

I. The Importance of Christian Roots

This week, you will be able to catch movies about this time. I am sure they are going to show Ben Hur, Barabbas, The Passion of the Christ, The Fisherman, and all these things. My prayer is that somewhere in there they put in Saving Private Ryan and have a good week. It all started with Ash Wednesday, and then that moves into the forty days of Lent. Now here we are, Palm Sunday, and then next week Easter and the celebration of Christ's crucifixion and His resurrection. Most of you will probably, hopefully, get off Good Friday, the day that we are told that Christ was crucified on.

You remember a couple of weeks ago on a Thursday night someone asked a question about the new movie that has come out, The Jesus Revolution. I took the time to lay that out, showing you how it goes all the way back to the 60s. Everybody is just bonkers over this thing in the neo-evangelical Christian world. In the marquee, it talked about the fact that this young man and the movement and the revolution changed the world. It was the greatest event in Christian history in America. What they have neglected to tell you is that the guy who was a drug addict, who the movie is around, actually died of AIDS. They are not going to put that out there. It is not going to get all of the truth about what happened.

When I laid that out, I built that, as I try to build everything, on the three things that are crucial in a Christian life today. Without these three things, you are definitely vulnerable to things like the movies, things like what is going on around us in the world, in Christianity, and even in the world. I told you that the three crucial areas are:

1. Every child of God who is saved needs to understand your roots, where you came from. I do not mean the city you were born in; I mean your roots of Christianity. That will lead you to be able to know what you believe. Most of God's people do not; they just believe what someone has told them. They do not do any investigative study on themselves; they do not get into the Bible; they do not study to show thyself approved.
2. Once you get your roots down, and once you begin to know what you believe, the most crucial part of those three will be knowing why you believe what you believe. Where did it come from? Most of God's people are willing just to listen to what somebody says and believe it. Many, many, many of God's people that I have known for years have put the Bible aside now and looked to the internet for their truth. Many of them have put the Bible aside, and on the internet, you will find people out there talking about all kinds of things that will always go against the truth of the Word of God. Most people who have no roots, and they do not really know what they believe, but even worse than that, they do not know why they believe what they do believe, they get caught up in that.

Those three areas, as far as I am concerned, will set apart every saved man or woman from what is going on today in what we call so-called Christianity. This was a lesson that I learned very early as I was a searching young Christian, and I talked about that in the weeks gone by.

Actually, if somebody would take everything that I have done in fifty-plus years, every reason why I have done what I have done, and everything that I have done in all the different arenas that I have done it in, I would tell you that the underlying motive for everything I have done in all my years of ministry with the people that God has given me was to try to build these three areas in their lives.

Obviously, you do it different ways through different tactics, through Bible studies, this, that, everything, one-on-one, and all of those things. But if you boiled it all down, all I have tried to do all my life, and some people have done it, some people want it, some people do not, I get that. But these three things will form the perfect balance in your life that you will never get caught up. That is my goal.

Christianity is very confusing today. I would say probably it always has been to a certain degree, but today, the age we live in is unprecedented. I want you to understand, just like I try to lay the Bible out for you doctrinally, inspirationally, and historically to form a balance, my goal for you is to be able to come to the place where you know your roots, you know what you believe, but most importantly, you know why you believe what you believe. You give me somebody like that that is firmly grounded in those three things, and I will show you someone who will get something done for the Lord.

I told you I was going to do this because I want you to understand. I am not interested in getting up and just giving you messages about stuff that I want you to learn. At the generosity of Christ, I am going to give an account for every one of you of what I taught you. You may not always like what I say. I am sorry about that, but if the truth be known, I would much rather have you be upset with me than God be upset with me because I do not give you the truth. The bottom line is, truth is the truth. People have a tough time with truth today. We talk about facts. We are living in a country and the world where facts do not matter anymore. The rule of law does not matter anymore. Nothing that once was a stabilizing factor in our country is no longer there. Unfortunately, that is what has happened in Christianity.

We are in a Christian world today that is filled with really good people, but they do not understand their roots. They do not understand what they believe, and they certainly do not understand with what they do believe, why they believe it. I want today to lay out and define every aspect of what is going on during this time of the year. There is evidence, my dear friend, that demands an answer. What I am about to say, what I am about to lay out, please do not get it into your head that this is some crazy Baptist preacher up here. Everything I am about to lay out for you, you could go up to the Blue Springs Public Library, Kansas City Public Library, and you could get every piece of information I am giving you. This is not about the Bible, yet it is. This is not about God, yet it is. This is about the facts of history. This is about that of you would go to court and you had a lawyer, all we would have to do is lay out the facts, and you are guilty. People do not want facts today. We want to live in a world that is a dream world. That is the problem.

This week, from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday, and everything in between, it is so clearly laid out in the Bible for every child of God to see and understand. So you will never get caught

up in all the confusion, all the disinformation, all of the half-truths, all of the things that abound today that circulate around this event. I know that I have many older Christians in here that have been with me for many years. Yet the bulk of our church that keeps coming in here are young men and young ladies who really want to get the Bible down. It is a thing where out there on the internet, you folks that are listening to me this morning, I know we talk about it all the time. I get questions after questions, phone calls from one pastor to this pastor to another wanting answers to things that are out there. So I want to talk to you today and go on the record of what we are all facing today.

I am not mad at anybody, and I do not really care what anybody believes. I want you to understand that. I am not going to call anybody idiots. I am not going to call anybody stupid. I am just going to give you the facts. I cannot speak for anybody but myself, but I am a Bible believer. I believe the Bible is the absolute, infallible, perfect Word of God that is found in a King James 1611 Authorized Version. I believe the Bible is everything. I believe without the Bible, you are not anything. I believe that God gave us the Bible. He knew exactly the times that he gave it the world was in. He knew how it was going to go through history. He knew that the time that you and I were going to face now was going to be probably one of the most challenging times in history. But the Bible still stands. Its truth never changes. What was true when Jesus was here, what was true when Paul did his missionary trips, what was true when Timothy, Titus, and Philemon were building their churches, what was true with the Albigenses and the Waldensians and the Paulicians and the Anabaptists is still true today. The fact that somebody says, "I do not believe it," or "I do not buy it," hey, it is a free country, man. I understand. No problem. It is okay.

