

Full sermon transcript:  
Change Required  
January 21, 2023

Ephesians 4. That's page 208 if you have the paperback Alpha and Omega Bible. Ephesians 4 verse 17. Very exciting that yesterday we announced that the AOB has been updated. More notes than ever before. Can you remember that number? Over 2,900 almost 3,000 verse references in the AOB Bible. Over 2,400 notes. That just only counts the notes that are at the end of the verses, explaining the verses, not counting some occasional shorter notes that appear within the verse reference or the verse itself sometimes occasionally; and almost 3,000 Bible references referring you to another verse helping you to understand the Bible in that way. Learn and to grow in that. There's still not as many notes and still not as many Bible references as you would see in a typical average study Bible but nevertheless that number grows every week and it's a process. Most Bibles take many years for them to finalize their copies, finalize their publications and even then they update them after so many years and they continue to grow as well. So that's not unusual at all for Bible publications to change in time. We praise God for the work that He has given us. Amen.

In Ephesians 4:17, Paul says this to the church of the Ephesus and by the way I've learned that Timothy was the pastor of the church of Ephesus, that's actually very well agreed upon. Very well agreed upon that Timothy was the pastor of the church of Ephesus in the time of the writing of the book of Revelation. Perhaps, maybe not when Paul was writing right here, I don't know but during John's time of writing the book of Revelation it would have been Timothy over the book of Ephesus, over the church of Ephesus at that time. So that's interesting and something to keep in mind as well. Verse 17 Paul says to this church, he says so this, "I say and affirm together with the Lord that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk in the futility of their mind. What is the futility of their mind? Because we have people listening from different nations, different languages that have difficulty with some of the English words. It is a useless mind. It is a mind that is not fruitful. It is a mind that is in vain, that is not bearing fruit, that is not profitable to the Lord. So Paul says that the Gentiles are walking with a useless mind, a mind that is useless to God, not profitable to God, not fruitful to God. When he says that he's thinking about how most of the Gentile nations was not embracing the God of Israel. Amen? It's not that he's being racist, it's just that he's realizing that other nations don't embrace the God of Israel. And many times the word Gentiles is used as a symbolism for lost people regardless of tribe or nationality.

So you could refer this to lost people and lost nations. Anyone that's not embracing the true God and not obeying the true God and not being fruitful for the true God then they have a mind of futility. In verse 18, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them and because of the hardness of their heart. And they, having become callous, have given themselves over to lasciviousness for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. Several

words you have to explain to people that have difficulty with English. Callous. When you're working with your hands and you develop a callous on your hand, on your fingers, or on your feet, it is a very stubborn, tough piece of skin like leather that develops if you're, say, raking the yard or using a particular tool over and over and over that a callous, a tough piece of skin like rubber will form on your fingers. So it's your heart and your mind becoming like rubber. And lasciviousness is like thinking that you have license to sin just because of grace. That's what most churches teach is that as long as you have grace and as long as you have the new covenant, as long as you have the New Testament, as long as you have the crucifixion of Jesus, as long as you have faith, then you're going to get into heaven even though you're still continuing in sin. There's a lot of churches, a lot of pastors teaching that right here in this town. I know it for a fact. And all over the world they're teaching this. But Paul himself said in another place, is grace licensed to sin? Something like that. That may we continue in sin so that grace may abound. And he immediately says, no. May it never be. Grace is not licensed to sin. But a lot of people in this church of Ephesus that Paul is writing to were saying this is a problem that you have in your church among you Christians, among you Bible believers. You have a problem of a hard heart, a mind and a heart that has formed calluses like rubber and is useless to the Lord because you think that you have lasciviousness, you think you have license to sin because of grace.

For the practice of every kind of impurity we're greeting us. And greeting us, the love of money, being greedy and selfish is one of the biggest things that hardens people's hearts. Now I've seen this over and over and over with people. I've sat with people and hung out with people and tried to be friends and tried to be family with people that would constantly talk about how greedy and selfish everybody else is and not look at themselves in the mirror because as soon as they would talk that way I would say to myself every time, you are the greediest and most selfish person I've ever known in my life. That's a real life story. When does anyone ever look at themselves in the mirror and take a deep examination of themselves instead of talking about other people? Amen. And he's talking about Christians in the church with a problem of greed and hard heartedness. He's not talking to the lost, he's talking to the people in the church who are acting like the lost. So they may be lost even though they're in the church here. Amen. Verse 20, you did not learn Christ in this way. If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that in reference to your former manner of life, it says, verse 22, in reference to your former, your previous manner of life, that you lay aside the old self. This is what he tells him to do. Lay aside the old self. Right there in the middle of the verse, verse 22, lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lust of deceit.

Not necessarily all times the lust of the flesh, but the lust of deceit. Think about that word, lust of deceit. Lust is something you won't. People are wanting to be deceived.

Just like Paul told Timothy, the church of Ephesus, the pastor of Ephesus, that people are gathering themselves, heaping to themselves, teachers who tickle their ears, who

preach a feel good message. Nothing but bless me, bless me, bless me Lord, bless me Lord, bless me Lord. But not enough message of repentance, not enough message of growing and understanding God's Word and the deep things of God's Word. Going beyond skin surface, amen. Going beyond the milk and getting the deep meat of the Word of God is what we need. But people heap to themselves, gather to themselves, teachers who tickle their ears. People want to be deceived.

The lust of deceit, the desire of deceit. This is amazing words, amen.

