

Acts 19

Sunday 6/18/2023

The Bible tells us that as pastors or leaders in the church, or someone who is responsible for people, like back in Ezekiel chapter 3, we are to stand on a wall and we are to watch. When we see things, we warn people of what is coming their way. The Bible is very clear that if a man stands on his watch and does not warn the people, then if the impending disaster comes and sweeps away the person that was not warned, God holds his blood on the watchman who failed to do his job.

In the ministry in the church, if you ever get to that level, you are going to find that as a pastor, you are to be a watchman. Your watch goes in two formats:

1. You are going to have to watch things that happen within your own church because we all know that things creep in and try to hurt people and try to undermine the authority of the pastor or whatever is going on in the church. We have all experienced that; every church has. No church is immune to it; it is just one of the ways that the devil attacks.
2. The second way is externally, with all the things out there that want to destroy in your life and my life, the things that God wants us to do.

My message today is going to come a long way around to get to a point, but I have to show you some things and define some things for you so you understand the gravity of what is going on today. I am sure you are aware of much of this, but if you do not know this already, you are under attack today. Your family is under attack today. Your children are under attack today. Most certainly, Christianity and churches are also under attack today. I want to talk to you about that attack in your life. We are going to go to Acts chapter 19 in a little bit and we will talk about some things.

Many of you are growing, and you are growing well. You have been disciplined, you are working through the Bible, you are learning the Bible, and you are doing really good. My job, as you grow, is to see things that you need from my position on the wall, to look and see to protect you. In any situation, whether it is inside the church and somebody is trying to disrupt it, the Bible says, "Mark those that cause division among you." That was from Paul, and he had no qualms about marking people.

I have learned from looking at those things and my own experience over the years that you cannot stop it. But what the pastor's job is, or the watcher's job is, is to control the collateral damage and to keep people from getting hurt. This is why Paul says to mark those who cause division. When you stand on your wall and you see things out there in the world that are going on, it is only a matter of time before it is going to affect your family, you personally, or some aspect of your life. I cannot stop it from coming because that is the plan of the devil through the world system. My job as the watchman is to keep the collateral damage to a smaller degree as I can.

As you grow, I will take from time to time opportunities to give you insight into your growth, things that you need to see as you grow, to enhance your growth, and to give you understanding

in areas that as you grow, you need to understand. Peter made reference to this in 2 Peter 1:5-7, where he said that once you get saved, you add things to your faith. One of the things that you add is knowledge, learning to understand as you grow that there is a really big world out there that wants to stop you. Also, whether it is in the church or out of the church, the devil will never miss an opportunity to flag you, to sandbag you, to take from you everything that God has for you.

There are some areas today that you should understand because things are not going to get any better. I wanted to take this time between ending up John and before we get into Psalms. I want to warn you about some things. I want you to go out of here today with at least the information. You may not do anything with it, but I want you to see and understand the bottom line, to the best of my ability, of how we have gotten into the mess that we are in today. As I said, things are not going to get any better.

I. The Importance of the Book of Acts

We are going through the book of Acts in our Bible Institute. Next Saturday at 9:30, when we kick it off again, we are going to be right back into it. You that have been with me through that and heard other things that I have said, you can see by now how important the book of Acts really is to all of us. Again, we see how the actual orders of the books in the Bible, how they were placed in the order in your Bible, is the way God set them up to teach us by that very order.

You have the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We know that they give us the historical background of Christ's first coming. He dies, He resurrects, He goes back to heaven in the first couple of chapters of Acts. Then we see in Acts the establishment of the church, every aspect of it. We will talk about more of it in a moment. Then the next books, we get into the book of Romans, do we not? In the book of Romans, once He has showed us the establishment of the church and the historical aspect of the church, now He gives us in Romans the doctrine of the church, what the church is supposed to believe and teach.

Then what does He do? The rest of the books are written to churches. The rest of the books are written to the body of Christ, showing us the cause and the effect of either applying what He gave us in Acts and Romans or not applying it and the messes that we will get into. To me, the book of Acts will be for any pastor, any Bible teacher, any spiritual leader in a church who is working with the pastor, the most crucial book in the New Testament as far as the things that are good and the things that are bad. For in the book of Acts, He defines everything the church should be and also everything the church should stay away from.

He shows us where and how God's Holy Spirit is moving. You remember a couple of weeks ago, I showed you the first time you find the Spirit of God back there in the first chapter of Genesis, and it says the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, and that Holy Spirit of God has never stopped moving. The book of Acts shows you where He moves. It will show you where He is at today. The book of Acts is our definitive book on why in 2023 things are the way they are. Not only does it show us why they are the way they are, it shows us the pattern by which how they got here. The key definitive book in the New Testament will be the book of Acts. Acts will

show you what is of God in the New Testament church and the book of Acts will show you what is not of God.

He does that so that you and I, and remember now, the book of Revelation does, there is a great parallel between Revelation and Acts. The book of Revelation picks up and shows us the future events that there are no books written about. It ends in Revelation, and yet we have the rapture that you find in key places, but there is no book written about the rapture. There is no book written about the second coming. There is no book dedicated to it. You have to get that book, and then from the material in that book, you know where you are going in the future, all the way up to eternity.