II. Challenging Man-Made Traditions

To do this, before we get into the actual week from today to next week, next Sunday, we need to define some things from the Word of God. The Word of God is the greatest book the world has ever seen. It has so many aspects to it, but it defines for us everything. There are a couple of issues that we face today that if you would allow me a few moments, I would like to put those issues to rest for you straight from the Bible. What you do with the facts that I give you, that is between you and the Lord or you and whoever. But we know and we talk about this all the time: the Bible is our only source of sound truth.

You remember I told you in the book of Colossians that the book of Colossians is the book that represents for us the time period that we live in, which is called in Revelation chapter 1, 2, and 3, the Laodicean church period, the last period of church history before the Lord comes back at a rapture in Revelation chapter 4. You know that. Our first issue that we have to look at, and we have to understand before we go anywhere else, is found in Colossians chapter 2, verse 8. He gives a warning to each of us in the Laodicean church period. I have told you before that in the book of Colossians, you will find Laodicea mentioned five times. Laodicea was just about eleven miles south of Colossae. The book is a great book, and just in the short chapters that we have in that book, it really lays out the problems today.

He says in Colossians chapter 2, verse 8, here is our first issue:

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

The thing that I want to show you here is that he lists four things. He lists, first of all, philosophy. You are going to find in the Laodicean church, philosophy has in many cases taken over where Christianity's principles were. I do not have to remind you that if you would go back to the book of Ecclesiastes, you will find that the writer of Ecclesiastes, who was Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, he goes through at least thirty-four, thirty-five philosophies that are going to be presented to us at some point in time. He starts with pragmatism, Gnosticism, Stoicism, Epicureanism, existentialism. He goes through them all. When he is done, he says this, after all the "ologies" that man puts out there, he says, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter." You know what that conclusion is? Fear God and keep His commandments. Every one of those things you are told over and over and over again is vanity. But here we find it right in the modern 21st-century church.

The Laodicean church is built on four things:

3. Philosophy
4. Vain deceit
5. The tradition of men
6. The rudiments of the world

I might draw your attention to the fourth one, the rudiments of the world. We get our word "root" from "rudiment." It clearly tells us that the Laodicean church has the wrong roots. Its roots are in the world and not after Christ. I am going to pause through this morning from time to time, just ask a simple question: What are you going to do with that? It does not get any clearer than that. There is no, "Well, I think there is another," there is no other way to interpret that. It is clear right across the plate, waist high, and you either got a swing at it or you get caught on a strike. But what do you do with that? That is evidence. That is evidence that demands an answer. You may not want to answer. You may not be willing to answer. You may refuse to answer today. Someday you will answer.

We are in the midst of three religious events leading up to Easter. You need to understand, so we are going to look at some things that definitely fall into the category under Colossians chapter 2 of the tradition of men and the rudiments of the world. Let us start with Ash Wednesday. I want you to understand these things. You see people on Ash Wednesday walk around with a black spot on their forehead. You may be afraid to ask or you do not want to be stupid and say, "Oh, by the way, you got something on your head." You do not want to do that. But you need to understand that that is what we call Ash Wednesday. Most Catholics—Catholics are not the only ones to do this—but you are going to find that it is both Catholics that are professed to be good Catholics. They will go to Mass that morning. They have solidified it a little better now that you can find the places, the churches that have what we call "Ash is the go." You have a drive-through, and the guy just puts them on your forehead, and then you move out. I get it. I do not have a problem with that. I really do not. My problem is if it is really what it is supposed to be, why do you not

wear it all day? Most people get it, and before they get to work, it is off their forehead. If it is really a real deal for you and it means what it is supposed to mean, then as a good Catholic, Lutheran, whatever the case may be, you should wear it all day.

Ash Wednesday starts the beginning of Lent, and the ashes on the forehead come from the palm leaves of last Lent or last Easter that they burn and make into ashes and then put them on your forehead. I must ask the question. There is evidence that demands an answer. Facts are tough things, but I ask this easy question: Where do you find that in the Bible? You see, it is not about, "Well, I believe in Ash Wednesday." The next question I ask you, "Why do you believe in it?" Ash Wednesday comes from the Roman Catholic Church in 1100 AD. It is not put into practice until a thousand years after Christ's resurrection. What happened to everybody before that? Why did it go dormant for a thousand years, and suddenly in 1100 AD, the Catholic Church now comes up with the idea that we are going to put this into Christianity? We are going to put this into the crucifixion because it is what? Biblical? Where at? I do not care if you do it. It is probably a precursor down the line that somebody else is going to put a mark on your forehead. I do not care if you do it, but I ask you the question, do you know why you do it, and do you know where it comes from?

This will be the start of Lent. This is a tradition of men. Lent is six weeks, starting with Ash Wednesday, six weeks going forward of repentance before Easter, where during this time you have an observance of Christ's death, so you sacrifice something so you can be more appreciative of the sacrifice that He made for you. Now I ask the same question: Where is that in the Bible? Ash Wednesday does not start until 900 years ago, neither does Lent. So you have close to a thousand years where nobody, nobody on the face of this planet, nobody anywhere, followed these two practices in connection with Christ's death. Suddenly, a thousand years after He is dead, traditions of men. The whole concept shows really what human nature is. So you are in Lent, and you are going to sacrifice something. I have seen people give up drinking hard alcohol, but they still drink beer. In other words, human nature is such, when it comes to Lent, I can guarantee you, most of these people will give up stuff that they are not doing anyhow. That is just the way we are. They are not bad people. They are caught up in something.

Today, here we are, Palm Sunday. Now we will move through this next week to Good Friday. The day the world believes, almost unequivocally, the day the world believes was the day that He was crucified on. I ask again, where do you find Good Friday in the Bible? It is nowhere. Where do you find Christ was crucified on Friday? Nowhere, tradition of men. Then we will arrive next week, next Sunday, one week from today, at the celebration of Easter itself. Again, I must ask the question, evidence that demands an answer: There is no Easter in the Bible.

