

## I. The State of Christianity

If you have your Bibles this morning, we are going to turn to Psalm chapter 36. Last night at volleyball, and I love to walk around and talk to everybody and visit with everybody, I was talking to a young man that does not go to our church. As you know, you bring people in and invite them to play, and it is really a good outreach for our church, especially if you look around at how young our church is. It is because of the athletic ministries and so many things that we do to reach that age group. We were talking, and he goes to one of the mega churches in town here. He was telling me that he was discipling a small group of people, four, five, six people. He said, “You know, I got through discipleship with them. I just wanted to take them to another deeper level to come to understand their Bibles.” I was just listening to him, and he was kind of smiling and laughing. He said, “So I got a book written by a guy called, ‘How to Study the Bible’.” He said, “I wanted to teach that.” He said, “I sent an email out explaining everything that we wanted to do to get into a deeper level of the Bible.” He said, “Nobody wanted to do it.”

Then he made a very interesting statement, which I already knew, but it was great for him to pick up on it. He said, “You know what the problem is in our church?” I thought, “I know a bunch of problems in this church, but I wasn't going to tell him.” I said, “No, I really don't.” He said, “People in our church don't come to learn the Bible. They come to be entertained.” I thought to myself, that is Christianity today. Nobody cares about learning the Bible anymore. Churches today are like a gigantic Super Bowl halftime show, all the bells and whistles. There was a time when you picked the church to go to based on the preacher, the teaching, and how well he communicated the Word of God. Those days are gone. People pick a church now based on the entertainment package. Nobody is interested in the Bible anymore, and I understand why all of that is. We have talked about it many, many times: the state of Christianity.

But I want to tell you something. The job of every New Testament Bible-believing church—and there is your first problem—but the fundamental foundation for every Bible-believing church is for the pastor to teach his people the Word of God. We have great singers. We have the Old Path Boys. We have things like that. But I will tell you what, there will never be a day when all that stuff supersedes the preaching of the Word of God. You know why the pulpit is in the center of some churches today? You go to an Episcopalian church or a Catholic church or a Presbyterian church, the pulpit is up here on the side, and it is elevated a little bit. But the Bible-believers understood the book of Nehemiah. From time and eternity, Bible-believing Baptist churches put the pulpit in the center of the church because they wanted everybody to know that the focus and the center of the church is the preaching of the Word of God. You people are the most important aspect of this church. Without you, we do not have a church.

The job of the pastor is to understand that. The job of the pastor is to use every bit of whatever he has to be able to get you every ounce of the Word of God that you are willing to take. That is what will change your life. It changed Jason's life—two years of sobriety. It wasn't because he went to Alcoholics Anonymous. It wasn't because he went and got some kind of drug that they

have now. I forget what they call it, but you take it, and then if you drink, you get violently sick. No, no. What fixed him was the Book you are holding in your hand and a church who had the people willing to invest in his life. Most of you who are sitting under the sound of my voice this morning came in, maybe not the same way, but you came in without the Word of God, came in without a real working relationship with God, and now you have one. You don't have it because of me. You don't have it because of anything other than the Word of God in this church and the men and women who are willing to invest their lives into your life to help you get to where God wants you to be.

## II. Psalms 36 – One of the Great Contrasts in the Bible

So, having said that, when I talked to that young man last night, I thought it was very insightful for him to be able to see that. I thought how apropos—and I do not know what the word "apropos" means, but I've heard a lot of big guys using it, so I will use it—how fitting Psalm 36 is today in this chapter because you are going to find in this chapter one of the great contrasts of the Bible. Chapter 36 runs 12 verses. **In the first four verses, it is going to lay out the ungodly nature of the antichrist, i.e., the devil. Then in verses 5 through 12, we are going to look at the loving nature and the characteristics of a loving God, i.e., the Lord Jesus Christ.**

1. *The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, [that there] is no fear of God before his eyes.*
2. *For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.*
3. *The words of his mouth [are] iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, [and] to do good.*
4. *He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way [that is] not good; he abhorreth not evil.*
5. *Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; [and] thy faithfulness [reacheth] unto the clouds.*
6. *Thy righteousness [is] like the great mountains; thy judgments [are] a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.*
7. *How excellent [is] thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.*
8. *They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.*
9. *For with thee [is] the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.*
10. *O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.*
11. *Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me.*
12. *There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise.*

### III. Contrast: One of the Great Keys to Opening up Scripture

#### ➤ The Original Contrast in the Bible: Light versus Darkness

You know from our time here that in your Bible contrast is one of the great keys to opening up the Scripture. When we came through Genesis, you don't go past the first four verses, before you see the first gigantic contrast that is found in the Bible. That will be in Genesis chapter 1 where it talks about light versus darkness. Most commentators, when they get to that verse, will say the light and the darkness are the first daytime and the first night. I am not sure how they get that because the sun and the moon are not created until two or three days later. So, the day and the night here are not 24-hour periods of day and night as we know it, but they represent—you will notice Day and Night are capitalized—they represent a great contrast in the Bible. **The Day will be the Lord Jesus Christ, the day star that will arise in our hearts. The Night will be the devil himself. Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.** You are going to find that all this is based on the original contrast as you come through the rest of your Bible: light versus darkness.