Verse 23, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind. Stop having a mind of rubber and have a new mind, an active mind, a mind that is willing to learn, a mind that is willing to grow, a mind that is willing to change, amen. And that is what the sermon is about today, is the willingness and the ability to change. Change is required. God requires us to change. We was all born in this upside-down, corrupt world of false religion, every which way you turn. That's what the Bible says in Revelation 12, verse 9, Satan has deceived the entire world. It says it in the Bible. We choose to believe it or not believe it.

I choose to believe what the Bible says. And it says Satan has deceived the entire world.

It doesn't say the majority or half or a fraction or almost the entire. Or just all the Gentiles. But rather it says Satan has deceived the entire world. That would be every denomination would be in the entire world, would it not be every denomination. Even people inside the church, even in this church of Ephesus, that they even loved to be deceived. Even they did, even though they went to the right church with a good pastor.

They still had the lust of deceit. And they still needed to change their mind. Paul is telling them they need to change their mind. To be renewed. To be transformed. Amen.

Verse 24, and put on the new person which is in God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Of the truth, not of deceit. Not of traditional doctrine. But of the truth. Verse 25 is where I want to stop right there and go to chapter 5. Let's go down to chapter 5. Start in verse 6. Chapter 5 verse 6. Let no one deceive you with empty words or vain words. For because of these things the wrath of Theos, the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Jesus was constantly saying, let no one deceive you. Amen. And He was saying that to the disciples and the people that was learning from Him and the people that was listening to Him. Again, to the church. Over and over the church is being told by Paul and even in Thessalonians and by Jesus to not let people deceive you.

Why is the church being constantly and repeatedly and repeatedly and repeatedly told to be careful and not let people deceive you? Because the whole world is deceived. That's why we must be told over and over and over to wake up, to remember the whole world is deceived when we're going to get that in our head. When is that fruit going to

grow? When is our mind and our mentality and the way we think and the way we look at things going to change?

When the church themselves are told, you are at danger of deception. Amen. We've got to wake up to the reality of deception, how strong deception is and how powerful it is and how widespread it is. Amen. And it says, let no one deceive you with empty words. I tell you this day, when they tell you that all the law is done away with, that's empty words.

Because the Bible never says that all law is done away with, because then we would be a lawless nation. Then we would be permitted with a license of sin. Amen. Is sin done away with? Doesn't sin still exist? Of course. People will burn in the fire because of sin.

Sin still exists. And what is sin? The Bible itself says that sin is the transgression of the law. I have Bible verses up here to help me remember or find out where it's at.

And it says on the wall that 1 John 3:4 is where it says that sin is the transgression or the breaking of the law. That's New Covenant. That's New Testament. It says this. That's not Old Testament. That's a New Testament verse, 1 John. That's a New Testament verse and it says sin is, this is the definition of sin, the transgression of the law. So if all law is done away with, if the Sabbath, if the Ten Commandments, if the Holy Days, if all law is done away with, then there is no such thing as sin. Because the Bible defines sin as breaking the law. Therefore, there must be some kind of law. Otherwise, nobody's ever going to burn ever. This is logic and it's simple. This is easy stuff. Amen.

Law must still exist. Some law must still exist. Otherwise, we are no better than atheists, we're no better than the anarchists

So, we are better than them. They're always accusing Christians, you think you're better than us.

We are better than them because we are not sons of Satan. Amen. Because we are not the sons of disobedience. Because we believe in authority, in law, in righteousness, in holiness.

Amen. We're not dogs. We're not swine. We're not pigs. We're not lawless people. We are the kingdom of God. And what kingdom doesn't have law? What kingdom? All kingdoms have law. All. Because otherwise you have nothing but chaos if you have no law. If everybody is just free to do anything they want to do, then you have chaos. And God is not the God of chaos or of confusion. Amen. It says, Let no one deceive you of these empty words. For because of these things the wrath of God comes upon those sons of disobedience.

Verse 7 says, "Therefore do not be partakers with them."

Not only are we not to allow them to deceive us, but we should not be partakers with them.

I think it was Jeremiah that said that I won't even sit in their midst of the congregation of those people. Amen.

Jeremiah was raised in the church of the Old Testament. The church, the temple, the congregation of Israel. He was raised in Scripture. He believed in Scripture. He believed in God.

He was faithful to God. He was faithful to work in the temple. Raised in the temple. All these different things. But a certain point came in his life when he realized the hypocrisy of the people in the church of the time, the congregation of Israel. He came to realize his eyes were opened by God. And his mind changed from wanting to sit in the midst of the congregation to saying, I will not sit in the midst of the congregation of these people, of these hypocrites. Amen.

We have to come out and be not partakers of those people that will sit and listen to lies.

Amen. Do not be partakers with them is what Paul says here to the church. Amen.

Verse 8, it says, "For you were formerly darkness," formerly.

There is power in the word of God. Amen.

Verse 8, "For you were formerly darkness, but you are now light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." Amen.

For you were formerly in darkness.

If you put it in the context of a mind that is not fertile for the Lord, and having calloused and hard-hearted and hard-minded, and greed and deception and disobedience. You put it in the context of all these things. The darkness is when they used to follow false gods, and when they were ignorant of the God of Israel, and when they were ignorant like the Gentiles were. When they were not following the truth of God, they were in darkness of all the Greek mythology and the Greek gods and the false gods and the Egyptian gods and the Indian gods and whatever. But now, because of the preaching of the truth, they are in the light in the Lord. It says, Walk as children of light.

Verse 9, For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth. There is such a thing as truth, and there is such a thing as lies, deception.

Verse 10, "Proving what is acceptable to the Lord."

Look at verse 10 with your own eyes. I don't want you to listen to me like an audience. We didn't buy tickets to this today. Amen.