Before we get into this week, and we explain these things in greater detail, let us take just a second and look at Easter itself. Let us go back to the Bible. I apologize facetiously about keep going back to the Bible, but that is my source of truth. Let us go back to the Bible and try to find our roots. Maybe it will lead to us understanding what we believe, and hopefully, maybe it will lead to us understanding why we believe it.

Here is our second issue. This is going to be a tough one. Do not let this ruin any plans that you have today. Do not let this ruin any plans for your Easter dinner next week, because it is not ruining mine. Do not let this ruin anything. Here it is. Colossians chapter 2, Laodicean church again, verses 14 through 17. Jesus speaking, or the writer Paul speaking about Christ's death on the cross. Watch it very carefully in verse 14.

Colossians 2:14-17

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

It does not take a Bible theologian to understand what he just said there. He just told you that when Christ died on the cross, the Old Testament was finished. There is nothing left that applies to you and me now like they did in the Old Testament. That is not complicated. Let us go on. "And having spoiled principalities and powers." That is the devil and his crowd. We talked about that the other night when we talked about the keys of death and hell. "He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it." Now verse 16, because, look what he says, "Now let no man therefore," mark it "therefore." You know what "therefore" means? It means because of what I just said in the last two verses. "Let no man therefore," because of the cross, because the Old Testament is gone, because it was nailed to the cross and the devil and his crowd has now lost, and Christ came out of that tomb, triumphing over it, and began the New Testament church. Watch. "Let no man therefore, judge you in meat as in a meat offering in the Old Testament, or in drink as a drink offering, or in respect to a holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath day." Now look at verse 17, "Which are a shadow of things to come," because they will be back in the millennium. "But the body right now, church age, the body is of Christ."

You know what he just told you for a New Testament Christian? No holy days. Now what do you do with that? It will not even help you to get an NIV or an ASV or other perversions because fortunately for us it says the same thing. For a New Testament Christian in the church age, He took the Old Testament with all of the ceremonial things that they had and nailed it to the cross, and now in the church age, no holy days. I am not mad at anybody. Sometimes people think I get mad. I get passionate about things. When I get passionate about things, I just get a little excited. But it does not mean I am mad. I do not care. I want to help you understand. I want to help you to grow. But at the end of the day, it is on you. I just give you the truth, and what I am giving you today, again, you could go down here to Blue Springs, go to Kansas City, go to that big library down there where we used to pass out clothes. You find all that information right there. Without ever opening a Bible, without ever going to a church, without ever going anywhere. He says in

verse 16 that we are not to show any respect for what people do these days. Now what do you do with that?

You have got to ask yourself if that is true. You have got a choice to make. You either take that verse or you believe everything that everybody is telling you out there. Now I do not have a problem with that because I know where my roots are. It goes back to this book. But that is going to be a problem for some people because you have never really been grounded in the Word of God. So therefore when you hear all this stuff, and let us face it, how we all have grown up with it, you will not fathom the depression that I had in my life when I found out there was no Santa Claus. At thirty-five years of age, it devastated me. When I found out that there was no Easter Bunny, no Tooth Fairy, no leprechauns. I always looked forward to losing a tooth because if you put it under your pillow, you young people, you have no idea. You know what a Tooth Fairy did? It gives you money. Did you have money under your pillow? You did. The Tooth Fairy lives. Not at the Kenny God house. How much money? Remember the tithe belongs to the Lord, so I want to hear this. Where does that stuff come from? No, I am not fighting it. When my girls grew up, we put money under their pillow for their tooth. Tooth Fairy sitting right there. I am not fighting it. You have to understand. I am going to explain all this. I am getting to a place here in just a minute. You hang with me here, but I am just saying, what do you do with that?

There is only one place in the Bible in Acts 12:4 that you find the word Easter. You are told in that passage that it is a pagan Roman holiday that has nothing to do with Christianity. What do you do with that?

III. Historical Origins of Paganism in Christianity

Let us set some things straight here for just a moment. Here is our third issue. The observation of Easter connected with Christ's death on the cross is found nowhere in Christianity until around 330, 340 A.D., 340 years after the event of His death. Now, historical evidence on the tradition of men bringing things into Christianity. These are things you need to know. Maybe you do not accept it. Maybe you walk out the door and whatever, eat your chocolate bunny, whatever. But these are the facts.

It starts with Constantine. We talked about our buddy Constantine last week, did we not? How that we looked at 1 John chapter 5, verses 6 and 7, that the greatest verse in the Bible on the Trinity of God being taken out of the Bible, going all the way back to Alexandria, Egypt, but coming into Christianity with Constantine, who is the last Roman emperor as far as the pagan side of it is. Constantine is given the credit down through history of putting an end to Roman paganism and starting Christianity. That has always been amazing to me. Christianity had been rolling along for 340 years, and now Constantine is given the credit for starting Christianity. You know what he started? He started the Roman Catholic Church.

It was 313 A.D. Constantine was up against a superior army, and they were going to fight a battle at a place called Milvian Bridge. He is greatly outnumbered. That night he has a dream, and in the dream, he hears a voice that tells him and shows him the sign of a cross and says in a voice, "By this sign thou shalt conquer." He gets up early in the morning, taking the dream to be a sign

from God, so they put crosses on all the shields, all the horses, everybody wears a cross, and amazingly, he is completely outnumbered, but he wins the battle of Milvian Bridge. This now was his conversion. This is when he now says, "I am a Christian." A little bit later on, he calls the council in Nicaea in 325 A.D. where he brings all of the bishops—not a Bible believer among them—brings all the bishops into Nicaea and has the first Christian council. When he goes back to Byzantium, Constantinople, modern-day Istanbul today, when he goes back to his city, he leaves a bishop on the throne in Rome, and there is your first pope. It starts with Constantine.