#### ➤ The Attitude of God's Heart and the Attitude of the Devil's Heart

When you get to verse 1, it says, "*The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart that there is no fear of God before his eyes.*" In the first four verses, we see the character qualities or lack of character qualities in the devil himself. There are six character aspects of his wickedness. Along with Psalm 36, you will want to put these into your Bible, you will also want to put with this passage: Psalms 10:2, Job 15:12, Job 20:22, and Ezekiel 21:25. All of these go along with what you have here. We have talked over the last couple of weeks or months about our attitude of heart. In this chapter, we see the attitude of God's heart, but then we also see the attitude of the devil's heart.

Let's begin to look at these verses here. The first thing that he says is, "The transgression of the wicked saith in his heart." This will demonstrate something to us. It is going to show us something about the greatest enemy that you have if you're saved here this morning, and that will be the spiritual wickedness, talked about in Ephesians, in high places. The first thing I want you to see is that we know that in the first part of this chapter we've got to watch out for something because there are six things, and it is found in chapter 36. Six times six is 36. Six (6) things you have in chapter 36 (6x6) tells me that the number is 666. We have got to look at everything here that God is going to show us.

#### ➤ The Devil Imitates Christ

One of the greatest contrasts in your Bible is over there with Solomon when the Lord takes one chapter (I Kings 10) and the first half of the chapter, he shows Solomon as a type of Christ. The second part of the chapter, he shows Solomon as a type of the antichrist. Solomon is the only man in the Bible who are both types. **The reason for that is the antichrist is such a carbon copy and an imitation of Christ. They are so close together that you've got to look at certain things to be able to tell the difference.** As you come down through the first part, it plays out

Solomon as a type of Christ. But then you get to the middle verse in the chapter and it all changes. **You know how you know it changes? It starts to talk about the weight of the gold that came to Solomon. It says in 1 Kings 10:14, "Now the weight of the gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold."** That's 666! And here you find it. Over in Proverbs chapter six, you find the six things that God hates. And the seventh makes an abomination. It is chapter six and verse six, and there are six things, 666. What you have here in these first four verses will show you what you are up against. It is going to show you—and I do not understand how anybody can compare the contrast of what God will do for you and what the devil will do for you, and then decide to go with the world and the devil. God's people, but they will and they do.

➤ Sin Starts in the Heart

He says here that the “wicked saith in his heart”. Now this will be a reference in a bigger picture of Isaiah chapter 14 and Ezekiel chapter 28, a time in a distant past when we know that Satan, who was once the anointed cherub which covered the throne, left the presence of God. When he left the presence of God, we know that he took one third of the angels with him, and they became the spiritual wickedness in high places that we battle against today. But what I want you to see, that sin started in the heart. Everybody thinks in the Bible the first sin was Adam and Eve. No, the first sin in the Bible was not Adam and Eve. **The first sin in the Bible was when Satan said in his heart, "I will be like the most High."** The first sin in the Bible started when it says, "*Thine heart was lifted up.*" Sin always starts in the heart. Jeremiah 17:9 talks about *the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.* This will show us where all sin starts with the devil and with man who is of their father the devil, and the lusts of their father they will do.

## IV. Six Character Aspects of the Devil's Wickedness

### 1.) He flatters himself in his own eyes.

It says in verse 2 that he flatters himself in his own eyes. This is a problem that a lot of people have. I have met Christians all my life whose lives were filled with drama. In everything in life, they always had to have something going on that said, "Look at me!" Many times it is something that they conjure up in their head. There is no basis for it. But the bottom line is when your heart leaves God, the first thing you start to focus on is not God anymore. The first thing you start to focus on is you, who you are. You start to flatter yourself just like he did. It starts in the heart.

If you keep your heart close to God, you will never overestimate yourself in your goodness. You will always see and understand exactly who you are, where you are, and where it comes from. So the antichrist puffs himself up like a lot of people do. He builds drama around his life where everything in the world is, "Look at me!" He flatters himself with his own eyes. This is vanity, as the Book of Ecclesiastes lays out, and you think now more of yourself than you do of God.

### 2.) The words of his mouth are iniquity.

Look at verse 3, "The words of his mouth are iniquity." Whatever comes out of the devil's mouth will be based on what is in his heart. We know that simple principle from Matthew 12:34, "*Out*

*of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*" We know now from our past studies that the heart of man will be the spirit of man. Where you lend that spirit, to the Spirit of God or the spirit of this world, it determines your attitude of heart about things. Out of that attitude of heart comes your actions, and out of your actions comes the words out of your mouth. **God's words out of his mouth will always be based on the Holy Spirit of God. The devil's words out of his mouth will always be based on the spirit of antichrist.** It says here that he "*left off to be wise, and to do good*". You are going to see that the iniquity that comes out of his mouth will always be hatefulness toward everything that has to do with God.