Acts does the same thing, except it does the same thing in the church age. The book of Acts chapter 20 ends Paul's ministry, and the church age starts. You are now going into 2,000 years of uncharted waters of a church being established, Christians, what you are going to face, what you are going to be up against, what you are going to have to deal with, and there is seemingly no book to guide you through that. Ah, but there is. That will be the book of Acts. The book of Acts will show you what a New Testament church and ministry really is. It will form for us our understanding of a Bible-believing New Testament church versus a false church. It will show you the danger areas that throughout the next 2,000 years are there to stop you.

The book of Acts is built around three cities: Antioch, Rome, and Alexandria, Egypt. All New Testament history, all history of the world in a secular format, will be built around those three cities. You miss that in the book of Acts, and you are going to be as lost as you can be. You will be like a lost golf ball in high weeds; you will never find your way out. In Acts, you will find the true biblical line will be defined for you so there is no mistaking it. In the book of Acts, you will also find the non-biblical line so there is no mistaking it.

In Acts, you will find the birth of the church age. In the book of Acts, you will find our roots, why we believe what we believe, what we stand on, and then we get into the book of Romans, and that is even defined even closer. You will find in the book of Acts the warning signs to the church, and you will find the beginning of those two lines of churches and the two lines of Bibles. As I said, in Acts you will find a pastor defined, you will find an evangelist defined, you will find ministry defined, New Testament missions defined, and you will find what a real church will be and what a real church should be doing.

In Acts, you will see salvation completely defined, every aspect in Acts chapter 8 with the Ethiopian eunuch. There is nothing left to the imagination. You may find verses that you use in Romans and all those things that win somebody to Christ, but I am telling you, if you want the TV cameras going down inside and showing you every aspect of a man trusting Christ as his own personal Savior, here is Acts chapter 8, an incredible inside look. Then you will see the process of training, taking young men and young ladies, moms and dads, families, and growing them up in the New Testament local church ministry. We begin to see that by the model of Paul and Timothy. Timothy, Paul his father in the Lord, how the bond between them, how Timothy learned his ministry from the man that God put in his life. We see what the church did in the early part in Antioch. We saw what they have done for Timothy, we saw what they did for Paul, and then how

God used Paul in Timothy's life to help him grow. From that example, we find how a man gets into the ministry and how he is to be trained.

For me, the book of Acts has been a key guide all through my 50-plus years in the ministry. In the training of young men and young ladies and dealing with the Bible and dealing with people and situations and circumstances, I have had to, for myself, to survive in all of this in my own attacks, I have had to define what the real problem simply is. Today I want to take you with me through the things that I have learned, and I want to warn you about something. You can blow me off today if you want; that is okay. It is like somebody said one time, "When you sow the wind, you reap the whirlwind." And there is a whirlwind coming.

II. The God of Education vs. The God of the Bible

Over the years, I have been rightly accused of being against Bible colleges. This is nothing new, but I guess I am going on record today that I have been rightly accused, and I emphasize the word "rightly," of being against Bible colleges in training people, Bible colleges, seminaries, universities, any kind of higher Bible education that is held up today as the real deal for teaching you the Bible when it is most certainly not. I have seen this play out for years: the God of education versus the God of the Bible. You are going to find that you cannot mix the two, and you are going to see why before I am finished today.

The Bible tells us in the book of Ecclesiastes that there is nothing new under the sun. Isaiah 14:14, you see the original problem that the devil had. There are two: one was pride. The biggest problem we are all going to have in life is pride. The second problem that he had because of the pride, he says in Isaiah 14:14, "I want to be like the most high God." That was the devil's problem. The Bible says the devil is full of wisdom and the sum of knowledge. He knows everything. Yet that knowledge puffed him up to the point that he was not satisfied with the position that he had; he wanted to be God. That is the God syndrome.

You see it in the secular world all the time. Doctors fall into the God complex because, praise God for them, they save people's lives. They turn things around. You are going to die, and they fix you. When you have that power to be able to do that through what you have been trained, if you are not careful, you get that God complex. Lawyers do the same thing. Every professional can do the same thing. They get so good at what they do; they help people to such a degree that the pride lifts them up, puffs them up, and they actually get the concept that they are above everybody else and they can do what nobody else can do. The God complex.

Man's desire, from Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, is man's desire to be smarter than God. I know that sounds strange; I know it does, but it is as old as Genesis 1:1. When you do not submit yourself, listen to me carefully, when you do not submit yourself to a written, final authority that is perfect, that you let it tell you every aspect of the issues of life, and you submit yourself to that authority, in time, you will become your own final authority.

The problem in America today, fundamentally, is there is no final authority in anything. America is like the book of Judges. When Israel was in one of their darkest times, the whole book of Judges is a collection of Israel's catastrophes, and it is summed up at the end of the book when it

says, "There was no king in Israel. And every man did what was right in his own eyes." That is America. Those are the beginnings of the problems of America.

Man rising to the place where he can stand up before a congregation, take the holy word of God—you do believe this is the word of God, amen?—a man stands up and reads it and then simply tells you, "That is not what God meant. Let me clarify what God really wanted you to see." Do you think God needs that kind of help? Do you think God is so inept when it comes to the Bible that He would screw it up and put things that I, as a mortal man, could correct Almighty God? What planet do you live on? That is higher education. That is what man attains to do.

As I said, in Acts, you will find a pastor defined, an evangelist defined, ministry defined, New Testament missions defined, and you will find what a real church will be and what it should be doing. In Acts, you will see salvation, as I said, completely laid out in everything that you need to see. I am a Bible believer, and I base what I do not on popularity, not what is popular today, certainly not on politics, not on the Christian new ideas that everybody has, not the fads, not the programs. I, to the best of my ability, just follow the Bible.