Constantine opened up the doors now for Roman Catholicism, the newfound Christianity for everybody to embrace. In 313, right after his great victory, he passed the Edict of Milan. The Edict of Milan was to show tolerance to Christians. Up to this point, they had been severely persecuted by the Roman government. What he did with that is he opened the doors, and he allowed all of the pagans to come into his church, bring in all their pagan traditions, bring in all their pagan holy days, bring in all their pagan sacrifices, and now almost overnight with a swish, they all become Christian. This is where it starts, this is their roots, this is what they do, and out of that, two main holy days emerge.

Christmas, which is celebrated on December 25th, what you were told was the birthday of Jesus Christ, but going back to your Bible, finding out the trace of Jesus' birth, you will find out that He was not born on December 25th, but He was born sometime between September 22nd and 24th on the Feast of Tabernacles. So clear in the Bible, if it was an 18-wheeler, it would run you over. December 25th, how did that become Christ's birthday? That is the birthday in paganism of Baal, the Sun God. So when Constantine brought the pagans in, they brought their Baal worship in, and he wanted to convert all of that and make it workable, so now Christ was born on December 25th. Where in the Bible? Fortunately, on this one, you can do some good. Just go back to Jeremiah chapter 10, and you will find where the Holy Spirit of God told the nation of Israel the paganism of Christmas. You will find everything there: going out in the woods, cutting down a tree, bringing it into your house, putting it in a corner, putting the balls and everything on it. It is all right there, and they are told that it is pagan. So when Constantine brings the pagans in, they bring in their Sun God born December 25th. He makes it Christ's birthday, and for hundreds of years later, God's people actually think that Christ was born December 25th. Not bad people, good people who have their roots. Good people who do not know why they believe and what they believe.

Obviously, the second day is coming on us here, Easter, and it is a thing where that is the second holy day that comes into it. As I told you, you will find in Acts chapter 12 of the New Testament Christianity is told that Easter is a pagan holiday. No Bible believer ever down through history from Acts at the Church of Antioch up through church history and the Bible believing groups. They never held a sunrise service. They never had an Easter pageant. They never had a Christmas pageant. They never had a Christmas service or an Easter service. They understood and followed Colossians chapter 2, verses 14 and 17, that there are no holy days for us. It was not until 325 to 400 AD that all the pagan celebrations became part of the church through Constantine, which formed into the format of the Roman Catholic Church.

The word Easter is our word for Ishtar. Ishtar was the pagan god of fertility. You will find Astaroth, Ishtar, in Judges 2:13. This pagan celebration was held late in the month of April, like the Passover, like what we call Christ's crucifixion. It was held to celebrate from the pagan standpoint the new birth of the earth. The earth had been dead winter. Everything died: trees, flowers, dead a winter, and now in the spring, the earth begins to rejuvenate, and they call it a new birth. They like to make Mother Nature. They always have to have a female deity. This is a celebration of reproduction and rebirth of the earth. Hence at Easter, which was the pagan time, Ishtar, goddess of fertility, you have eggs that come from Egypt. You have rabbits, which are very fertile. You have one, three weeks later, you have two, three weeks later, you have ten. Then, of course, fish.

When the Roman Catholic Church started to bring all the pagan celebrations into its church, the Roman Catholic Church, now they had to connect all this stuff together. The pagans are bringing in all this stuff. Constantine was as phony as a three-dollar bill. Constantine was never converted. He believed in baptism for salvation, though he was never baptized himself. He thought he deserved it because of the vision he saw. He brings all the pagans into the church. He starts officially the Roman Catholic Church. Go to the library. See for yourself. You do not need a Bible for this. You do not need it. Do not look at me like I am some crazy Baptist who hates Catholics. I do not hate Catholics. I have a lot of friends that are Catholics. I do not hate anybody, but I love truth, and the truth will set you free or it will bind you. You see, the reason why truth will set me free is because this truth, we will get to it in a few moments, bound Him to a tree.

So they had to connect the resurrection of Christ, Easter, with a fish because it is dealing with the reproductive, and fishes lay hundreds of thousands of eggs, very fertile. So in the 15th century, 1400 years after Christ, the 15th century, the Catholic Church started the idea of Good Friday. It had never been in the history of the world for 1400 years that Christ was crucified on Friday until the 15th century. What do you do with that? Good Friday is made up as the day supposed that Christ was crucified on in spite of the clear teaching on it that I am about to give you here in just a few moments. But, we left the Bible a long time ago on this thing. There is no Good Friday in the Bible. I hope you do get it off this week because you deserve a break. But it was not the day He was crucified on.

I do not know if you know this or not, maybe you do. Some of you are pretty intelligent. Most of you are above average, I would say, in intelligence. But each day of the week and also each month of the year is named after a pagan god.

- Monday is named after the moon god.
- Tuesday after Mars.
- Wednesday is named after the god Woden.
- Thursday after Thor.
- Friday is after Freya. We will come back to her in a moment.
- Saturday is Saturn.
- Sunday is the day of the sun god, Baal.

I do not know if you have put two and two together or not, but this is why in never in the Bible is it called Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. The Bible calls it the first day of the week, second day of the week, third day of the week, or the third day. Even when it was the first day, the morning was the second day. When they wrote that, when they translated that, the King James translators, the days of the week were already in. The Holy Spirit of God refused to call the days of the week that God created after the pagan gods.

Now Friday. Friday, as we know it, is after the goddess Freya. She also is the goddess of fertility like Ishtar. Hence fish. Thousands of fish eggs are laid by fish. They are very, very fertile. So in doing all this, the Catholic Church getting the fish, Freya, Friday, as Christ's birth with all the pagan stuff they were bringing in, the Catholics dedicated this pagan day through Constantine to her, Friday. So they consecrated it for hundreds and hundreds of years. You cannot eat meat on Friday. You eat fish, Freya. When it comes down to the crucifixion, they want to tell you that He was crucified on Friday. No, He was not. So all this happens, what? 1400 years after He came out of that tomb.

Now, they connect the day of His crucifixion to Good Friday and Christianity now to a fish. You see it in the symbols that Christians have of the symbol of the fish. You are told that that in early years of Christianity was the secret sign between Christians. Allow me. I am a Christian back in 500 AD. I am looking for other believers. Here is where they are meeting. "Hi guys." So we all can find ourselves, the sign of the fish that tells me Christians are here. So I am coming down the road. That is what they want you to believe.