### 3.) The words of his mouth are deceit.

Verse 3, "The words of his mouth are... deceit." **Everything that the devil will say to you will be one of two things. It will either be a misrepresentation of the Word of God, or it will be a complete lie.** You are going to find the pattern for this is in Genesis chapter 3, where we studied the first time the devil shows up, the law first mention, he comes to Eve and he says, "Yea, hath God said?" That is what the Old Testament prophet said later in the Bible. The way you recognized that a prophet was either God's prophet or not God's prophet, was that everything he said started, "Thus saith the Lord." So when the devil shows up the first time, he counterfeits that. He says, "Yea, hath God said," and then when you read what else he says out of his mouth, it is deceit. He changed what God said. This will be the tactic of the devil. The devil is not complicated. It is deceit.

The devil's primary focus on earth will be to deceive man. He does this through religion and science falsely so called. He will do it through psychology and psychiatry, the book of Ecclesiastes. He will do it through the world system. He will do it through governments. He will do it through Bible colleges, and he will do it through churches today. It's a thing where the devil will be the master of deception—Job chapter 40 and chapter 41. We talked about it Thursday night when we talked about the state of our country and all the things that are going on. I showed you Job chapter 40 and 41 are the two greatest chapters in the Old Testament that really lay out and define who the devil is. Revelation 12 and 13 are the two greatest chapters in the New Testament. **God makes it very clear that there is no reason on this planet for any child of God to ever fall for any deception. He tells you what to look for. He tells you how he operates. He tells you what he is going to say.**

Somebody said one time, "You can't fool an honest man." I thought about that a lot. You see, for you and me to be deceived and be taken advantage of, and, hey, believe me, I get, and I am sure you do too, you know how many phone calls I get a week? I keep getting on my phone that if I do not pay my traffic fine from going through the Kansas Turnpike, they are going to come and put me in jail. I have not been on the Kansas Turnpike in 15 years. I guess they know I am old. Most old people, not me, of course, most old people are forgetful. They are intimidated. So somebody sees that, and they start to panic. "I am 90 years old. I am 80 years old. I do not want to go to jail." So you call the toll-free number, and they say, "You need to take care of these tickets right now." You are dumb enough to fall for it. You pay it, and they get your money, plus they get your credit card number, and "hasta luego", you are done. We had a lady in the church one time who had the same thing. They took her for \$2,500. I am not kidding you. I got one just

last week. Somebody said, "You've got some outstanding traffic warrants. If you do not get these paid, here is what can happen to you: take your license, lose your insurance, go to jail." Now I was lucky with that one because it had a reply. I just replied, "Come and get me".

But you know what? You can't fool an honest man. I'm not saying I am honest. But a person gets deceived when he hears something, and what is the saying, "If it is too good to be true, what?" Do you know why we fall for things like that? Because we ourselves want to take the shortcut. Somebody texts you and says, "You join our Bitcoin club, and we will make you millions of dollars. You send me 10,000, and I will make you a millionaire." You are so greedy to be a millionaire, you send the 10000, you never see it again. Being deceived. **If you are saved and sitting here this morning with the Bible God gave you, there is absolutely no reason for you to be deceived in anything he does.** But we are. That is the state we find ourselves in. It is one of those things that—there it is. It just goes on and on and on and lays out the troubles that we have, you know, that he deceives us.

#### 4.) He devises mischief upon his bed.

Then he says in verse 4, "*He deviseth mischief upon his bed.*" This will be an eye-opening concept. I know the devil doesn't sleep. He doesn't need to sleep. But the idea is that if he needed to get some sleep, the last thing he would think about before he went to sleep, and the first thing he would think about when he woke up, is your destruction; 24/7. It is basically saying he is planning your downfall. He is planning your downfall through a deception. It may be the deception of a church that has no Bible, but you like everything about it. It may be a deception of some person you have in your life, but you have violated the biblical principles, and now you are in way over your head. I think that doctrinally, this is a picture of the antichrist who lays awake at night plotting and thinking about the destruction of the nation of Israel in the tribulation period.

**This shows me anyhow that the devil in these first four verses has a total obsession with stopping you.** He does. He has no power to do that. The devil cannot come down and take the blessings out of your life. The devil cannot come down and stop what God is doing in your life. He cannot do that. So what he will do is get you to believe in what he says that is not true. He will get you to believe in a deception and get your eyes off the Lord and get them on yourself, and you will give it up. Not complicated. Not complicated.

#### 5.) He setteth himself in a way that is not good.

Verse 4 says, "*He setteth himself in a way that is not good.*" This is Psalm 1:1-4.

*Psalms 1:1-4. Blessed [is] the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, **nor standeth in the way of sinners**, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*2. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

*3. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water; that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

4. *The ungodly [are] not so: but [are] like the chaff which the wind driveth away.*

You see, you are going to have in the world two ways to go. You are going to have God's way, and you are going to have the devil's way. Now within those two choices, sure, you have lots of other choices, but **fundamentally life is about two choices: God's way or the devil's way.** The world today is 100% going the wrong way. You would be surprised at how many of God's people play into that. Thursday night we talked about the 11th hour and right now everything that is going on right before the Lord returns. It is all headed the devil's way. We, as God's people in this church, make sure we understand we need to be going the other way.