Last week, I gave you four questions that every man or woman has to answer in their life concerning God. I cannot speak for you; I answered them. I want you to see the attack today. Clearly, you must see this and understand this. You need to see the history of higher education, and I am going to clear it all up for you, and understand its role in history, and then see how we got where we are at today.

III. God's Three Institutions vs. Man's Higher Education

Based on that, you will find it in the Bible. You will find that when God set it all up, when God said, "Okay, this is what I am going to do, and this is how My plan is going to work," Old Testament or New Testament, God established three institutions, only three, not four, not three and a half. In the Bible, you will find that when God put it all together and did what He is doing today and down through the Bible and history, He built it around three institutions.

3. The first institution is marriage and the family. You will find that in Genesis 1, 2, and 3. I know that is all lost today in the translation of things. I know that unsaved people go to churches and get married. I know that they think that that is some kind of tradition. Marriage is not something that man designed; marriage is something that God designed. The reason why marriages fail today is because people get into marriage without understanding who designed marriage, and then not understanding that, they do not understand that the same God that set up marriage is the same One that gave the handbook for marriage. Trying to run your marriage outside the handbook that God gave you will be a disaster.
4. The second institution that He established was civil government. You find that back in Genesis, but it is really defined for us. In the Old Testament, there was a nation of Israel. In the New Testament, it is not a physical nation anymore; now we are a spiritual thing. But in Romans chapter 13, He shows us how we are to obey our government because we need to have a structure of authority.

5. The last institution that He created was the local New Testament church. You will find this throughout the book of Acts and obviously defined in the book of Ephesians.

Those three are all that there are. Everything that Christianity is, everything that we are supposed to be, everything that we have, everything falls into those three categories. Based on that, any institution to train and teach the Bible outside the New Testament local church, you are not going to like this, it is a non-biblical system. It is not by God's design. He did not come back and say, "Oh yeah, there is a fourth one," and that is higher education throughout seminaries, Bible colleges, and the elite. So to be clear from the Bible standpoint, anything outside the local New Testament church or churches will be not by God's design, but rather man's design, the world's design.

I know this infuriates a lot of people. I understand that. I get that. I realize that. A lot of that is because you spent thousands of dollars on a sham. You got took. You spent three or four years, thousands of dollars, paying somebody to teach you the Bible, and after you got out, you still do not know the Bible. As a matter of fact, to prove that, in this church, I have probably 40 guys or 30 gals who, if you want to sit down with the Bible, they would wax your tail with the word of God. They did not pay for nothing because God's program for training you is a New Testament local church. It is just that simple.

I have noticed over the years the fruit of Bible colleges, seminaries, universities; it is undeniable. Men and women who go to a Bible college or university or seminary under the false pretense that you are going there to learn the Bible, but in reality, nothing could be farther from the truth. Instead of learning the Bible, you are told you do not have one. You are told then that you have to be an expert in Greek and Hebrew to know your Bible. Even then, your Bible is not perfect. The very kids who go in with a faith in the word of God, I have seen it thousands of times over the years, come out not having any faith in the Bible anymore.

Let me be clear. Logan, I am glad you went to a higher education to learn whatever you learned about whatever you are doing. If you are going to look at my medical charts at some point and decide what my blood work is all about, I want somebody that has been highly educated in that field. I do not want Billy Bob the blood man looking at my charts. When I go to the doctor, I want the best doctor. When I had my back surgery, the Lord worked it out that I got the best back surgeon in the country. I was slated to go with another guy. This is how the Lord worked it out. I went to see this guy, and he looked at my MRIs and all that stuff, and he said, "Well, we are just going to do the part of it, the lower part." I am okay with that; I do not know anything about it. Then, about two weeks later, I get a phone call from his office that they are not going to be able to do my surgery because he does not accept Medicare anymore. I am on Medicare. Two things are good about turning 65: one of them is Medicare, and the other one is McDonald's coffee for seniors for 62 cents.

I called my angel of mercy, Tara Bradford, and she got me hooked up with the best guy down there. When he looked at me, he put me at the top of the list. He had surgeries that were nine months out, and he said, "You need it now." He worked me up one side and down the other. When I go through the X-ray at the airport, I light up. They tell me what they, they asked me if I

could stand over here and we use you as a training tool for about an hour. Your flight takes off. But God gave me the best, and I want the best.

I had a doctor friend of mine one time, and I had a particular sensitive area problem. He was a new doctor, but he was in my Sunday school class, and I liked him, and he was a good doctor. He really was; he just did not, and I am in there, and I am saying, and I have to have this delicate procedure. He says, "Well, I have never done one of those, but if you could hold the book that I could read out of, I could probably..." That is not what I am looking for. I got the impression maybe at nighttime he was doing donuts on Mars, but it was not for me. You want the best. I get that. If you are in trouble and you have to get a lawyer, you do not want somebody that does not know what he is doing; you want the best lawyer you can get. Get one of Trump's, and you need the best ones you can get. If you are going to be an engineer, not those guys, the ones that built up. If you are going to build the bridge and I am going over downtown to get into camp, I want the very best.