May I be honest with you for a moment? I am not mad, but let me just tell you the facts. You know why you did not need a sign of a fish in 400, 500 to identify the real Christians? Because they were dying in the arena under the hand of the Roman Empire. They were being hacked to pieces by the gladiators. They were being chased around the arena while the world screamed and yelled like a NASCAR race while the lions ripped them to pieces. There was no secret sign of the fish. That is 1500 years after Christ, going back to Freya. But yet today you see it in God's people. They have it on their Bible cases. They have it on their bumpers. They have it everywhere. You will see it. They wear it on a necklace. They wear it on a bracelet. Everybody thinks today that that sign of the fish is the mark of Christianity or the dove because the dove came down and landed on Christ, that type of the Holy Spirit of God, and therefore that is a sign. You know what? It does not seem to matter. Deuteronomy chapter 4 told us in the first four verses that there was to be no image of a bird, of a fish, of a man, anything to celebrate God or Christianity. Now the word fish is for the word dag, D-A-G. Back in 1 Samuel chapter 5, you have the man who is the Philistine god who is half man and half fish. You know what his name is? Dagon. That is where it all comes from, every bit of it.

Now, the Catholic church moved down through history. It added Lent, Ash Wednesday, all the other stuff, Good Friday. The cross now becomes a symbol of Christianity. When you were clearly told that you make no images of anything connected with Christ, just like there is no Holy Day. I know, "Well, my grandmother gave me this cross." I just thank God today that He died on the cross. Could you imagine if they shot Him in a firing squad, you would be carrying an M16 around your neck. You were told in the Bible, the B-I-B-L-E, stands alone with the Word of God,

the Bible, that anything connected with the cross is under a curse. Please do not allow me to confuse you with a lot of facts.

They added all kinds of stuff. Now the Pope speaks infallible, called ex cathedra. Now Mary is now titled the Mother of God. Now the nation of Israel is replaced by the Roman Catholic Church. Now the Roman Catholic Church is the only true church. You cannot get to heaven any other way by going through the church because it is God's church. Now we made up 43 saints, and there is a saint for every occupation. There is a saint for tailors. There is a saint for bricklayers. There is a saint for everybody. Even animals. Your dog has a saint. Saint Bernard. There was not one Bible believer up through the Dark Ages, one Bible believing group that ever gave any respect to any of this. It is shattered over with everything that is out there that is not true anymore. But facts are stubborn things. The fact that somebody wrote it down in a public record in a library that if you went to court, it would be all the evidence to exonerate you from any charges on it. Then it comes up through the Protestant Reformation into the Lutheran, Methodist, and all that crowd. Now it just moves its way into Christianity.

IV. The Apostle Paul's Model for Engagement

The last thing before I lay this all out for you, because obviously this is on your mind or it should be if you are any kind of person thinking at all today: What do we do with these things? I am a New Testament Bible believing Christian, but I am faced with Easter next week, and I am faced with Christmas. I am faced with Halloween. I am faced with all of these things. I know there are churches out there that just take an abstinence totally against it. I understand that, and I do not criticize any pastor for whatever he does. It is just church. He can do what he wants to do. But for me, I am a Bible believing Christian. So for me, I have to find a model for all this, and that model is found in the Apostle Paul. He told me in 1 Corinthians 9:22:

1 Corinthians 9:22

To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

That is my stand. As a Bible believer, I know my roots. I know what I believe, and I know why I believe it. So when it comes to these things, Easter, Christmas, or whatever, I do not believe in it. I do not follow it. I do not celebrate it. I will never have a service dedicated to either one of them, but I understand it. I use these days like I would use Memorial Day when we have our picnic or the 4th of July when we have our fireworks. There are people out there that do not know. If I just take a hardline stand, they are going to look at me as a kook. So I am like Paul. I will become all things to all men.

You see this in Paul's life in the book of Acts, one of the greatest studies that most people never see. Paul was a Christian. He was a Jew. He also was a Roman citizen, and he also was a Pharisee. You would have thought that when he became a Christian, he would have renounced his Roman citizenship. The most pagan country in the world. He would have said, "I do not want any part of that. I renounce that." No, he kept it. You would have thought that he would have dumped and forsook everything that he had learned, and he was taught by the best of the Old

Testament Jewish tradition. He recognized what it was, but he never threw it away. You know why? Because he used it all down through his ministry. He used what he knew about the Old Testament law to reason with the Jews about Christ. When he got in a jam before his enemies and they wanted to kill him, he pulled out a Roman card, and they could not touch him. He was smarter than the problem. When you get into the book of Acts, you will see how he uses all the pagan stuff around him as an interest to get the gospel of Christ in, but he knows there is a line he cannot cross. He never crosses it. That is where I am at. I am not going to change it. You are not going to get rid of it, and you are going to look like an idiot if you take a stand against it, so you use it.

So we will have an Easter egg hunt next week. Big deal. Somebody will be dressed in a bunny uniform. I have guys with a 10-gauge shotgun going to shoot that bunny as soon as the service is over. Make a run around the parking lot, dust her off. I think Penny is going to be the rabbit, right? Somebody told me that last week you used to be a bunny, and I knew it had to be an Easter. You got that one, did you not? Troy is so quick.

If any day you guys get into the ministry and you want to be successful in the ministry, I can tell you one thing that will either make you or break you in success of the ministry. If I have any success at all, maybe I do not, but if I have any success at all, I will take it back to this one thing outside the Word of God. The ministry is nothing more than we as Christians with the truth that we have, using that truth with what is around us to penetrate the culture of the people that God has given us to minister to. I will use these things to get into their world. I do not believe it. I do not buy it, but I will use it to get into their world. Then once I get into their world, I win them to Christ, I disciple them, then I will teach them the truth about it.