#### 6.) He abhorreth not evil.

He says in verse 4, "*He abhorreth not evil.*" The Bible says in verse 1 that "*there is no fear of God before his eyes*". A sinner will transgress God's law just like the devil because he has no fear of the Lord. We live in a world today where God and the Bible have been so far removed from society. Nobody understands what a holy God is, what a holy God requires, and what a holy God could do. There is no fear of God. There is no fear in our lives; the fact that God has absolute rules of conduct. Life may be about choices, but some of those choices have consequences. It is understanding those consequences that you fear. The Bible says Noah moved with fear in the preparing of the ark for the saving of his household.

In a couple of months, when I can get it together, we are going to go back through the child training program again. It is obvious to me, just looking around that it needs to be done. Parents need to do what Noah did. Noah moved with fear in the preparing of an ark for the saving of his household. You, as a parent—I do not care if you are in this church, I do not care who you are—understanding the devil is after your kid. You'd better have the fear of God in your heart to prepare an ark where God protects them for the saving of your household. You think it is cute now when they do all kinds of things and get into stuff. Wait until they are 19. You've got to start now. Noah moved with fear. There is no fear of God in the way we live our lives. There is no fear of God in raising our kids. This is 21st century America. It is Isaiah 5:20, where now evil is called good and good is called evil.

Now, this will be the antichrist as the Bible lays him out. You can line all this up with Proverbs chapter six, the six things that God hates, 666. It all goes together.

## V. Seven Reasons to Love God Above All

But now once we get past the character qualities, or lack of character qualities of the antichrist, we see the great contrast. Now we see in verses 5 through 12, the loving character qualities of God through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now you are going to find in these verses, not only the character qualities, but **I am going to show you seven reasons why you should love God above everything else on planet earth.** I am going to show you how if you ever want to keep the first four verses out of your life: you do not want to be deceived, and you do not want to fall into the traps. It is these seven things that if you understand these character qualities, make them your character qualities. This is how you love God. You don't love God because you've got some

warm fuzzy feeling. **You love God based on understanding and knowing God. Here are the seven things that when you understand these and you put them into your life, you now have the ability to love Him and never be deceived.** That is my goal for you. I do not have any other goal. I want you to be everything God wants you to be. My responsibility is to help you get to where God wants you to be. Logan did a great job singing this morning. The Old Paths Boys do a great job singing. All our people doing specials do a great job singing. If everybody got laryngitis, it would not stop the greatest aspect of this church. A King James 1611 Authorized Version served up in your lap. It's just that simple.

## 1.) God's Mercy

Now the first thing he says here in verse 5, "*Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.*" Our first character quality here and the great aspect that God has will be the mercy of God. "Thy mercy is in the heavens." This takes me back to Psalms 19:1-6 when we saw it a while back where the heavens declare the glory of God and all the firmament showeth his handiwork. **The mercy of God is based on the glory of God, and God has displayed God's glory and God's mercy through everything that He created in the heavens.** Now in the mercy of God will be found the faithfulness of God. The faithfulness of God is unparalleled to anything the world has to offer. It is the greatest concept. I think that in the mercy of God and the faithfulness of God, you can find places in the Bible where it really illustrates those.

When you talk about the mercy of God, in my mind anyhow, the greatest story, and I know there are tons of verses, tons of places, but for me personally, the greatest story that shows God's mercy to me is found over there in 2 Samuel chapter 9 where you have the story of David and Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth means "breathing shame." He is connected to Saul who is a type of the devil and antichrist. By birth he is David's enemy. Well, Mephibosheth is a picture of me. He is a picture of you. You know before you got saved, whatever your name was, you could translate it as "breathing shame." There was nothing good about any of us. Mephibosheth was David's enemy, but David made a promise to a man named Jonathan. David made a promise to a man whose name started with a J, (Jesus). So here comes Mephibosheth, lame on his feet, breathing shame. You and I were lame on our feet and breathing shame. What did God do through his mercy? He brought Mephibosheth in, set him at his table. The Bible says that he ate God's bread continually the rest of his life. You and me were Mephibosheth. Greatest story in the Bible on the mercy of God. How God took you and me just like David, a type of Christ, took Mephibosheth.

## 2.) God's Faithfulness

In the mercy of God will be found the faithfulness of God. The faithfulness of God is demonstrated in the story of God dealing with the nation of Israel. I mean a nation who at every chance they could turned their back on God, walked away from God, and then did everything God told them not to do. But you know what? The gifts and calling of God to Israel are without repentance. No place do you see greater faithfulness than God putting up with Israel. Well, I guess that is not true. There is one other place that I see other than Israel, and that is with me and you. Get past yourself this morning, and let's ask an honest question. Why does God need us?