Verse 10, "Proving what is acceptable."

Proving what is acceptable.

Have you ever proved anything about what is doctrine, what is the truth, what is a lie, what is deception? Have you ever, ever, ever sat down and studied it out with a will

and mind to turn in either direction depending on the outcome of that study? Most people have never done that in their life.

Most people was born either as a Hindu or a Muslim or a Buddhist or an atheist or a Baptist or a Pentecostal or a Catholic or Jehovah Witness or whatever it is, born into it, raised into it, and they never took the time or the effort because they never cared about what the truth is. And yet they argue with people day and night, this is the truth because this is what mommy and daddy said. But how do they know that mommy and daddy is not deceived like everybody else in the whole world is? If the whole world is deceived that includes mommy and daddy too. Everybody. Everybody.

God searched the entire world for a righteous man and found only one, Noah. The Bible says that when Jesus comes back to be as it was in the time of Noah. And that's more than just people marrying and not caring about the end of time. Even Jesus doubted and said, Will the Son of Man find faith on the earth when He comes? Will He find faith? Will Jesus doubt it when He comes back if there would be even one faithful man on the earth?

And I'll share His doubt. It doesn't look good because no one takes the time to prove the doctrine. To prove what's acceptable to God and what's not acceptable to God.

People live in a lifestyle and a mind frame of lasciviousness, of lawlessness and disobedience.

Verse 11, Do not propitiate in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead even rebuke them. We preached a week or two ago about the traditional view image of Jesus that people have in their minds of a Jesus that never rebukes, never points out sin, never offends, never calls names. It's just lovey-dovey-dovey-dovey. Compared to what the Bible describes Him, constantly, constantly, constantly calling people names and pointing out sin. Amen?

So here Paul says to even rebuke these people. If you rebuke somebody, they're going to get upset. It's going to offend them. The Bible doesn't ever teach us that you should never offend. It doesn't teach us that. It just teaches us to, as much as it is possible within you, to get along with people and to not offend them. But there is a time of offense. There is a time of rebuke. There's a time to embrace and there's a time to throw stones. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes chapter 3, there's a time for peace and there's a time for war.

There's a time to embrace and a time not to embrace. There's a time for everything under the sun. It's not lovey-dovey-dovey 24/7 because we're not in heaven. We're not in paradise.

We don't live in a perfect world. Amen. Verse 12, verse 12, look at this, "for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they're exposed by the light. For everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason he says, awake sleeper, arise from the dead and Christ will shine on you."

Verse 14 is very important. It says, "Awake, sleeper and arise from the dead." And he is writing to the church. There are people that are in the church that are spiritually asleep.

Everything that we're reading here is a constant reminder that we must study the Scripture, examine the Scripture, not take it for granted. There are people in China and Russia, Saudi Arabia and Syria and other nations where you could be killed for having the Bible. And yet we've got fathers laying all over the house and nobody ever touches them. They just grow dust. What a shame that is. What a tragedy that is. How Americans take everything for granted. Amen. I've seen videos where you give a person in China a Bible, the first Bible they ever owned in their life, and how they hug it and cry in tears and excitement and passion to finally own the Holy Scripture. This is not just a regular book on the bookshelf.

Amen. This is way different. I hate it when people call it a book. Because the Bible is not like any other book in all of human history. It's special. It's different. It's holy. It is holy. We treat it like trash. We treat it like it's useless and we treat it like we have no honor for it and no respect for it. People sitting cups and plates on top of the Bible as if it was just another book. It's holy. It is holy. We should treat it holy. Amen. There's power of life and death in this book. I believe it's so powerful that just by having the Bible whooping on a table brings power of life into the house to some degree. To some degree. But of course you have to read it. Amen. But I believe even in a worship service that if we keep our Bibles whooping, when I'm running my mouth, keep our Bibles whooping that the power of the Word of God penetrates the air. God is here even though we can't see Him. Amen. God is here even if we cannot see Him. We have reverence for Him, respect for Him, and honor for Him and for His sanctuary. Amen. Even for the furniture in the sanctuary is holy unto the Lord, even as it was in the Old Testament.

People have never learned anything from the Old Testament. They read the Old Testament and say, this is old, it's gone, it's done away with, because that's how people have been programmed and brainwashed by the church of lasciviousness. Amen. The church of lasciviousness where you don't have to obey God, you don't have to work out your salvation with fear and trembling because all you have to do is just pray and believe, and that's all you have to do is just pray and believe. That's it. That's all you have to do is just pray and believe. They have learned nothing from the Scriptures that Jesus quoted from the Old Testament. They have learned nothing from the Scriptures that Paul quoted from the Old Testament. Amen. Paul preached from the Old

Testament. He didn't preach from the New, he preached from the Old. The New Testament didn't exist. They didn't recognize that there was a New Testament yet. He preached from the Old Testament. Jesus preached, Paul preached, Peter preached, John preached, all of them preached. And when all the seventy disciples went out preaching, what Bible did they take with them? The Old Testament. Amen. And I guarantee you they didn't go around teaching, hey guess what, here's my Bible, but you don't need to read it because it's old. I guarantee you they didn't have that mentality. Amen.

Let's skip down to verse 16. Verse 16, "making the most of your time because the days are evil." And if it was evil in that day and time, I think it's more evil today. Amen.

Verse 17, "So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

And all this points us to the need to grow in the Word of God, the deep things of God, to prove what the acceptable will of God is, to prove what is the truth, what is correct, because not every denomination is correct. That's impossible. And it does matter which one is correct. It does. Because the Bible is a set rule book. It is a set rule book. It does not do anything you want to do. It matters which denomination is correct. It matters. It really, really matters. There is only one truth. Amen.