V. The Biblical Account of Passion Week

Let us have a word of prayer. Father, we thank and praise You, Father, Lord Jesus, now that we have come to this part. Help us, Lord, lead and guide us into this great portion of the Word of God, and we will be careful to give You and only You the honor and the glory and the praise. We thank You for the book that You have given us that leaves nothing to our imagination. We do not have to rely on somebody telling us something. We do not have to rely on some podcast. We do not have to rely on some internet service. We do not have to rely on something that we hear or something that we read. We have the book that defines everything for us. Losing sight of that is the most disastrous thing that will ever befall a child of God, because then you lose your roots. Then you will get confused about what you believe, and you will lose sight of why you ever believed it. Now you are vulnerable. Help us today. Thank You for all the historical facts and evidence that can never be denied. Now we go to the book itself to see this thing laid out the way that You intended it to be laid out. I will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Now in the book of Mark, and you want to get this down, I suggest that you use some brackets around some of this stuff. I think that if you are any person here who is going to do anything with a Bible in your life, sooner or later you need to get this down. This is the week from today to next Sunday, and everything in between step by step. You now have an exact accounting of the

week from Palm Sunday to His triumphal entry in Jerusalem, to His crucifixion on Wednesday, and you are given the time from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. broken down into hours. Then His three days in the tomb, then His coming out of the tomb on Sunday, the first day of the week. You will want to get this in your Bible as I said step by step, and I will break this down chapter by chapter, and in some cases verse by verse.

Here is the key you have to get your head wrapped around because this gets confusing. We are Gentile. So we think of 6 o'clock in the morning, 24 hours, 6 o'clock being the next day. That is not the way the Jews configured it. They figured it from 6 p.m. So all these days that we are going to look at, do not start at 6 o'clock in the morning, they start at 6 o'clock in the evening, and run all the way around to the next. So if Monday starts at 6 p.m., it is Monday all the way up to 6 a.m., all the way down, and it does not turn till Tuesday till 6 p.m. that night. You have got to get that firmly in your brain or you will get messed up on this, but I will help you.

****Sunday: The Triumphal Entry****

Mark 11:1

And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples,

This is verse 1. This will be Sunday morning, the tenth day of the month. When you would go back to Exodus chapter 12 and you read that chapter about the Passover lamb, which is a picture of Christ's crucifixion, they take that lamb on the tenth day of the month, and it dies on the 14th day of the month. So we are going to see these days lining right up with that. Then He goes into Jerusalem, and you will see in Mark 11:2 that they send for the colt. We have talked about this before, that He rides into Jerusalem on. You will find this same account in Matthew 21:2.

Mark 11:7

And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and he sat upon him.

The colt of the ass shows up. He starts to ride in. This is where they cut off branches and lay down on the road that He is riding on. You are told in John 12:13 that they are palm branches. This is a picture of His triumphal entry that He will go into the millennium on when He comes back. They cry out, "Hosanna." Hosanna means "save us." Now He rides in Jerusalem.

Mark 11:11

And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve.

Verse 11 now will be Sunday night at 6 p.m. So He sleeps in Bethany that night, Sunday night.

****Recap of Sunday:****

He comes to the place where He sends His disciples to get the colt.

He rides into Jerusalem on the palm tree leaves.

He is in Bethany that night.

That is day one accounted for.

*****Monday: The Fig Tree and Temple Cleansing*****

Mark 11:12

And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry:

This is Monday morning. Monday night started at 6 o'clock on Sunday night, but now we are in Monday morning. This will be the 11th day of the month. In Mark 11:13-14, this is where He comes out and He sees the fig tree not bearing any fruit, and He curses it.

Mark 11:15

And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;

Back into Jerusalem, and He goes into the temple. You notice He went into the temple Sunday night but just looked around. He did not have time to do anything because it was coming down to the end of the day. Here is where He, in Mark 11:15, overthrows the tables. You want to note this in your Bible if you do not have this already. He goes into the temple and He overthrows the tables two times in His public ministry. Once at the start of His ministry, that will be in John 2:16, and in John 2:16, He says, "You make My Father's house a den of thieves." You want to mark that. Now here in Mark 11:15, He is at the end of His ministry, going to be crucified, goes into Jerusalem as a type of a millennium, and here He says, "You have made My house." It is different. You have to watch things like that.

Mark 11:19

And when even was come, he went out of the city.

This will be 6 o'clock Monday night, end of the second day. So we have the cursing of the fig tree, the cleansing of the temple for the second time.

*****Tuesday: Teachings and Parables*****

Mark 11:20

And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

This will be Tuesday morning, the 12th. You will want to get this down in your notes. From Mark 11:20 up to Mark 14:12, all of this takes place on Tuesday. You need to remember that. I am going to give you the key events through these chapters. At the end of Mark 11, they come out and they see the withered fig tree. Then they come up to Him, the scribes, and they say, "By what authority do you do these things?"

Then we move into Mark chapter 12. It is still Tuesday. Here in Mark 12:1-9, you have the great parable of the vineyard. In Mark 12:17, there is a question that is asked about tribute, and He says, "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's." The Sadducees in Mark 12:18-27, they pulled Him aside and go through the great discourse of whose wife she is going to be in the resurrection. You want to bracket these so that they stand out and then put your notes to the side of it so you can at a glance go through this thing and teach it, look it, understand it. These are your roots. At Mark 12:28, He is asked the question, "What is the first and great commandment?" In Mark 12:41-44, you have the story of the widow's mite and her power in her giving. All in Mark chapter 12, and this is still Tuesday now.

Now we move into Mark chapter 13. It is still Tuesday. Mark 13:1-37, this whole chapter is pretty easy. It is the discourse found in Matthew chapter 24 where they asked the question, "What shall be the sign of thy coming and the end of the world?" The whole chapter goes through that. You should be well familiar with that.

Then we come into Mark chapter 14. It is still Tuesday up to Mark 14:17 now. Here we have the second time that His feet are washed in Mark 14:3-8. Again, you will find that He gets His feet washed two times in His earthly ministry, just like He goes into the temple two times. The first time is at the beginning of His ministry, Luke 7:37, and here we have at the end of His ministry, and if you look at Mark 14:8, this time it is connected to His death. This opens up one of the studies from where He starts His ministry and He ends His ministry, and as the Bible says in Romans 10:15, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" This is what it represents.