You and me both. Every other word out of our mouth is against God. We lived a life before we were saved totally against God; did our own thing. Unfortunately, many of God's people after they get saved do the exact same thing they did before they got saved. You see, the thing that makes me love God more than anything else on planet earth is His mercy, but then is His faithfulness. You will never find anything in this world that you try to put yourself into that will ever compare with the faithfulness that God has for you. This is where God's people get deceived. You think the world has something better to offer you than God. You think that you can step outside the principles of the Word of God and you will be okay. His being faithful to me is the reason I can trust Him in everything in my life. You too.

His faithfulness, the Bible says, "reaches to the clouds." Remember over there in Acts chapter one when Jesus ascended up to heaven. He went up in a cloud, and the Bible says as He went up in a cloud, He is going to come back in a cloud. His faithfulness reaches unto the clouds. All through my life in the church age and the rapture of the church, He is going to be faithful to me. Without a doubt, to me, God's faithfulness will be the greatest character quality that He has. My goal in life, your goal in life, ought to be to be as faithful to Him as He is to you. That is tough.

### 3.) God's Righteousness

Verse 6, three things here. "*Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.*" Next he talks about God's righteousness. For that, you will want the verse found in 2 Corinthians 5:21, *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.* That is what God gave me. God gave me His own righteousness the day I got saved, the holiness of God. Then he now compares the righteousness of God to two things.

#### ➤ The Righteousness of God is Compared to Mountains

The first thing is mountains. In this life, there is nothing more majestic or awe-inspiring than the great mountains on earth. I do not know what you know because they don't teach anything in school anymore, but the highest mountain on planet Earth is Mount Everest, over 29,000 feet. Man has tried to conquer Mount Everest like man tries to conquer God. There are 344 people who have died on that mountain, and nobody will ever conquer it. We have the majestic Rocky Mountains in our own country. In Japan, Mount Fujiyama, how impressive that is. I have seen the Swiss Alps. Incredible. I remember years ago when I was in Africa. We got in that evening, but by the time we drove to where we were staying, it was dark. Everybody was beat and tired and went to bed. I woke up early at about five when the sun was now up. Everybody else was still asleep. I was awakened by the natural sounds of Africa out there, the monkeys chitter-chattering around and all that stuff. So I walked up, looking over here, seeing all those flat-top African trees. I turned around and there, from this peripheral vision to this, was Mount Kilimanjaro. I stood there and looked at that mountain from my peripheral on this side to this. I was still probably 300, 400 miles away from it. It ascended with snow over the top of it. That mountain was the most impressive thing I have ever seen in my life. **So when he talks about God, when it talks about the righteousness of God, he likens it to mountains because like God's mercy and His righteousness, mountains are steadfast. Mountains are unmovable.**

Man, like standing in front of Kilimanjaro 200 miles away, I was so small. Like God's righteousness and God's judgments, mountains stand the test of time. The storms that blow in will sweep man off that mountainside. The avalanches come cascading down and will bury you in a hundred feet of snow. Man will come and go, but **the mountains like God's judgment and God's righteousness will stand forever.**

You know, in your Bible, God's plan for man and his salvation, mercy, will be built around Jerusalem that is built on seven mountains. The greatest of those seven mountains is Mount Moriah. Mount Moriah is where Calvary was, where Jesus died on the cross and paid for our sins. So I understand the concept of mountains. Now spiritually speaking, the mountain that he is referring to here will be found in Hebrews chapter 12 and Psalms chapter 48, spiritual Mount Zion on the sides of the north. That is up there in the third heaven where God's throne is. When Christ comes back at the second coming of Christ, two mountains are involved, which brings in God's righteousness and brings in His judgment. When He comes back, He first comes to Mount Sinai where He met with Moses, and he was told to take the shoes off his feet. Then He comes down through the King's Highway, up through Paran and those places, and then comes across Jordan and comes to the Mount of Olives. There He steps off that horse, He goes through the Eastern Gate and sits down on the throne. His righteousness and judgment are like unto mountains in the Bible. One of the greatest studies you will ever take if you want to take it.

#### 4.) God's Judgments

- The Judgments of God are Compared to the Great Deep

Then the second thing is he says that His judgments are like the great deep. We know the great deep is that great expanse of water between the second heaven and the third heaven, which we know is outer space. Out there is that great expanse. **It shows me now by using that analogy that just like the endlessness of the deep and it being unsearchable and no end to it, so is the righteousness of God and his judgments.** You cannot search Him out. The unsearchable riches of the Word of God that you hold in your lap is like the deep. It contains not only God's righteousness but God's judgment.

#### 5.) God's Lovingkindness

Then he says in verse 7, "*How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.*" The next character quality will be God's lovingkindness toward us. There is no greater place that this will be found and explained for us in the New Testament than the book of Ephesians. When God wrote the Bible, He gave you and me two love letters. The love letter in the Old Testament is the Song of Solomon, but the love letter to the New Testament church is in the book of Ephesians. It is an incredible picture. It says in Ephesians 2:4-5:

*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*

*Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

That is the lovingkindness of God. **The lovingkindness of God is He loved us in His kindness when He should have put us all in the lake of fire.** I remember back in Exodus 34:5-7, Moses is on the mountain with God, and God is expressing His lovingkindness to Moses and Israel. You can apply it to us.