Let's go to James chapter 1:22.

This is page 243. Verse 22 says, But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves or deceive themselves. Amen. Not only are people deceiving people, but people are deceiving themselves because they think that as long as they listen to the Word of God, as long as they go to church on Sunday or Saturday, as long as they listen to the Bible on the Internet or whatever, that they're okay. Because they're reading the Bible, or they're listening to the Bible, or they're listening to the preacher, or they're listening to the preacher on TV or radio. But it says, prove yourselves to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, not listeners only. You have to actually do the Word. It's a rule book. Amen. You actually have to follow it. You actually have to obey it, not just believe it. It's not believe only. It's also obey. Amen.

Verse 23, For if anyone is a hearer or listener of the word, and not a doer, then he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror, but once he's finished looking at himself and going away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. In other words, he looked, he saw, but he didn't do anything about it. Amen.

But if we look at ourselves in the mirror and see that we need to comb our hair or brush our teeth or whatever we need to do, then we need to do it and not just only acknowledge it, but actually take action. We have to take action to be a doer of the Word. Amen.

Making a change in our life. The Word of God will change you if you decide and make up your mind to believe it and to obey it. It will change your life. Unlike the man that looks in the mirror, walks away without doing anything about what he saw. Amen.

But looking at the mirror at yourself to examine yourself should not have the outcome of destroying yourself, beating yourself up, and ruining your life and ruining your mentality. But rather it should have the purpose of saying, alright, this is what I need to change and I'm going to change it and you change it for the better. That's the purpose of the mirror.

Amen. The purpose of the mirror is so that you will comb yourself and groom yourself and clean yourself and improve yourself and be presentable to the public. So it is an improvement device, not a device that ruins you and ruins your life. Amen.

We need to be critical of ourselves, but only to the point to where it causes us to fix ourselves, even as the Bible says that the bride prepared herself for the marriage supper of the Lamb of God. God didn't do it. She prepared herself. Amen.

The bride looks in the mirror and says, okay, I need this piece of my dress and I need to press my dress and I need to clean my dress and I need to put it on this way and it's got to fit and all these things. And she even asks her sisters, hey, come help me with this, asking for godly counsel from the true sisters and the true brothers. Amen. And asking for their health and confessing their sins to one another, as the Bible says. Amen.

Everybody wants to confess their sins only to God, but nobody wants to confess their sins to each other, even though the Bible says, confess your sins to one another. Because everybody says, God can hear my prayers and it's nobody's business. But they don't believe the Bible and they don't obey the Bible where it says, confess your sins to one another.

There is power in that because you need accountability. Amen.

Let's go down to chapter 2, verse 14, next page. James 2:14

What is it then, my brethren, if someone says he has faith that he has no works, can that faith save him? Your traditional pastor would say yes. What does James say? Verse 15. If a brother or sister is lacking clothing and in need of daily food, and anyone says to them, go in peace and be warmed and be filled, and yet you do not give them what is necessary for the body, what use is that? Even so, faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

But someone may well say, you have faith and I have works. Show me your faith without the works and I will show you my faith by my works. Your works prove that you do have faith. Amen.

If you really, really, really, really have faith, you will have works because faith is fruitful. Amen. A faith that does not bear fruit, what does John 15 say? John 15 says that if you do not bear fruit, even though you're part of the tree, you're part of the branches, you're there, you're present in the church, you're part of Christ, but if you do not bear fruit, then the branch withers off, falls to the ground, and is gathered up to be burned. That's what Jesus Christ Himself said in John 15.

So why are these people teaching, once saved, always saved, when we have such a very clear illustration in the words of Jesus Himself in John 15 that the parts of the tree itself will be cast into the fire, and the tree is very clearly representing the body of Christ. Very clearly.

There's no contest to that. That's undebatable. It's undeniable. It's so clear, it's so simple, it's so easy a child could understand it. Amen. A person of faith that does have no works and does not bear fruit is useless to God. We're created for Him, not for ourselves.

Even our body does not belong to us, the Bible says it. Look it up. Look it up. Even our body does not belong to us, but to the Lord. And how much more our soul and our spirit belongs to God and not to us. We are not our own. And the Bible says to be a willing sacrifice. Amen.

To make your lives a willing sacrifice. Amen.

Our entire being is to be a sacrifice to God, putting God first in all areas of our life. God first in the morning, God first all day long, and God first as you lay down to sleep. Our first thought and our last thought should be God. Amen.

Because there is power of life and death and resurrection when we rise and fall every day. Amen.

We could wake up in the hospital, we could wake up in the emergency room, we could wake up in the nursing home, we could wake up in the mental hospital, we could wake up in prison. We don't know where we're going to wake up at. If we wake up at home there is reason to shout. As soon as you open your eyes there is reason to raise your hands to the sky and say thank you God. Amen.

How much we take for granted. Because we're living our mind within such a small little wall. Four little walls. We don't think about brother Jonathan in prison. We don't think about our brothers in Nigeria that is threatening their lives every day if they get caught with a Bible they could go to prison and be martyred. We don't think about the Christians that have never owned a Bible in their life that if they were to touch or even see a Bible today they would fall down on their knees crying in tears and joy and passion for the love of the Holy Scriptures. Because we treat the word of God like trash. Amen.

We've got to escape this small mentality and see the big picture. We're living in the end times, the last generation. When are we ever going to wake up? Amen. And see the big picture. Amen. What verse was I in? Verse 18 was the last one I read.

Verse 19 says, you believe that God is one you do well. But the demons also believe and shudder or tremble. Amen.