Mark 14:17

And in the evening he cometh with the twelve.

This is the end of Tuesday now at 6 p.m., which starts Wednesday, the 13th day of the month. This will be the day of His crucifixion, the 13th day of the month. It is Wednesday, never Good Friday. That is a celebration of your fish god, not my Jesus, which is laid out for you here undeniably. This is not about tradition of men, this is not about a holy day, this is clearly taking the Word of God and God giving you a day by day and a moment hour by hour account of this week. So there is no question in anybody's mind unless you just want there to be one of a Good Friday or a Lent or an Ash Wednesday or Easter. Never Good Friday, folks, it is Bad Wednesday.

Wednesday: Last Supper and Gethsemane

Mark 14:13-17

13 And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.

14 And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?

15 And he will shew you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us.

16 And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

17 And in the evening he cometh with the twelve.

This is in the evening, Tuesday evening. He sends out two of them to get the upper room. They get the upper room, and while they are getting settled up in the upper room, this becomes the end of Tuesday, 6 p.m., and the beginning of Wednesday. Now they are up in the upper room. We studied this as we came through John. This is the 13th day of the month. This is the Last Supper or commonly called the Lord's Supper.

Mark 14:18-25

18 And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me.

19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?

20 And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish.

21 The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

22 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body.

23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.

24 And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

In Mark 14:18, He now begins to tell them, and we studied this, "One of you will betray Me," talking about Judas. Mark 14:22-24, they have what we call the Lord's Supper, which ties into us 1 Corinthians chapter 11. That is our roots. Notice for us in the Lord's Supper, there is no tradition of men, there is no this or no that, it is based on the Bible. The bread is the broken body, you are told that. The new wine, grape juice, is the blood, and you are told that. I say this to you, you want to mark each of these places I am giving you. You can do it your own way, how it works for you, as long as it makes sense to you. Sooner or later, you have to get things like this down in your Bible. This is just the beginning, but it is crucial, and now that we are facing Palm Sunday today and Easter next week, you need to understand why you believe what you believe, where the roots of what you believe came from, and why you believe it. You will want to have a complete biblical account that is recorded in the Bible, not man, not some internet, not some podcast, the Word of God by God's Holy Spirit.

Mark 14:26-42

26 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

27 And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.

29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.

30 And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.

31 But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.

32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?

38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words.

40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him.

41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

42 And rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

We are now into Wednesday. I would say some place probably between eight or nine o'clock in the evening, you cannot know for sure, but they were up in the upper room, so it is in that time frame, definitely Wednesday evening. Now from the Last Supper, we know that they moved to the event on the Mount of Olives. We studied this in John. Mark 14:26, "And when they had sung of him, they went out into the Mount of Olives." This is some time as I said after 6 p.m. on Wednesday, the 13th day of the month according to Jewish time. In Mark 14:30, Peter is told that

he will deny Him, just like we studied it in John. In Mark 14:33-42, we see Christ's agony in the garden. He takes Peter, James, and John with Him like we studied it. He leaves them. He goes up into the garden alone to pray, and He asked the Father that this cup could pass from Him if it was of His will. Notice Mark 14:36, it is called the Garden of Gethsemane. Gethsemane means "olive press," Mount of Olives. This is where He is pressed with the cup that He is going to have to drink, and this is where, as I have told you many, many times, Jesus Christ is called the second Adam. The first Adam was in a garden too, and he failed in that garden and brought sin upon all men. The second Adam, Christ, is in the same garden, and now He is pressed beyond measure, but He prays through, and when the first Adam was denied the tree of life, the second Adam became my tree of life. The olive oil, the type of the Holy Spirit of God, is pressed in this olive Gethsemane, and He becomes the tree of life.

Mark 14:43

And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

Now we see immediately after all this happens, Judas shows up and betrays Him with a kiss, Mark 14:43-46, just like we studied in John. We see in Mark 14:46-47 that Peter, we studied it, draws his sword and cuts off the ear of the high priest's servant. In Mark 14:50, this is where they all deny, all the disciples forsake Him, all except John. Now see what you have? You have a complete orchestrated minute by minute, hour by hour from Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday. Everything is laid out in order for you. We are now at Wednesday.

Mark 14:66-72

66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest:

67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.

68 But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.

69 And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them.

70 And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto.

71 But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.

72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

Now is where they take Him into the judgment hall. Now is where we have recorded for us in this passage Mark 14:68, Mark 14:70, Mark 14:71, where Peter denies Him three times just like we studied.

Wednesday: Crucifixion and Burial

Now we come to Mark chapter 15. This will bring us up to Wednesday morning at 6 a.m., the day of His crucifixion. This is the 13th day of the month as I said.

Mark 15:1

And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate.

Straight away in the morning, this will be at 6 a.m., 13th day of the month. Mark 15:1-4 and on down through there, He is brought before Pilate. We studied it. Mark 15:6-7, Pilate does not believe that He is guilty, caught in a mess as I preached to you. He comes up with a plan to release Jesus and crucify Barabbas in Mark 15:6-7. In Mark 15:9-15, the Jews say, "No way, Jose," and they want Him dead. You want to bracket these. So then in Mark 15:13-15, Barabbas is released. In Mark 15:17, now they clothed Him with a purple robe, crown of thorns, they mock Him, they salute Him and mockingly say, "Hail, King of the Jews."

Mark chapter 15. Now we move to Him being led to Calvary. Here in Mark 15:21-22, we studied it. Simon of Cyrene helps carry the cross. Everything is in order. Finally, Mark 15:22, they get to a place called Golgotha outside the city. I explained it to you Thursday night. In Mark 15:24, we see the parting of His garments, the casting of lots for His robe.

Mark 15:25

And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

That will be 9 o'clock in the morning on Wednesday the 13th. He goes before Pilate at 6. They do all the stuff that they do, bring Him here, and at 9 o'clock in the morning, the third hour, they crucify Him. Mark 15:27 tells us that two thieves are crucified with Him.