*And the LORD descended **in the cloud**, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.*

*And the LORD passed by [before] him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, **merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,***

*Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear [the guilty]; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth [generation].*

That is the lovingkindness of God in spite of who we are, in spite of the failures in our lives, His lovingkindness.

## 6.) God's Trust

Then he says, "under the shadow of thy wings." **Throughout your Bible, God will be pictured as a mother eagle who was watching over the nation of Israel.** You will find it back in Deuteronomy 32:11. It says, talking about God,

*Deuteronomy 32:11. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, **beareth them on her wings:***

You will also find it in Exodus 19:4, Psalms 61:4, Isaiah 40:31, and Revelation 12:14. Those are places you'll want to put with those verses. **The shadow of God's wings in my life and your life will be in God's protection over us as He soars like an eagle, high above the earth, watching out for His people.** My protection, like Israel, is to stay under the shadow of those wings. The Bible tells us in Isaiah 42:9, and this is really what we got into Thursday night. God tells us that a lot of things are going to happen. A lot of things are going to begin to wind down. He said in Isaiah 42:9 that old things will pass away, behold new things will come on the scene. But he also says before God does anything, He will tell us and He will show us what He is about to do. This is God's hand of protection in your life. You never have to be deceived. You never have to fall into the traps. Those first four verses will show you everything the devil wants to do to stop you, to destroy you. Now I am giving you seven things that if you get them into your life, you will love Him with all your heart, with all your mind, and all your soul, and it will take all your strength.

## 7.) God's Satisfaction

Look at verse 8. "*They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.*" There is no question about it today, in all the years that I have dealt with people, what people really want is just to be satisfied in life. Without a doubt, that is the missing element in people's lives today, lost people and saved people. They will

be deceived by all the things that the world has to offer, and they will actually believe that there is some satisfaction in those things. If you want the Bible definition for satisfaction, it is found in 1 Timothy 6:6. It says, *but godliness with contentment is great gain.* You see, you will never get contentment (satisfaction) until you first have the godliness. People that go through life, the sad reality will be that at the end of their lives, what they thought would satisfy them, has left them broken, embarrassed, and in darkness. The collateral damage will be to their children, generation upon generation, and they die as unhappy and as unsatisfied as they had lived. There is no satisfaction outside the house of God, the church, and His Word. The fatness of the Word of God, God's seven course meal, I've given it to you many times, builds a spiritual fatness in your life.

### ➤ The River of God's Judgment and the River of the Water of Life

Then He says, "*drink of the river of thy pleasures.*" Now in the Bible, you have the Nile River, you have the Euphrates River, you have the Jordan River, but in your Bible, spiritually speaking, you only have two rivers. In life, you will either drink from one or the other. The first river will be the river of God's judgment. You will find this in Exodus 7:14-15. Moses goes up against the world system. The world system rejects God, and everything that God has. What does Moses do by the hand of God? He turns the rivers and the waters in the rivers to blood. He shuts off the drinking supply for the nation of Egypt, type of the world. In Revelation 8:11, during the tribulation, the river waters become bitter, wormwood. God's judgment on man. **It shows you that the river of God's judgment can never quench your thirst. It is never going to be what you need.** God's judgments of Egypt and the world will be the world that we live in today. The problems we have, the heartache and the fact that people, God's people, unsaved people for sure, but God's people are unsatisfied. You are drinking from the wrong river.

Now the second river will be found in Ezekiel chapter 47. This will be the river, which is called the river of the water of life, that in the millennium comes out of the holy oblation or the throne of God, comes down through the desert and then into the Dead Sea, through the Dead Sea and out into the Mediterranean Sea. **Where the river of God's judgment killed all the fish, the river of life brings life wherever it goes,** Ezekiel 47:9. "*And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.*" This river starts out in the throne of God in the millennium and comes down through the desert. This is where the Bible says in Isaiah 35:1, "*the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.*" It flows into the Dead Sea. Nothing can live in the Dead Sea right now because of the high salt content. You cannot drown in the Dead Sea. You can jump into Dead Sea without any life preserver on, and you will float like a cork. The salt content is so high, you cannot drown. Nothing can live in it. But there is a day coming when that water in the millennium comes out of the throne of God, comes down through the desert, the desert blooms like a rose and then goes into the Dead Sea and everything in the Dead Sea comes alive. Then it goes to the Mediterranean and the Bible says that water of life goes to the ends of the earth. That is the millennium. Spiritually, it's Mount Zion, sides of the north, the holy temple up there. This is where Jesus, our water of life came down to this planet and brought to a world that was unsatisfied, to a world that thirsted, to a world that had no satisfaction, the

cool drink of the water of life. Oh, it is incredible. Absolutely incredible. It is made to drink of the rivers of pleasure.

