are also seeing how God teaches us by the mistakes of others. My dear friend, I am telling you something. I like to scream this to the top of my lungs to the world, the politicians, the government, everybody, every Christian I know, but they just fall on deaf ears. So I will just scream it to you. You better learn the lessons of history because when you do not, you are doomed to repeat the failures of history. That is one of the greatest things that I was ever told and one of the greatest things that I have ever told you.

IV. The Church: God's Fourth Structure to Bear Fruit

Finally, we find God calling His fourth structure to bear fruit, and that is you and me as the body of Christ. As we have seen, Christ gave Himself on the cross. He paid for your sin debt and my sin debt. Then after we are saved, He called us. He called us to reach the world with His gospel. He called each one of you this morning. If you are saved here this morning, God has called you. The problem is you have not answered the phone, but He has called you. You are not here this morning just because you are saved and God thought you were so great that He just wanted you in heaven. He saved you for a purpose just like He did with Adam and Eve. Just like He did with Noah. Just like He did with the nation of Israel. He had a plan for them to bear fruit, and the plan for you and me is to bear fruit and that our fruit should remain. We have got a calling.

We are told in Proverbs 11:30 that the fruit of the righteous is the tree of life, and he that winneth souls is wise. We see in the book of Acts the establishment of you and me, the church. How it started, how it transitioned. You find where the first person is truly saved like you and me. The beginning of you and me as the body of Christ, God's fourth installment to bear fruit. In each case, God all the way back to Adam and Eve and certainly including you and me, I want you to see this. The fruit bearing always depends on our relationship and our fellowship with God. It was true of Israel, and it is true of us. In each case, every case, the devil came in and destroyed the plan of God. He did it with Adam and Eve. He did it with Noah. He did it with Israel, and he has done it to the body of Christ. The quicker you learn that, the better off you are going to be. You have been called for a purpose, and the devil does not like the fact that you got called. He would love for you not to answer the phone.

V. The Decline of Baptist Churches and the Rise of Apostasy

Last week, I gave you a little history lesson on Baptist churches. I could never thank God enough for allowing me, if I had to be born in this putrid Laodicean church period, I least thank Him that He let me see the best of both worlds. I gave you a little history lesson last week on Baptist churches and how that they had lost everything that God had given them. If there was certainly in the 20th century a group that God could have done something with. Baptist history in America is an incredible study. We certainly do not have time to get into it today. But I actually saw back in the 60s and the 70s and the 80s and all the way up to where I am at today, I actually see and understand totally the mess that we are in.

I enjoy our little one-on-one conversations that many of you guys and gals will come up and you will ask me questions about the way it was back in the day. You will ask how did this do or what did that happen. I really enjoy that. I really do. But it is clear to me as much as I love you and there is no way you could do this, it is clear to me that most of you have no clue the way it was back in the day. It was a different world, folks. It was a different world. This is not a criticism. It does not matter to me, but we were talking last night at Jason's Deli, and I told them that back in the day when I was learning all of this, we had an athletic program just like we have here. Except

the difference was to know that there was a guy there, he was a good guy, man, loved the Lord, loved the book. I mean, he was as solid as can be, but they were so out of touch with reality.

We had a basketball league. What an opportunity to reach people. We do not have that here, but we have a softball, we have a volleyball, but I am telling you right now, this guy would go around and if you brought a visitor and that visitor's hair touched his ear, he could not play. They were so hung up on long hair if it was anywhere like most of you guys have today, most of you guys are military cut, but every once in a while we get a shaggy dog coming in, and there is nothing wrong with that. They could not play, and I thought to myself for years, I saw it back then, I thought, what do we do with people who are lost without Christ and we are going to turn them away because their hair touches their ears?

The church back then, if you were black, you could not join Baptist churches. Black people had their own Baptist churches. My guy I won to Christ, John Tony, who wound up being a successful pastor, still is as far as I know. I saw him again when Mel's funeral was. I wanted him to Christ, and he got on fire, and I asked Mel, "He wants to be baptized, Mel." Now the Bible says that when you get saved, you need to get baptized. This guy got saved, wanted to be baptized, but I was told that he could not be baptized in a white church. Now that did not stop Mel, he just had him here 10:30 tonight after everybody is gone, and we will baptize him, and we did, but that was the world we lived in.

I do not care, this is not, I am just, I am talking to you now, back then you never wore shorts to church. It is a different world now, I get it, I understand, but back in the day when you went to the doctors if you were sick, you wore a suit and tie or you wore a dress. You just did not flop in into your floppy flop shoes and say, "Hey, I got, look at my tongue." It was a different world. I am not saying there is anything wrong with this one. I am just saying you guys do not know that. You think it has been this way all of your life, and it has not. Something changed, and what changed was churches' attitude toward the Word of God, and it was an incredible thing. We have come to the point that we have lost the value of our own history as Baptists, and we do not know why we are so messed up today.