Think about that. There's a lot of people, verse 19 is correct and true isn't it? There's a lot of people that think that as long as they believe in God they think they do well.

That's your traditional doctrine. The reason I talk constantly about traditional churches, traditional doctrine, traditional denominations and preachers is this. It's because Paul and Jesus was repeatedly saying, do not be deceived. And we have the same problem today. Amen. A lot of people believe that as long as they believe in God they do well. Or more specifically, that they believe in one God and His name is Jesus that they do well. But the rest of this verse says that even the demons believe but tremble.

The demons know that there is a God and what His name is. They know these things. That does not save them. Amen. So knowledge by itself without obedience does not save. We have to obey. That's what the demons don't do. They have the knowledge and they even know what the truth is. They know what days are Sabbath, what days are not the Sabbath.

They know what law exists, what law doesn't exist. They know all these things. But they don't obey. Amen.

Verse 20, but are you willing to recognize you foolish fellow that faith without works is useless? When are we going to believe what this verse says? Faith without works is useless.

Because not Abraham, our father, felt righteous by works when he offered of Isaac his son to the altar. But you know, Abraham did more things than that. The Bible says, in some words it says, that he kept the commandments. (Genesis 26:5)

Well, Abraham lived and died before Moses was even born. Think about that. So what commandments did he keep? It says Abraham kept the commandments and the law. Both, it says. Think about when Abraham met Melchizedek, King Melchizedek. That was Jesus in the flesh. He said he didn't have any of beginning nor end. He didn't have any parents, didn't have any genealogy, no ancestry. That's God. Only God, only God cannot have any beginning or ending. Melchizedek was Jesus appearing in a human form, even as angels can appear in human form. God can as well. Amen. And Abraham paid 10% tithe to Melchizedek, to Jesus, before Moses was even born.

So all these people that think that the tithing is done away with, because they think it's only a Moses thing, only a law of Moses, only an old covenant thing, but yet Abraham did it out of love for God, honor for God, respect for God, respect for King Melchizedek, without having to be commanded to do it. Amen. We shouldn't have to be commanded to keep the Sabbath, to put God first, to have the set apart day that is part of creation itself. The Bible is very clear in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2, that there was seven days and God rested on the seventh day. He didn't rest on the seventh day because He

needed to rest. He did it as an example for us, that we needed to rest. And it says He set it apart. It says He sanctified it. It's a sanctified day. That means it's a holy day. It's set apart from all other days. And I said just a week or two ago, standing right here in the same place, I said a week or two ago, can anyone, either in the chat room or in person, can anyone give me a verse, any verse at all, where it says that the Sabbath would change from the seventh day to the first day of the week.

And nobody could give me such a verse. And the offer is still whooping if anybody could ever write that in with an ink pen and tell me where you wrote it, because that's the way it would have to be done because it's not already there, is it? Amen. Of course, the Sunday preachers would say, Jesus rose on Sunday. That's a lie of the devil. He did not rise on Sunday because it's very clear in the Bible that the women came to the tomb while it was still dark. That's exactly what it says. It was still dark, and it says it was beginning to dawn toward the first day of the week, and Jesus was already gone from the tomb. This is what the Bible says. You can check it out yourself. I don't want you to believe me. I want you to read the Bible and study the Bible and test me and see if this be true, even as the Bereans studied the Scriptures daily to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11) Amen.

The Bible says, and you can check it out yourself, and I want you to check it out yourself, that the Bible says that the women arrived, it was still dark, and it was beginning to dawn toward the first day of the week. It was not the first day of the week yet. It was still Saturday night. And then their excuse next is that the Jews would begin their day, the previous day, at dark at sunset. And even though the Jews do that today, in Jesus' time only part of the Jews did that, and that's historical fact and historical record. Only the religious leaders of Jerusalem, the Pharisees, only they did that, and their followers. But the people from Bethlehem, the people from Galilee, the people from where Jesus was in the Nazarenes, they observed the day beginning at sunrise.

That's historical record. And what makes sense? What's simple? What is the most simple? What is logical? Does a day start when the sun rises in the morning, or does a day start when the sun goes down and it's nighttime and it's rainy and time goes bad? What's logic?

The truth is logical. The truth makes sense. And it doesn't make any sense at all for God to recognize a day beginning when it's time to go to bed. It's not logical, therefore it doesn't make sense, therefore it's not the truth. It's also historical record that the Jews that did keep it at sunset, they began to do that only because of what they learned from the Babylonians, the Assyrian race, within the Babylonian captivity. They did not do that before the captivity, and that's also historical record. But nobody wants to look at the historical record. Amen. They like to ignore facts and hide facts and just throw it out the window and treat it like trash. The historical record is important.

Amen. And it can be backed up with Scripture as well, and that's a whole other sermon.

But Abraham gave a tenth of all to Jesus, to Melchizedek, before and apart from Moses.

He didn't have to have somebody to say, you must do it. Because it should be nature to us, the law written on our hearts. It should be a priority to us to put God first in every every every every area of our life. Every area of our life. But everybody, a lot of people, a lot of people try to claim these words, I surrender to God and God comes first in my life. But then when it comes right down to applying that in real life, God is not first in their finances, and God is not first before family, God is not first before children, God is not first before job, God is not first before the electric bill, God is not first in any of these areas of their life, which are major areas of their life. Because they don't trust God to provide. And that's the bottom line. They don't trust God. We sung that song, it's so sweet to trust in Jesus. Anybody can say those words. Anybody can sing that song, that's just words, empty words. Amen? But you can't honestly, honestly say that on judgment day, when God brings out the book of life of what you did and what you didn't do, and He says, did you put me first before this job on the Sabbath day?