So what I am saying is, in that realm of education, you want the very best. You really do, but that all falls apart when it comes to the Bible. This is what they do: they try to take learning the Bible and put it into the same category as the men in the medical field, the law field, the engineering field, or the guys who really need to have the education that they have. So what they want to do, because they want to take your Bible from you, this is called the doctrine of the Nicolaitans in Revelation chapter 2 and 3. They want to set themselves up over you. How better to do that than to take your Bible from you, tell you you cannot understand it without what you get from me, and then tell you that you have to learn a trade language, Greek and Hebrew.

All the professionals have a trade language. Have you ever tried to read your medical chart at the end of your bed? Have you ever tried to read your dental chart when he talks about your upper bicuspid and your lower molars and your incisors? Why can he not just say the big teeth on the top and the little ones on the bottom? Because he could not charge thousands of dollars if he did that. You go to a mechanic, and he will say, "Well, your chiller springs are kind of, blew the gasket out of the main crankshaft, and your pistons lost the ring top off of them." Why does he not just say the reason why it did not work is because you got a big hole in everything and everything is running out? They have their own language. You go to talk to a lawyer. He says, "Well, we are going to have to get rid of, rid of head of your corpus." And you said, "Who died? A corpus?" They protect what they know by inventing a language that you do not know. So you have to come to them to pay the big bucks, and they can tell you what it really all means.

They do that with the Bible. You go to Bible college, and you learn a system of terms. Your first day in class, they will tell you, "We are going to study anthropology, soteriology. We are going to tell the apologetics. We are going to study pneumatology. We are going to study Christology. We are going to study eschatology." You spent all that money in all these years learning to talk like nobody in the Bible ever talked. Did you ever hear Jesus use those terms? My famous one that most preachers have really got down for Bible college is what I call hemorrhoid nudics. You learn a system of non-biblical terms based on two languages that nobody ever speaks anymore. The very kids who go in with a faith in the book come out not having it anymore.

Here is why the issue is really simple with Bible colleges that you need to understand: two fundamental differences. This is where I take my issue. Bible colleges turn out scholars. Men with B.A.s, M.A.s, Ph.D.s, and the coveted Th.D. Now, if you are where you guys are at in your sector, great. Get your B.A., study harder, get your M.A., especially if you are going to do my blood work, get your Ph.D. In the spiritual world, it is nothing more than B.A., bunch of applesauce; M.A., more applesauce; Ph.D., piled higher and deeper out of sauce. It means nothing. They give you the lie that education is the key to the Bible and God.

I have seen this creep into Christianity. I say I do not understand it, but I do understand it: the fleshly pride of being lifted up and having your people look at you differently than they look at the person sitting next to them. They like to be called doctors. You can see it everywhere. There are so many doctors in Christianity, and Christianity is so sick, and these doctors cannot fix anybody. But it is the idea of being influenced and people looking at the pastor with a Ph.D. and a doctor degree. "Dr. So-and-so is going to speak to us." Really? What is Dr. So-and-so going to give you that any saved person can give you that has been truly saved and been in love with the Bible for 50 years? Anything? But you see, you are led to believe that he can.

I have watched it again in Christianity. I do not ever say anything. I know evangelists that are out there that I have known for years and years and years. I have never fully understood this. I have known churches that go to seed, and they get that educational mindset that all they want to do is talk about their education. They pass out doctor degrees like we pass out Halloween candy because the people that go there, their God is now education. I have guys that I know, and they are good preachers, and they believe the King James Bible. Some are in evangelism, some are pastors, and they are great preachers, and they really know their Bible, but they will present themselves as Dr. So-and-so. I have one friend of mine that he is Dr. So-and-so, and after his name, it is Th.D. That is a theology doctorate degree, higher than a Ph.D. Everybody goes, "Wow." Everybody says, "Man, he really knows his Bible." Well, he does know his Bible, but he did not need that.

My point is that I never say anything, but this is what bothers me: you know how these guys got their degrees? There is a degree mill out there. I think he is in Northern Illinois or someplace. This guy, if you send him a paper that you do on the Bible at \$500, he will send you whatever degree you want. In other words, I could take my "How to Study the Bible" or my "Charismatic Movement," or I could take any one of those books that I have written out there, send it up to him, and say, "This is where I stand," and send him a check for \$500. I can have any degree I want. That is where they get them. So let me ask you a question: why do you need that? Why do you want people to look at you and think that you earned these when you did not? There is a lot of phoniness that goes on out there today, folks. I see it. Never say a word about it. None of my business, but I am telling you, education is not the key.

My 50-some years, I did missionary work in probably 30 countries, established a discipleship in 25 of them, worked with hundreds and hundreds of pastors, probably got 1,000 kids in the ministry. Do you know what got me there? I will tell you what got me there: one was the book that I believe. Two was the Holy Spirit of God that led me. The third was the most important: how stupid I was. I just believed. I was dumb enough to believe a book that God gave me, and I

did not need anything else but that book. The only B.A. I got was I was born again, and I never took it any farther than that.

You may not like me. You may not like what I say. I am not talking to you guys because you all like this. I am talking to people on camera. What you see is what you get. I do not pretend to be anything better than you are. We are in the same foxhole. We share the same blood and mud. We are in the boots on the ground. We all work together. I am no better than you are. You are no better than I am. That is the way New Testament Christianity should be. You see, Bible colleges turn out scholars. New Testament churches turn out students of the word of God, not scholars. There are no experts when it comes to the Bible. Do not ever let a man stand over you and tell you that you have to listen to him in the Greek or the Hebrew before you can understand the Bible.