## VI. In Thy Light Shall We See Light

### ➤ God is the Fountain of Life

Now look at verse 9, "*For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.*" In 1513, you have one of the early explorers of America. He is in a long list of good old Roman Catholic explorers, men who came to America to claim it for Spain and the Roman Catholic Church. I tell you all the time how the God of the Bible is the God of history, and everything correlates to the Bible. The Roman Catholic Church wanted to enslave America under Catholicism in the early days. So the conquistadors, or the Spanish explorers, came over and basically enslave all the indigenous tribes that they encounter. But in 1604, the Pilgrims came to this country. (There is another contrast). They came to this country bringing the Word of God. The King James Bible was not completed yet, but they brought the Geneva Bible. They came to bring salvation to all the indigenous tribes, the contrast of the demonic Roman Catholic Church. You will find in Revelation chapter 18 if you want to look at it down through verses 12 through 13, it talks about the Roman Catholic Church and about the things that it desires. There is a list of, I don't know, 14 or 15 things. You know what the first thing the Roman Catholic Church desires? Gold. After all that list, do you know what the last thing is? Souls of men. Contrast.

When the Pilgrims came over, that was God moving the Bible believers out of Europe, which was landlocked and severely persecuted by the Catholic Church, bringing them to a land where they could teach that Bible and raise their kids without the fear of being dragged out and executed in the middle of the night. They brought the gospel to the American Indian. God is in every part of history. Salvation is of the Jew, amen? Anybody know the ship that they came over on to Plymouth? Anybody know what it was? Just yell it out. A little louder. The Mayflower. Mayflower. Salvation of the Jew. In May of 1948, Israel budded her leaves and became the Mayflower. Ha, ha, ha ...and you like video games!

When the Catholic Church tried to take over the world, and during this time the Roman Catholic Church dominated the world, they held some of the most ridiculous ideas about planet earth. They were the ones that taught that the earth was flat. They got that out of not being able to rightly divide the word of truth out of Isaiah chapter 27 and Job chapter 40 and Job chapter 41. Columbus couldn't get funding for his trip because everybody was afraid that the earth was flat, and that you would sail out there and go off at the end. In 1519, after the Catholic Church had executed everybody who thought that the world was round instead of flat, Magellan (who is Catholic), your GPS is named after him by the way, sailed around the world and proved that it was round. Now he did that in 1519. I did it in 1989. I got on a plane in New York, flew to the east, flew to Europe, flew all the way back around and landed in California and then flew back to Kansas City. It is round. In fact, I could take you out on a starry night, and I could prove that the earth is round in 10 seconds or less. I could take you out on a nice afternoon given the right atmospheric conditions, and I could show you where it is round in about 30 seconds. The Catholic Church got it all screwed up. They also taught that the earth was the center of the solar

system and everything revolved around the earth. That is so true of a Catholic Church who thinks everything centers around them.

Then of the Spanish explorers—Ponce de Leon. He searched in the 1500s through the swamp lands of Florida, searching for what the Roman Catholic Church had told everybody existed: the fabled Fountain of Youth. He tramped through swamps with mosquitoes, snakes, alligators and all those things looking for that fabled Roman Catholic, fake phony concept that somewhere down there was the Fountain of Youth. You see, what he needed was what the Roman Catholic Church needed. They do not need a Fountain of Youth, but they definitely need the Fountain of Life. But there again, typical Roman Catholic Fountain of Youth, you, your flesh, not the Fountain of Life, God's salvation.

➤ You Can't have the Light of God in your Life without the Word of God  
Being the Light of God in your Life

Then you will find one of the greatest statements in all the Bible on why man and many of God's people are so messed up in their Bibles today. This is one of the single greatest verses anywhere that explains everything why you see churches, pastors, preachers and Christians claim to be saved. Maybe they are. I have no clue. They could not put two and two together in the Bible if their life depended on it. Here is your verse. All you need. You do not need manuscript evidence. You do not need this. You do not need that. You don't need the books in the bookstore. You just need this one verse. "*In thy light shall we see light.*" You cannot have the light of God in your life without the Word of God being the light of God in your life. You get the wrong Bible. You are in a power outage. Psalms 119:130, "*The entrance of thy words giveth light.*"

## VII. Some Great Inspirational Principles

➤ Knowing God

Look at verse 10. "*O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.*" Now, in the closing three verses, verses 10, 11 and 12, there are some great inspirational principles here. Two keys to God giving us continually His lovingkindness. It says, first, "*unto them that know thee,*" knowing God. This will be the theme of the book of 1 John and our fellowship with Him. You will remember that every commentator on the book of 1 John will tell you the theme is love. No, no, no. Twenty-seven times in that little book of five chapters, he tells you the key is knowing. But that is where we are today. That is where Christianity is. That is where preachers are. That is where Christians are. **We try to love God without knowing Him.** You know what happens when you marry somebody without really knowing them? A year later, six months later, two weeks later, the one you fell in love with, now you fall out of love with because you never really knew who they were. That is so true of God's people. You go to some ecstatic church service where they are all gibber-jabbering and dancing around and doing all this stuff and you get that emotional twinge, and you fall in love with God. You know what? Three weeks later, you do not go back to church anymore. You fell out of love with God. You know why? You cannot love Him without knowing Him. To know Him is to love Him. There are God's people. Philippians 3:10, "That I may know him." Three things to knowing

him: the power of his resurrection, the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death, not life. You cannot even approach knowing him without those three.