And you say, "No. I didn't trust you to provide. I had to work, I had to pay my electric bill. So no, I did not put you first, I did not put you first, and I willingly disobeyed the Sabbath commandment because I did not trust that you would provide. I needed to pay my rent and my rent and my landlord and my electorate and food on the table, and everybody and everything else came out first."

It's not going to be a acceptable excuse, amen. Amen? We have to look in the mirror and be honest with ourselves about how obedient we are and whether we are truly surrendered to God or whether we really trust God or don't trust God. Amen? We have to be honest with ourselves before we can be honest at all. We have to be honest with ourselves in the mirror before we can be honest at all. Amen. James, the brother of Jesus, says we must actually be a doer of the word and not faith only.

Let's go to Matthew 12:46 page 20 says, And while he was still speaking to the crowds, behold, his mom and brothers were standing outside seeking to speak to him.

And someone said to him, "Behold, your mom and your brothers were standing outside seeking to speak to you." But Jesus answered the one who was telling him and said, "Who is my mom and who are my brothers? And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, Behold, my mom and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother and sister and mom." Amen? Have you ever thought about this? I know you've read it. If you've read the whole Bible, I know you've read it. It's only page 20 of the New Testament, so I'm sure everybody's read this. But if you ever start to think about what this says, his real mom and his real brothers were standing outside the door wanting to speak to him. The disciples say, Hey, they're here. They want to talk to you.

And instead of saying, Go let them in. I know them. Yeah, they're my mom. Yeah, they're my brothers. They're okay. Come on in. Instead of saying that, his first reaction was, Who is my mom? Who is my brothers? Those that do the will of my Father. Those are my mom.

Those are my brothers. Those are my family. What He is saying is, The flesh is nothing.

Amen? We're all born in the flesh. That's nothing. We all have flesh. That's nothing. The flesh is gone here today and gone tomorrow. That's nothing. Truly, Jesus was actually without ancestry. Amen? He was born of God. Of course, we know he had some blood of human's DNA, human ancestry. We know that. We're not doubting that. But the point is, it is the spiritual family that is more real, more important. Amen? What we see of our eyes within this small little window, these four little walls, is only a microscopic speck upon reality. Amen? Of all the energy and all the frequencies and all the dimensions and all that really exists in the spiritual world and the universe.

Amen? We've got to get outside of this little tiny speck of our carnal mentality. Our real family is not those that are stuck in Babylon or just have human DNA. Our real, real, real family is those people that are willing to obey God and to surrender to Him and to put God first in all things. Those are the people that we share the blood of Christ with. Amen?

That is our real family and we have got to prioritize them and be willing to, it says in Matthew 10 and Luke 14, that we must be willing to forsake the physical family, wives, husbands, children, parents. Again, if you don't believe me, read it. We just read that a week or two ago. How quickly we forget. Amen? You can check it. It's still written there. It's still there. Amen? We must be willing to forsake human people when necessary for the benefit of our spiritual salvation of what really counts of eternity rather than just 20, 30, 60, 100 years that we're alive in this little speck of dimension and this matrix that we're in. Amen? We must consider the reality of eternity and the universe and the whole universe and the spiritual realm. Where are we going to be when after judgment day is finished? That's the real world. Abraham was not seeking a home and a city built by human hands. He traveled in tents. So did Isaac. So did Jacob. Lived in tents. Even as I did myself live in tents for seven years because that was part of the journey I needed to take and it is part of a journey that most of you need to take, ought to take, and will be taking against your will even as God Himself says that when you force back the cup against Him and say, no, I will not drink the dregs and no, I will not drink the cup of wrath, God says, oh yes, you will. Amen. The great tribulation is not just for the lost people.

The great tribulation is for the church themselves. And these preachers say there's no scripture in the Bible that talks about the church being present during the great tribulation. They have not read the Bible because the Bible is full and overflowing with scripture about the church being present on earth during the great tribulation. Amen? Have you not read about the martyrdom of the saints during the great tribulation? It's in

the Bible and it calls them saints. If it calls them saints being persecuted and hated and arrested and martyred during the great tribulation, then that is not talking about people that were lost, that got left behind because they were not faithful, but rather it calls them saints, which means they were obedient to God and they're still here on earth during the great tribulation. Nobody takes the time to study the Bible and to prove the pastor right or prove the pastor wrong. Because they're too comfortable with this audience mentality.

We go to church, be entertained, we go back home and we forget everything the pastor said. It's just entertainment. We might as well just went to watch a movie in the movie theater because there's no difference. Amen. We come to church, we should be coming to church to actually learn and grow as a person, as an individual, as a Christian, and as a follower of Christ to learn. That's what the word disciple means, is student. Amen? Student. We all of us should be a disciple, a student of Christ. Amen.

Let's go to the book of Acts, Acts chapter 2.

Acts 2:37 Now you know this was on the day of Pentecost and the church was gathered together and this was the new covenant church. Fifty days after the crucifixion, or about fifty-three days after the crucifixion, the church, the new covenant church was gathered together on the holy day of Pentecost, which in itself proves that the holy days of the Bible are not done away with because this is a new covenant church after the resurrection, after the incision even. Forty days after the resurrection, so it would be forty-three days after the crucifixion, but maybe even fifty there. I'm confused a little bit there, but you get the point. The real point is it was over a month later and the new covenant church was still keeping the holy days, including Peter. Amen?