I get it. When you come in, you are a new Christian. We help you. We put you into the Bible. We will show you things. We will keep you there. We will get you what you need. But I will be very honest, in five or ten years, if you do not know the Bible better than anybody else in this place, there is something wrong with you because there are no limits here. God's school is never out.

IV. The History and Indoctrination of Higher Education

When you understand the history of higher education, then this is where the attack comes in. You understand that higher education for about the last 50 years has ceased to educate, and now all they do is indoctrinate. That is all they do. When you understand the history of higher education, that will be the key thing that you look at. We will find that it exists for one reason, and that is to stop you from doing what God wants you to do and get around the word of God. This is where the child of God from the book of Acts needs to learn from history. See where it started. Do not get your nose out of joint because of what I said anything about today. Go back and see where it started. If it starts wrong, it ends wrong.

For 6,000 years now, the world has been putting out education that will impress the world and everybody in it, but it will all be against the word of God. When you look at its history, you will find that it started with the Egyptians. They were great in astronomy, mathematics; they understood, they had their own issues and philosophies of life. When they got defeated, in time, the Babylonians came into power; they were incredible in their knowledge. Then, of course, we have the Greeks. Alexander the Great had conquered all of the known world before he died. Why do you think the devil had him accomplish that? I will tell you why: because the Greeks at that point had taken from the Egyptians and from the Babylonians and had molded together the greatest influence of education the world has ever seen. The devil allowed him to conquer all the known world to spread that to everybody to such a degree that when Christ's first coming, the world was a Greek-speaking world. They had impacted the world. Even though the Roman Empire had come in, Greek was the universal language. That is the impact that they had.

Then Rome comes in. Rome comes in, and they are there at the first coming of Christ. What happens when Christ is here, down in Alexandria, Egypt, you will find the first, quote-unquote, university that pulls everything together. They took from the Egyptians, the Babylonians, and the

Greeks, and then mixed it with all the things in there. At that time, when Christ is doing His public ministry, Alexandria was in full swing. They are the ones who, in time, got the Greek manuscripts from Antioch and then changed them in over 60,000 places to line up with the Egyptian, Babylonian, and the Greek, and the Roman stuff that they did not agree with the Bible. Then, we do not have time to get into this, they are smuggled down in. If you have a new Bible today outside the King James Bible, you have a Bible that was built back there.

Then the Romans came in, about 100 A.D. For you and me in history, it all begins to take shape and come into crystal clarity with the Greek and the Romans. In history, the Greek and the Roman empires with their learning and their knowledge is called a classical curriculum. The higher education system of the world, both secular and in time religious, has been the tool of the devil to counter everything that God is doing. The Greek empire impacted the world to such a degree of the understanding of their wisdom and their knowledge as far as the world is concerned that even today, in every college in this country, if you have a sorority or you have a fraternity, they are named after the Greeks. Every college, whether it is Christian or whether it is secular.

I will go back to Rome, as you will see in a moment. I had a friend of mine a couple of years ago stop by here to see me, and he was on his way down to Springfield to the Baptist Bible College down there for the graduation. I was talking to him about it, and he says, "Yeah, I am an alumni of them, and I like to go down and support them." He says, "I just like to go back to my alma mater." I said, "That is interesting." I did not say anything more to him; he has already got his mind made up. But you see, the Greeks had such an impact on education that our sororities, our fraternities, are all named after the Greek letters: Alpha, Beta, Zeta, whatever the case may be. The Roman Catholic Church, and I will show you in a moment, has such an impact on every university in America and in Europe that they coined the phrase, "This is my alma mater," which simply is a connection of two words: "virgin mother." All roads lead to Rome. You begin to see those hidden little things that a guy who is a saved man who believes the Bible, even though the school does not anymore, would call where he was trained in ministry his alma mater without even knowing he was talking about the virgin mother. Why? I will show you why. All of this goes back to the tree of knowledge of good and evil that destroyed man, and they just have to have it.

Every overthrow of every government, every revolution, every tear down of a government, everything that is detrimental to you and the government and the system, no matter what your system may be, certainly in America with capitalism and in Christianity with fundamentalism, it all starts in universities with professors who have influence over young men and young ladies. In the secular sense, they go in, and then the professors are all liberal; they all hate God; they have nothing to do with anything that God is, and they destroy the minds. All the movements in history to destroy anything with God are found in Ecclesiastes, where I gave you the 34 philosophies of man to counter God's word. They all come through higher education.

We talk about communism. Communism started with a guy by the name of Karl Marx and Lenin. They were educators. When Stalin came to and brought the system into power during the war, Stalin brought in communism and united it in a way that it served all the way down even to today. Do you know where he got his understanding of a totalitarian system? The same way that

Lenin did and Trotsky did: they all went to seminary under the Roman Catholic Church or the Greek Orthodox or the Russian Orthodox. Adolf Hitler, Nazism. He spent time in the seminary where he was trained, and both those seminaries where both those men were taught a totalitarian system, and when those men came out and began to build what they were going to do, that is the system that they built it on. The Communist Manifesto was a political doctrine based by an educator. Mein Kampf was a political doctrine put out by what he saw and how he was trained.