### ➤ Being Upright in Heart

Then he says the second thing, "being upright in heart." My heart attitude always toward Him and His Word. **Upright in heart: simply as God's people getting God's heart instead of the devil's heart**, verses one through four. Loving the things of God. There are seven things in the Bible that God loves. There are also seven things in the Bible that God hates. Most of God's people do not even know what they are. Very frankly, most of God's people wind up loving the things that God hates instead of loving the things that He loves. Then we wonder why we are not satisfied. Life on planet earth and the fulfillment and satisfaction in life will be just that simple.

In my life, I am 75, going to be 76 here, June the 14th, size extra-large. But I can truly say I am satisfied. I have made just about every mistake that anybody could make, bad decisions. I am not going to stand here and tell you that I couldn't have done better in most of the things in my life because I could have. But with all my issues, I do not expect to get anything at the judgment seat of Christ. **My satisfaction isn't that I am satisfied that I lived my life the way I should have.** I have had my issues just like everybody else has them. We all struggle with life. **But I will take satisfaction in one thing, that in 76 years of my life, I never quit.** I may have gotten knocked down, but I got up. I may have gotten thrown a curve ball and got struck out, but the next time up to bat, I stepped a little bit to the left and knocked it out of the ballpark. I am a mess. Why God wants anything to do with me, I have no idea. But once I found those seven things, as rotten as I am, as bad as I am, as goofy as I am, (no amens!), I am not quitting. I have never quit. Every situation, circumstance, that somebody, the devil threw at me, even when I failed, I got up and I found a way through it because of those seven things right there.

You are all going to make mistakes, and you are all going to do dumb things, and you are all going to fall at some time in life. **I learned it is not how you start, not even how you necessarily run the race, but it is how you finish.** Someday you are all going to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ, the judgment seat of Christ. We are all going to have some stupid things that we must deal with. But I will tell you one thing you ought to go in there with. You ought to walk into that throne with your Savior sitting on there, understanding all those seven things, and you look up at Him and He looks down at you, you pull out that old sword, and you hold it up, and on that sword are nicks, scratches, cuts from the battles of this life. But you never let go of the sword, and now you lay it at His feet. "Well done, now good and faithful servant." You do not ever quit. You do not ever give up. You may fall. You may struggle. You may have your issues. You never quit. You get back up. His faithfulness is unto the ends, so should ours. I cannot live a perfect life as hard as I would like to, but neither will you. But I can never quit. You never quit. I do not care if in this life I get my legs blown off, then I will crawl into the throne room. I do not care if I get my legs and my arm blown off by this world, then I will roll into the throne room. But you never quit. **You give it everything you've got as long as you can, as hard as you can, and when the devil knocks you down, you get up. Put it aside, put it under the blood, pick up the sword, and move forward. Upright in heart. That is the real satisfaction in life.**

You see, the Ten Commandments, when God gave them to Israel, were never given for Israel to keep because nobody can keep them, but they were given to man to show him how far he fell short of what God expected of him. As much as I love that Bible, and as much as you love that Bible, and as great as that Bible is, you and I both know we will never keep it. Not all of it, as much as we want to. The greatest, wisest, holy men in the Bible, the devil found out their weakness, and he got them. You are no better; I am no better. The bottom line, you pick it up and you move forward. You never quit.

### ➤ Not Being Removed by Pride

Verse 11, "*Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me.*" Now, inspirationally, this is NOT being removed from my salvation, but rather by pride, like the devil, being removed from an upright heart and losing my fellowship and then losing the seven great concepts of God that I have given you today. The first sin in the Bible started with pride. In Psalms 36:1, the transgression of pride starts in man's heart. Proverbs 4:23 tells us that we are to keep our heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. Everything you are going to face in life is going to come out of your heart. There are two things that the wicked will use to stop you. One, your foot, where you go. Two, your hands, what you do.

Verse 12, "*There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise.*" These, they fell on the Word of God, Bible truth. The Bible is the anvil on which all the hammers of the world have been broken. The doctrinal context will be the second coming of Christ to this earth, three things. The workers of iniquity are fallen, second coming. They are cast down to hell, Revelation 12:7 and 9, Revelation 20:11. And they rise not again, Revelation 14:11, "*and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever.*" These are the workers of iniquity. Now they have fallen.

## VIII. Summary

You know, with all that I have said today, there is only one question that you really must answer, not to me. If you are saved here this morning or claim to be a child of God, do you want all that God has for you? Do you really? Or do you just want to pick and choose out of it what suits you? That is always the real question for the child of God. The real sacrifice of life, the real satisfaction of life, the real river of pleasure for you and your family to drink from. You will find it through those seven key areas of God, putting them, number one in your life. Seven things that we should love and embrace about God that will make a difference in your life.

1. God's Mercy
2. God's Righteousness
3. God's Lovingkindness
4. God's Faithfulness
5. God's Judgment
6. His Trust
7. Being Satisfied

All through "*in thy light shall we see light.*"