So verse 37. And now they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, which means they were convicted of their sins because of Peter's sermon. And they said to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what should we do? So the people listened to the preaching, they were convicted of their sins, and they asked, Hey apostles, what must we do? I think if you would ask that same question to any of the local, most of the local preachers, and their answer, their response would be, Repeat after me this prayer. Let's come up to the altar, whatever, and repeat this prayer after me, and that's done. But what did Peter say? Verse 38, he said, Repent. Amen? Amen? Repent. And then he says, Then each of you be baptized in the authority and name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness. Not a prayer for forgiveness, of course you've got to pray, of course you've got to pray, but be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. It doesn't say, Just pray and repeat my words, and then just believe, and it's done. But rather, repent, which means change your life. Amen. Even as John the Baptizer, when the people came to him to be baptized, he didn't just baptize him. He didn't. He did not just immediately grab any person that wanted to be baptized and dunk him in the water. They had to be tested first. He even refused to baptize the Pharisees. Everybody looks at that verse, when the Pharisees came to be

baptized, and they automatically assume that John did baptize them. But if you read that again, it never says that he actually baptized them. But rather, he rebuked them, and warned them of the power of the fire that is to come that will baptize them with the Holy Fire. And some people, of course the Pentecostals say, that's a good thing, we should be baptized with fire. But it was a warning. It was a very judgmental, condemning mentality that John responded to the Pharisees with. Amen.

He wasn't saying, get ready, because you're about to jump up and down and speak in tongues and fall backwards. No. He was saying that if you don't repent, God is going to burn you. That's what he was saying. Then another verse in the Bible somewhere says that the Pharisees were not baptized by John. It actually tells us that. But of course everybody wants to ignore that verse, right? Amen. You have to repent first. Peter, he first says repent.

Now the word repent, a lot of people don't even understand what that means. They think it just means confess. That's not what it means. Confess and repent are two entirely different things. Confess is just to admit that you've been wrong. That's all that is.

But repentance means to turn around, to actually change direction, to actually stop doing the disobedience and start obeying, to stop following your own will and your own desires and start following God's will and what God wants in the acceptable will of the Lord. Repent is change. Real change. Not just words. Not just empty words. Amen. Repent is real change.

So when these people ask what they need to do, Peter says change. Real change. Repent.

Change your life. And then after you change your life, come back. Amen. But these people was already showing the fruits of repentance by just being there on the holy day, even though I'm sure there was already people fighting against the holy days already. Amen.

So we're talking today about needing to be willing to grow in the Lord in knowledge and understanding and obedience to make a real change of our mentality, what we believe, how we look at things, and to wake up, for the time is shorter now than it ever has been.

Paul and the prophets and the apostles were always talking about the day is at hand, the day is at hand, the day is at hand. But it's nearer now than it ever was. Amen. It doesn't take much of watching the news to realize we don't have that much time left. Let's go to the book of John chapter four. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. John four. Page 105.

Thank you everybody for letting me know that you can still hear me. I appreciate that. Because I don't want to be preaching to a wall, right? I want to be preaching to real people, real brothers, real sisters. Amen. So good to see Mrs. Harris back. We've been

praying for you many times over the years, thinking about you many times over the years, and very much looking forward to hearing from you again. And that's sincere and true from my heart and from Brittany's heart, that she still talks about you and wishing that she could see you again. And that's the God honest truth. So it's good to see you.

And this is John four verse 21. John four verse 21. Jesus said to her, woman, believe me, an hour is coming or a time is coming. We neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

"We worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But an hour or a time is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers," notice how He makes a distinction between false worshipers and true worshipers. "When the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. For such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. Theos, God, is spirit. And those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Amen.

That's very interesting. And another verse that people just fly right over when they're reading the Bible because they just want to check it off their list for the day. They've done reading it, but they don't stop and think about it. The Father is seeking a people who will worship Him in spirit and truth. What does that word seek mean? Search.

Amen. He's seeking, He's looking even as He saw the entire earth and found only one man, Amen. And the same today. He is searching, He is seeking for somebody that is willing to worship Him, not in vain, not with a futile mind, not with a mind of complacency, but a mind of passion and zeal that really cares about what the truth is, that wants the truth, that desires the truth, that's willing to study it out and test it and to prove it and then live by it and do it and follow it as a true follower of Christ and not just as a person that's just an audience. An audience just listens. But a true student of God actually applies it into His life. And that's what He is searching for. And it's very difficult to find. Amen. And notice that He wants people who worship Him both in spirit and in truth.

So it's not enough, it's not enough to worship Him in spirit alone. And what does in spirit mean? It means in faith. Amen. To worship Him in spirit is just to have a spiritual mentality. You know, you hear a lot of people saying, I'm not religious, I'm spiritual.

But where's the truth? Amen. You got to be both spiritual and understand and accept and obey the truth because the truth matters. Amen. The truth matters. It really does matter.

Amen. And not every denomination is correct. It can't be. So where's the truth? You have to prove it. You have to search for it. You yourself have to search for it. The Bible says seek and you shall find. It doesn't say it's just going to come to you. You got to seek it out. You got to search for it. Seek and you shall find. Amen. Jesus constantly

was preaching in parables for the very reason that the blind would not understand. Jesus didn't want everybody understanding because not everybody is worthy to understand. You have to actually show that you're worthy. Amen. You actually have to prove to God that you're worthy because otherwise everything just goes in one ear and out the other ear.

You can read the Bible seven times and still not understand it if you're not willing to prove it out and to stop and think about what you are reading. Amen. And then have a reaction to it. Truth and this sermon right here demands a reaction. Amen. Do people really want to leave from this sermon without any change of mentality, without any change of spirit, without any change of understanding, without any change of action in their life? Because if that's the way it's going to be, then you would have been better just watching basketball.