Back then, soul winning became a program. There was no power of the Holy Spirit of God in it. It was 100% flesh. It was a developing program to get a crowd so you could under the pretense of getting them saved, you could build a monstrous church, and this was the beginning of the first mega church program. I told you last week it was the Baptists, and I went through those for you last week. I am telling you right now, it was all high pressure soul winning. They had seminars, they had books, they had cassettes, they had all this stuff to teach you how to win people to Christ. It had absolutely nothing to do with a New Testament that shows you that there are three stages to soul winning, and the really way you know which stage you are in is through your inspiration and relationship with the Holy Spirit of God. None of that.

There were guys who would get up and say, "I will teach you how to win the next three people out of every five you meet to Christ." Well, who would want to do that? They would put high pressure on people. They would go door to door, and they would knock on the doors, and they would try to win somebody to Christ, and they would buttonhole them, and then they would

come away and have a meeting afterwards, “Well, I had 10 people saved. I had five people saved. Praise the Lord. Praise the God.” I am telling you right now, for the most part, none of those people got saved. It was all phony. It was all fake. I am telling you right now, the long term of that, always the short term, always the long term, that there are thousands and thousands of people out there today who want nothing to do with church, nothing to do with Christianity, want nothing to do with anything that is the truth because of the bad experience they had back in the day. The fallacy of getting people to getting people saved but never investing in them. I would say that 99% of those poor people that got browbeaten into being saved, there was no repentance.

The pattern is clear in the New Testament in the book of Acts. When a man got saved, the first thing he did is get baptized. The second thing he did was identified with the New Testament local church. You cannot get around that. Now here we are pretending that we go to a door, knocking the door, we win somebody to Christ, they never go to church, they never get baptized, and we actually think that they got saved. There has to be an investment. There has to be somebody making sure the fruit remains or at least giving them the best chance for it to remain. You do not do that by knocking on the door, meeting someone in an airplane, doing this or doing that or whatever you do, and never seeing them again. I am not saying that you do not witness to it. I am not saying that. I am just saying in the day and age that we live in, people know absolutely nothing about repentance, about God, about heaven or about hell. Then we show up like the man from Mars talking about things they have no clue about and think that they understand. This is the greatest danger for you people when it comes to the Bible and teaching the Bible. It is you thinking that people understand what you are saying. You understand it, so you get up there and just rattle it all off. This is the problem with you young preachers, and we are going to work on that. I have got some really again, some really good things lined up to help you, but this is the problem young preachers get into. They do not identify with their crowd. When you go down to the mission, you do not preach the 11 dispensations. You have got to be aware of your crowd. You cannot just exasperate everything you have learned about the Bible and then think because you understand it that they understand it. It does not work that way.

Winning people to Christ became back in the day the number one focus, and yet in the neo-evangelical world today and Baptist churches today again, it remains the central focus. The most important thing for a church is to win people to Christ. That is not true. The most important thing for a church is truth about how to win people to Christ because all the programs you put together today, mega church number two, the neo-evangelicals completely take over after the death of the Baptist movement. It is now the final phase of apostasy. If you know your history and you know the future, it is the final phase of apostasy of God calling out you and me as the body of Christ, giving us a commission, and again like Adam, Noah, and the nation of Israel, the devil has canceled our plan.

Yet there are more churches in this country today than there has ever been. You have the churches of 5,000, 6,000, 3,000, 10,000. Everybody is sitting around today just having a great time and praising the Lord. They have gotten completely rid of the Word of God, and now they bring in the world into the church to attract people. Absolutely no doctrine, absolutely no balance, absolutely no anything. Everything is just a fluffiness, or if you get into it, a movement,

a political movement. They get into that now. These churches are rallying around the Republican Party and all the good things because the Democrats are so terrible, and we are going to rally around that. We are standing for this, we are standing for that. You know what? You need to go back and get a good balance. The only king, the only government worth defending and establishing is the one that God is going to bring in at the second coming of Christ. The rest of it, I do not care what it looks like to you, and maybe it will cut you some money on your taxes, and now your gases will be a little lower, and all this thing. All that is good, so you are for it, but at the end of the day, they hate Christ just as much as anybody else does.