Mark 15:33-34

33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Then in Mark 15:33, it says that when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. At the ninth hour, Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is being interpreted, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The sixth and the ninth hour will be 3 o'clock in the afternoon till 6 p.m., end of the 13th day, and He dies at 6 o'clock as the Passover lamb was killed at the beginning of the 14th day of the month. I might just say this to you, that 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., the sixth and the ninth hour, is meaningless to most Christians, but I am going to tell you right now that is the day and the time that He paid our sin debt. If you read it carefully, the sixth and the ninth hour, the sun refused to shine. There were earthquakes. This was the time when God turned His back on His Son. This is when He cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" is what an unsaved man is

going to cry out in hell. This is where He cried out, "I thirst," is what an unsaved man in hell cries out. God turned His back on Him. The sun refused to shine. The earth turned black. The light of God was canceled out for three hours while our sin debt was paid. Now what do you do with that? Eat a marshmallow bunny.

Mark 15:35-47

35 And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias.

36 And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.

37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

40 There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;

41 (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.

42 And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

43 Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

44 And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

45 And when he knew of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

46 And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

In Mark 15:37, it is 6 p.m. on Wednesday now, the end of the 13th and the beginning of the 14th, He dies. He gives up the ghost. The Bible says in Mark 15:38, in that moment in time, the veil of the temple is ripped from top to bottom. That is Colossians chapter 2. That is why there are no holy days today. That is why there are no drink offerings. That is why there are no meat offerings. That is why there are no new moon celebrations. It all ended right there. You know the amazing thing about that? That veil was ripped from top to bottom. The amazing thing of that is with the Jews, first off, in 70 A.D. when Titus came down to destroy Jerusalem, the Jews were still practicing all the stuff in the temple. Somebody had repaired that veil. They prepared that veil just like, I mean, there are certain sources that says that veil was 12 inches thick. I do not

know. I am just telling you what. But I know this. They walked in there and the priest saw the holy of holies and he says, "My God, I am going to die. I am not supposed to see that." He did not die because it is over now. It does not matter. You can take that thing and look at it all you want. You know what those Jews said? They said, "Hey, boys, something different here. We have got to sew this thing back up or we are going to be out of a job." They sewed that up, pretended like nothing happened. You know what God's people do today? You know why you have a holy day of Christmas and a holy day of an Easter? You sewed it back up too. You did. Those Jews went in there and said, "Come on, I will keep it nice. Sew it up. Is it done? Yeah. Okay. Everybody just act natural. Good job." You know what God's people do today? You pretend that never got ripped either. Somebody sewed it back up for you, and you are thinking, "No holy days." Sorry. I get it. It is just that simple.

Mark 15:42

And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

When the even was come, now it is 6 o'clock, Wednesday night, start of the 14th day. Mark 15:43, Joseph of Arimathaea comes and begs the body, and he takes the body down after the cross. He is dead now. This is after John, the spirit was put in His side, like we talked about last week, and he puts Him into a tomb. Mark 15:46. This begins to start of the Sabbath. This begins to start the 14th day of the month, which now is the Passover.

Here is your timeline of Him being in the tomb. No Good Friday, clear, laid out from Palm Sunday. I have given you everything in the order from the Bible. No podcast, no internet, no buddy's book, except God's book.

Matthew 12:40

For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

He tells us now that Christ is taken off the cross, and He is going to be in that tomb for three days and three nights. Here it is. He is taken down off the cross Wednesday at 6 p.m., and He lays in the tomb for three nights. Here it comes:

- 6 p.m. Wednesday to 6 p.m. Thursday, day one.
- 6 p.m. Thursday to 6 p.m. Friday, day two. Sorry, Good Friday.
- 6 p.m. Friday to 6 p.m. Saturday, day three.

VI. The Resurrection and Conclusion

He comes out of that tomb after 6 o'clock on Saturday, according to Jewish time, which is now Sunday, the first day of the week, and He appears to the woman early on Sunday morning.

Mark 16:1-7

1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

Now, one of the other accounts that says that when they actually see Christ, I love this, it says, "And they supposed," they did not recognize Him, "and they supposed that he was the gardener." He was the gardener. He was the gardener in the Garden of Gethsemane. He is the gardener that paid the price. He was the tree that turned into the tree of life for you and for me.

I would like to read the last 13 verses of Mark that all deal with the resurrection and what follows, but unfortunately, we will have to stop here. You say, "Oh, boy, no, don't stop, take a few more minutes and do it." I would love to. But unfortunately, just like 1 John chapter 5, verses 6 and 7, the last 13 verses of Mark have been cut out of your Bible again. If you had any new Bible other than the King James Bible, you will find that the last 13 verses of Mark are either not in there or they are in there, but you are told they should not be in there. The key to the Trinity verse is gone. The key to the resurrection is gone. You are okay with that.

So now there you have it. The complete Bible account of the false tradition of men that have paganized Christ's birth and Christ's death and tied it into all the pagan holidays, brought in all the pagan traditions. God's people have no idea about these days. When they celebrate these days, they are giving honor to the devil and to his crown. The reason why is because they have no roots. They do not know what they believe. More importantly, they do not know why they believe what they do believe. So I use these days. I am like Paul. I will become all things to all men. I understand it. I do not believe it. I know where the line is, and I cannot cross. But if there are people out there that can be drawn in that I can have a real witness to them over something that has nothing to do with the Bible, but they think it does, I will do exactly what Paul did. He went into those synagogues. He did everything that they did. He washed himself. He did all the things that he knew did not make any difference right up to the point when the sacrifice had to be made. He says, "That is the line, boys. I cannot cross it." He became all things to all men. That is the mark of a Bible believing ministry of penetrating into people's culture, not isolating yourself on some compound someplace, not pulling yourself out, but going amongst them and being a

witness, being smarter than the problem of taking the events that turn Christianity to pagan. Give me a shot at it, and I will take the pagan events and turn them back into Christianity. That is what we do. So you got it now. Got it all. I know I had to move fast, and you can go do whatever you have to do to go home and put them in there, but get it in your Bible.

Let us have a word of prayer. We will be dismissed.