Today, the idea of humanism, atheism, pragmatism, liberalism, socialism, capitalism, existentialism, Gnosticism, Aristotelianism, the Inductive Method of Reasoning, Arianism, Theism, Fascism, Epicureanism, and 30 more all start in institutions of higher education with professors who want to indoctrinate, not educate. You see it in your schools today. This is where I am warning you. Your kids are not being trained in many cases; they are not being taught. They are being indoctrinated. It all filters down to them, to the public school system, through the educators. They are not taught to think anymore; they are told what to think. They do not teach them truth; they teach them to question truth. They do not teach them to respect authority; they teach them to question authority. They teach them what is known today as critical thinking.

It all has one goal. If you do not see this, you are in trouble. It has one goal, other than to destroy the country and destroy Christianity, but in your own personal world, it is to destroy your family. You are beginning to see it. You are beginning to see the idea being propagated through the educational systems that your children do not belong to you; they belong to the state. You see it in the school systems where the unions of the school teachers get it and fight over the parents of what the parents want their kids taught. The school system says, "You do not have a right to tell us what your kids are to be taught because we have control of your kids." Did you hear Biden's speech? It was a couple of whatever it was ago when he said, "These are our children." Everybody thought he meant, "Oh, he really loves kids." Except his granddaughter. You did not catch that one. Hunter's granddaughter. Forget it.

It is a thing where, right now in California, a liberal lawmaker is introducing a bill that they want to be passed as law that in California, if you do not teach your kids gender training to decide if they are a male or a female, it is going to be child abuse. They can come and take your child from you. I am standing on my wall, and I am watching for you. Today's school system: you have homosexuals, transgenders. The woke crowd is everywhere. The idea of against authority and defunding the police. That race is the issue. Abortion, legalizing marijuana. Your child is faced with all of that. They go to a school system where they have to embrace and recognize a kid that was a guy today and yesterday or today and a girl tomorrow. Because they wear a dress now, your child is told that they have to recognize that they have to be okay with that.

I have a friend of mine; he is a Christian. He works at a place, and a transgender came in and said, "Do you have a bathroom?" And he says, "We have two. Which one do you want?" It is confusing today. Your kids are caught right up in the middle of it. I want to tell you something, parents, this is not the year not to send your kids to camp. Something needs to undo the heavy weight in their world that is influencing them in such a terrible way. Many times you do not even know about it. How many parents have I had over the years that their kid got into deep sin before apparently we figured out what was going on?

The liberal leaders of our country, the Bidens, the Clintons, the Obamas, Bernie Sanders, where do you think he got the idea that socialism is better than what we have in America? That he wants to bring socialism to America, which is only a hop, skip, and a jump to communism. Higher education, liberal higher education, which produced the extreme left-wing liberals. They want to deny free speech. These guys stand in the colleges, and they denounce America, how bad America is. They want to destroy America. It is all about race. Now they want to go back and pay black people money because they were slavery and did not get any wages.

I saw a law school that they invited a federal judge to come and speak to a law school training lawyers, and they booed him off the stage and would not even let him speak because they did not agree with his viewpoint. Those are the lawyers that are going to represent you in the future. I saw the picture where these pro-life kids just had a table out, nice kids, respectful kids, and had pamphlets for pro-life. A liberal left-wing teacher, a professor, comes up and rails on them, cusses them out, and swipes everything off their table. We want to talk about the First Amendment. I saw last week where a Muslim graduate was preaching; they asked her to be the commencement speaker for the graduation, and for 30 minutes, all she talked about is how that we need to destroy the nation of Israel. Now, how did we get here? I am going to show you. We have not even got to Acts 19 yet. Be with me.

V. The First Bible College in Acts 19

This is so simple. Three simple little aspects to this.

6. The first one, going back to the Greeks, the big three: Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato. They are called the fathers of philosophy. There was a fourth one, his name was Esophagus, but he was hard to swallow. These are the big three. These guys set the stage, the standard, that is going to impact the world even up to today.
7. The second group that comes in is under Rome. Rome becomes a political nation up to about 400 A.D. when she then transitions into a religious nation. With that, you find what is commonly called the intermediate philosophers from Rome. This will be Clement of Alexandria. This will be our buddy, Origen. This will be Augustine. This will be Alcuin. This will be guys like Thomas Aquinas that they name high schools after. These men in this time period bring us up to the Dark Ages when the Roman Catholic Church is empowered. This is called the Age of Reason.
8. The Reformation comes with Martin Luther in the 1500s. The Roman Catholic Church gets its back broken. Now, while we see the Gospel going around the world in Europe, we see what is known as the Counter-Reformation. The Roman Catholic Church now begins to regain what she has lost. The way that she does this is through a movement within the Catholic Church that was started by 1,000 or so, the Jesuits. The Jesuits are militant educators. During the time of the Reformation, while the Bible was going around the world in Europe, they set out to infiltrate every educational institution in Europe, not only the secular but also the religious ones. It was called the Oxford Movement. What it was is that Jesuit priests disguised as Protestant clergymen went to Protestant seminaries and then

graduated and started Protestant churches, all for the purpose of bringing them back under Rome. That is where it started.

Over the next couple of hundred years, you saw their work. Europe becomes the hotbed of philosophical garbage. The great humanists, the great philosophers that are held up today in secular universities, men like Thomas Hobbes, George Berkeley (they named a school after him in California), David Hume, Christian Wolff, Spinoza, Voltaire, Kant, Feuerbach, and my favorite, Nietzsche, who gave us the greatest understanding of what all this really comes down to when Nietzsche declared in the 1800s that God was dead. That is where it went. That is where it is. This is called the Age of Enlightenment. This will be to understand the difference between the Reformation and the Renaissance. The Reformation was a world becoming born again through a new birth. The Renaissance was a fake rebirth of knowledge right back to the Greeks and the Romans. It is not hard, folks.