Now we see not only the death of Bible doctrine like I showed you last week, but we also see the death now of New Testament Christianity like the early church in Revelation 2:1-7. They left their first love, and that is the Bible. Like Israel in the parallels, we gave up God and His Word, and we married the world just like he did. Look at the book of Hosea. Now as Adam and Noah and Israel, we too have been canceled out, and all this is the devil's plan to one more time stop the work of God with God's own people. I am telling you, the real ability to win people to Christ is not based on some technique you have. It is based on your intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit of God. It is based on Galatians 5:22-23 with the nine fruit of the Holy Spirit that starts out with love, that is your relationship with God, joy, then that is inside because of that relationship of God, and then you have the peace of God. Now you are ready to do something. I do not know if you ever looked at those nine, the first three are in you toward God. The rest of them are all toward man after you get the first three in your life. It says, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." That is fellowship. That is fellowship.

VI. The World's Hatred of Christ and His Word

Today, I want to finish out John 15, and I want to look at what He tells us that we can expect, what you can expect. I already understand what to expect. I am under no illusion about it. My fear is so many of you, because you are good people, you will want to do what is right, but you do not have the time and grace yet necessarily to understand what you are up against. I want to look at what He tells us that we can expect going forward because when you answer God's call and you begin to build a relationship with the Word of God and begin to fulfill God's fruit bearing process in your life, there are some things that you need to understand because just like with Adam and Eve, they got canceled. Noah, he got canceled. Israel, they got canceled. The body of Christ got canceled. You better make sure you do not want to wake up some morning and look in the mirror and see the red stamp on your forehead, "Canceled."

So let us read John 15:18-27 and we will make some comments on it.

John 15:18-27

18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin.

23 He that hateth me hateth my Father also.

24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

25 But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

Now I want you to keep that in mind, we will come back to that in a moment.

Let us pray. Father, we do thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. Thank You, Father, for all You do. Thank You for the folks that are here today. Thank You for what You have done with us and Lord, all that You want us to do. Our fruit bearing is not only far from over, in a lot of ways it is just beginning. Help each one of us to understand what God has called us to do, and then as a church, as individuals, make sure that even though Christianity has been canceled overall and lost the whole concept, allow us to be God's remnant to be faithful unto the end, and we will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name for a sake we ask it. Amen.

When it comes to the Bible, we could say, and this would be absolutely correct to say this, that the Bible to most people is two fundamental books. To one group of people, it is the most loved book in the world. All of you here have the Word of God in your lap today, and you love it. You are going to find throughout this world and out through history there have been men and women who love the Word of God so much that they were willing to die for it. Having said that, you are also going to find that the Word of God is the most hated book in the world. You are going to find that there are people that absolutely detest the Word of God, and if you are going to be all God wants you to be, the quicker you learn what I am about to give you here, the better off you are going to be because I want you to get some understanding that the Bible that God sent into the world, there is going to be people that hate it, and there is going to be people that love it. You see the exact same thing when Christ came into this world at the first coming of Christ. There were folks that loved Him. There were folks that hated Him. Yet He tells us down through here, and you have got to get this, that you cannot hate Christ and still love God.

Let me develop a little bit farther. John 1:1 says:

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 says:

John 1:14

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

Let me develop it one step further. If you hate Christ, you hate God the Father. If you hate Christ and God the Father, you also have to hate His Word. What I am saying is this, if you hate the Word of God, you cannot get it. If you hate the Word of God, and you are going to define that in just a little bit, if you hate the Word of God, you cannot love Christ. We have churches today, stay with me, we have Christians today who hate the very book that you are holding, a King James 1611 Authorized Version. They disdain it. They hate it. They make fun of it. But yet they are in their churches today with their ASVs, their RSV's, and everything else that the devil concocted, and they are claiming that they love Christ. It is impossible. If He is the Word and the Word is Him, you cannot hate God's Word and still love Christ. That is lost today, and it is lost today because a lot of people want it to be lost today, so just stay with me here.

VII. Three Groups That Hate God and His Word

In doing the work of God, which we all want to do, you are going to need to identify three groups that hate God and His Word that you will be up against doing what God wants you to do and answer that calling. Without understanding what I am about to tell you, you will get canceled before you get started. You have to understand what you are up against. I know the night I got saved, and I was down there getting my life right with God. When I got up, everybody was slapping me on the back and praising the Lord. I thought all Christians loved God, loved the Bible, and there was not anybody doing anything wrong. If you would have told me some of the deacons were smoking up in the parking lot and some of the kids were running around and doing all their stuff and some of the ladies were gossiping, I would have beat you to a pulp. I would not have believed it. Let me tell you something, after all these years, you better realize that it is true. There are people who are going to hate that book, and the quicker you identify them in your world of what you are going to do, the better off you are going to be because if you do not, they will stop you dead in your tracks.

- The Devil
- The World
- God's Own People