It was only a matter of time before the ideas of Europe, ideas of everything that was going on, infiltrated into what was known as the Christian universities. Now we see Bible colleges that were established to teach the Bible actually dumping the Bible. The first illustration of this is in the 1700s with Whitfield and Edwards, because we had just come over from England about 100 years before. The first Great Awakening was to counter the first great pagan, hellish philosophy of Unitarianism that was coming over from Europe.

We see it when in 1900, get this now, just let this sink in. Here it comes. In the 1900s, all the secular universities of Europe and America told their kids, this is the secular university now, that there is no absolute truth in life. Those kids bought it. By 1950 and 1960, the Bible colleges are telling their students the same thing: "There is no absolute truth. You have to go to the Greek and Hebrew," and they fell for it.

Let me be very clear here, just so you understand my Bible base from where I am coming from. You may not like me or what I am saying today, but the only real way against this is to go out and rip the pages out of your Bible. In the Old Testament, the custodianship of the word of God was only and always with the priest class. No other tribe could have any connection to the word of God as far as writing it or the custodianship of it. No matter what the level of learning was, the word of God was never passed off out of the tribe of Levi. It was always with the priest class.

We see this happening at the first coming of Christ, here again, when between the close of the 400 years there that pops up in Israel, the Sadducees and the Pharisees, two non-biblical groups who mirror Bible scholars today, and at the first coming of Christ, they had taken custodianship of the word of God out of the hands of the priest class, just like today. Now, in the New Testament, the priest class will be the church, the body of Christ. The priest class will be the body of Christ, not the student body of a school. The New Testament church is the priest class in the New Testament, and the church, and only the church, has the custodianship of the word of God.

If a pastor passed that off, threw it away, did not know that, did not care, and put all his eggs in one basket with his kids at a Bible college someplace, that is on you. That does not change the

fact that the priest class, the body of Christ, the church, is the only one who has the custodianship of the word of God. God never gave it to a Bible college.

Having said all that, the Book of Acts will show you, this is why I spent a lot of time in the Book of Acts before we got to this part, will show you the first Bible college in New Testament times. This is why I spent so much time in Acts before we got here. Thank God for the Book of Acts.

Now, here we go. Turn to Acts chapter 19. As I have told you, the Book of Acts will be the key to our understanding of what is really of God and what is really not of God. So in Acts chapter 19, you have recorded for you our first Bible college to teach men the Bible. This sets a precedent, this sets a standard, showing you that the Book of Acts tells you what to accept and what to stay away from.

In Acts chapter 19, to make a long story short, we have the story of Apollos. Who is Apollos? In the story there, we are told that he is a Jew. Guess where he is from? Alexandria. First red flag. Apollos is a man who heard the preaching of John the Baptist some 30 or 40 years prior. He believed; he got baptized by John, and now he is walking through life with a baptism of John under his belt, believing that Christ is still going to bring in the kingdom. He has no idea that Christ died on the cross. He has no idea of the resurrection. All he has is the light that he got, and he does not know anything else.

So what happens? God, this will be Acts 19:24-28. God directs him into a New Testament local church, a church in a husband and wife's home who are called Aquila and Priscilla. He comes to that church service and he is enjoying it. He asks, "Can I give my testimony?" And they said, "Most certainly." So he gets up to the podium and he says, "Hi, my name is Apollos, I am from Alexandria. I just want to give a testimony that 35 years ago, I got baptized by John the Baptist, and I now believe that the kingdom is coming, and I believe that Jesus is the King, and I got baptized." Aquila and Priscilla, looking at each other and saying, "Okay." So they pulled him aside. Do not take my word for it. When he does this in verse 26, the Bible says Aquila and Priscilla pull him aside and show him the way of God more perfectly. In other words, they say, "Hey, Apollos, John's baptism is no good anymore. The resurrection has changed all that. Now we are in the church age. This is nothing more about Israel. If you want to get God's salvation, you have to get washed in the blood of Christ based on His death on the cross." He says, "I knew nothing about that." He says, "Yeah." So they took him through the Romans road, not really, they did not have it, but for illustration, and he got saved, and he becomes a powerful witness after his salvation. But he has some people that are following him, Acts 19:1-7, and they only know the baptism of John too, and then they get saved, and they start to be part of the New Testament church.

Now here we come. After all that, look at Acts 19:8-9. Paul finds a school, the first one in the Bible that is teaching the Bible. Let us read it:

And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

Now there you have it. If the book of Acts is what I told you it was, the defining book for everything in the New Testament church, you have God calling and commissioning Paul to start churches, New Testament churches through New Testament churches. In Antioch, where they are first called Christians, and see how God through the New Testament churches is training them: Paul, Titus, Philemon, Barnabas, Mark, Timothy, Aquila, and Priscilla. Now, right in the middle of all this, you have Tyrannus. The school, a Bible school that is teaching against that way, God's salvation. In our context, baptism for salvation based on John's baptism.

Note two things about our Bible college here when it came to being confronted with the real truth: "divers hardened." Two key words. "Divers" means different. "Hardened" means they hardened their heart. If we want a definition of that, go back to Proverbs 20:10, and you will find that "divers" is an abomination to God because it is a false witness and a false weight and a false measure. The next thing you want to see is Paul spent Acts 19:10 two years there, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God, the church age. He is trying to get them to see that it is no longer the kingdom of heaven. Notice verse 11, that there are evil spirits connected with all of this.

In history, you do not want to miss this. Thank God for the book of Acts. Through a school, not a church, a school teaching against the word of God is keeping baptism for salvation and the kingdom of heaven concept alive, which is completely a false teaching now, but it is ready to be picked up by the Roman Catholic Church in just a few years later. The devil is keeping that thing alive. Right here is where you start your two lines of teaching. It is either going to come from a New Testament local church or it is going to come from a school. A school has no biblical authority to teach anybody anything unless it is connected to a New Testament local church.

That is what the book of Acts does for us. When it comes to all things within the church, it will give you understanding. It will teach you what is good, what is bad, what to accept, and what to reject. It shows you what "divers hardened" means when somebody is up against the truth of the word of God. It shows you a church that lets the word of God judge them instead of a system of a school that sits in judgment of the word of God. That is the difference. The book of Acts, through understanding history of higher education, will show you exactly what you are up against today. Why your kids are faced with the things that they are faced with. Why your family is faced with the things that you face. It just did not happen. It just did not start. It has been a long progression of education and miscommunication and false teaching, usurping the authority over the word of God to replace it.

VI. The Modern Attack and the Church's Role

Today, 2023, right in your home. It is right in the school where your kids go to school. It is right there. You are faced with it every day, and it is only going to get worse. It is not going to go away. It is not going to get better. A new president is not going to fix it. This is part of the end

time before the Lord comes back. You better learn how to navigate through it as a parent. You better see that you need all the help you can get. You better see and understand that trying to fly this thing by the seat of your pants and just thinking you know what is going on and not getting the help of the New Testament local church to get you and help you and guide you and listen to a pastor or whoever is working with you standing on the wall that sees these things coming. You can sit there and either blow it off or you can say, "Hey, I better get my head out of the sand because look where we are at."

This is why the book of Acts is so vital. Yet in New Testament Christian circles, it is one of the most misapplied books in all the Bible, right along with Matthew, Acts, and Hebrews. Next week, I am going to give you a part two. I am going to take you again back into the book of Acts, and I am going to show you the real school of God. I am going to show you the curriculum that every true Bible school should have within a New Testament local church. If you do not have this in a church, the pastor either does not know what he is doing or he is just whatever. But a church needs to have a purpose and direction for its people. It cannot be about "come to church Sunday morning, Wednesday night, Sunday night, and just tithe and do all the things here, and you will be fine." You will be flat on your face. You are under attack today. Just coming to church, hearing some sermon, is not going to cut it. Somebody needs to be standing on the wall, watching what is happening, and warning you.

What you do with a warning after that is up to you. But I will tell you right now, your blood will not be on my hands for not being the right watcher that I need to be for you. Not only inside the church with the things that happen, but outside the church with the devil's attack from the world. The attack today started a long time ago, folks. Nothing new under the sun. Way before, and right before the second coming of Christ today, we see the attack on the family. We see the attacks on marriages. We see the attacks on your children. We see the attack on ministry. We see the attack on the churches. We see the attacks on the Bible. All of them attack the three institutions that God set up. They want to eradicate it and erase it and then replace it with a worldly, philosophical, Greek, Roman, pagan philosophy of life that has no absolute truth and takes everything from you and builds a totalitarian system in your life. They want to take your gun, they want to take your freedom, they want to take your speech, they want to take your children, they want to take everything.

I am telling you, folks, whatever you have to do, do not have your kids miss camp. You need all the help you can get. We know what you need. We are already preparing what to do with your kid to help you with them. I am telling you right now, you let it slide, you let something else get in the way, you are on your own. I have watched people over the years make a lot of bad choices. I feel bad to a certain degree about the bad choices they make because, loving people, you do not want anybody to make a bad choice. But there is a line in the sand of my sympathy. Let me be blunt, let me be bold, and then you can go home. Whether you come back next week or not, you can decide that if your lunch is good.

The reason why I draw the line in the sand is simply this: in this church, I am not speaking for any other church, I am speaking for my church, my church. In my church, with my teaching and my preaching and what I give you, there is no excuse for you making a bad choice. You have

everything you need. You have people in your world, you have a pastor that will spend whatever time it takes. You have people that will work with you, that will help you. We are not somebody that will just brush your problems under the rug and say, "Figure it out." No, that is not what you do in a church. This church here has the answers. There is absolutely, I cannot speak for any other church, but I am speaking for mine. In this church, my sympathy ends at that line, because there is no reason for you to make a bad choice. There is no reason for you to screw your life up. There is no reason for you to go out there and say, "Well, I did not really know how this worked." There is no excuse and no reason for that other than you want to. Then it is on you.

Next week, you are going to get the curriculum. The seven classes in God's school, and then you will see how it fits into this church.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. Thank You for all You do for us. Thank You for the word of God, for its power, for its truth. We pray, Father, today that these dads will have a good rest of the day as their special day. We pray, Father, that the word of God will be taken to heart today, that these Your people would see and understand the warning today, realize what is at stake, but most importantly, realize how we got the mess we are in. It has been a long, protracted plan from Genesis chapter 1. We are seeing it now come to fruition right before Jesus comes back. Thank You and we praise You in Jesus' name and say we ask it, Amen.