Amen. Rather than coming to church. Amen. The Word of God is meant to penetrate the hard hearts and the hard minds and to change our lives. The truth demands reaction. When I'm standing here and saying that every one of these preachers in every one of these churches are wrong, that demands some kind of reaction. Amen. Either you find verses that prove me wrong and have that reaction and present it to me, or you read all these verses again, other verses, and you study it out and prove it correct. And then have the reaction of forsaking false teachers, false religion, false preachers, false churches, false brothers, false brothers, false sisters. It's some type of reaction because the things I'm claiming, the things I'm teaching is of a very serious nature. Amen. The Bible says that the blind lead the blind. Amen. Do we want the blind leading us? And do we want to be blind? Or do we want to wake up and actually see things the way it really is? Amen. Do we want to see reality or just a fake movie, a fake game, a fake play church? Do we want to just play church or have real church? Amen. Do we want to be just a play that we're Christians, or do we want to be real Christians? Do we want to just think that we're a disciple of Christ, or do we want to be real disciples of Christ? There has to be some type of reaction. Otherwise, you just wasted my time and I just wasted your time. One way or another. Amen.

Now I'm almost done, but let's go over to Revelation 3. Revelation 3. Revelation 3 is the letters to the seven churches, to the seven congregations. Page 262. Revelation 3. Let's start in verse 14. Verse 14. To the messenger or pastor of the congregation of called out ones, the church, in the town of Laodicea, write this. The Amen, that's God Jesus, the faithful and true witness, the beginning, the first of the creation of the Theos, says this. Then jump down to 15.

It's in bold letters in verse 15. Jesus says this to the church of Laodicea. I know your works. You have works. And that you are neither cold nor are you hot. I desire that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of my mouth. Verse 17, next page in bold letters. Because you say, I am rich, spiritually, and have become wealthy and have need of nothing, yet you do not know

that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, spiritually naked. I advise you to buy from me gold, spiritually refined by fire that you may become rich, spiritually rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed. And I will anoint your eyes so that you may see. Verse 18. So now, a lot of people think this is literal and physical because they have a physical mentality, not a spiritual mentality. Amen?

I just got done talking about we need to be spiritual. Amen? Spiritually reading the Bible.

Spiritually reading the Scriptures of life. Amen? This ain't saying I want you to be carnally rich. This ain't saying I want you to be extremely wealthy if you just obey me. Amen?

What it's saying is that there are people who are lukewarm that think they are spiritually rich, that they have enough information for their salvation, their salvation is solid, it's not in danger, they're spiritually safe, they're spiritually rich. But it says I want you to counsel with me to buy from me gold refined by fire. This is not physically speaking.

Jesus ain't saying I'm trying to sell you a piece of rock, I'm trying to sell you a piece of gold because there's going to be a financial collapse. This ain't no prosperity gospel I'm preaching here. Amen? That piece of gold ain't going to do you worth anything because the person, you're not going to be able to find somebody in the great tribulation to buy your gold because where are they going to go sell it at? The Bible says they're going to throw their gold and silver in the streets. That's what the Bible says. Amen? Do we not believe the Bible? It's just these prosperity, false preachers, false teachers, the blind leading the blind. Gold ain't going to save you in the great tribulation, it ain't going to help you at all. Salt would be a much better investment. Amen? Salt would be better than gold and silver. Amen? So anyway, this ain't carnally speaking. It's spiritually speaking that he wants us to buy gold refined by fire. That means that he wants us to change and learn our lessons from life. The fire is, if you compare it to what it says in Peter, is the troubles of our life. The great tribulation, all the troubles, all the suffering, that this is a precious thing to us according to what it says in Peter about gold being refined by fire. This is how you understand the Bible is you compare verse with verse with verse with verse. Amen? So that's why we have almost 3,000 Bible references in the AOB Bible to point you back to other verses that use similar phrases and similar words so you can compare scripture with scripture here a little, there a little, line upon line, precept upon precept. Amen?

So the sufferings should be something we learn our lesson from and not continue to act like children repeating the same mistake over and over. We have to grow up. We have to wake up. We have to grow as a person, as an individual, and as a Christian. Amen? And we have to wake up to the reality of how we have become complacent, lukewarm, not zealous for the holy scriptures, not zealous for reading the scripture, not zealous about obedience to God, not zealous about what the truth is, not zealous for

praying for our brother in prison, not being zealous for praying for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria, or whatever the situation may be for you individually. Amen?

God wants us to be hot. He don't even want us to be cold. But He would rather for us to be hot or cold. Something to the extreme, not in the middle. He doesn't want us to be sitting on the fence. And I tell you, there's too many people listening to me today that are still sitting on the fence. When are you going to make up your mind about what the truth really is, and jump for it? One way or the other. Either jump away from me as far as you can, or jump right into the church and repent and surrender to God and be baptized and change your life for the better. One or the other. One or the other. I set before you today life and death. Amen. You can't sit in the middle forever and just wait and wait and wait and wait and see how the prophecies come true. You know? You got to make a reaction.

This type of preaching demands a reaction. Amen. A change. A willingness to change and a willingness to surrender to God. Amen. Can't sit on the fence forever. God would either rather for us to be ice cold on the side of the enemy, which is still passionate on the enemy side, or hot on fire from Him. Passionate one way or the other. Amen. Rather than lukewarm.

Amen. Look here, it says in verse 19. Verse 19. Read that with your own eyes here. Verse 19. In bold letters. Those whom I love I convict and discipline. Therefore be zealous and repent.

Boy, Peter was right. We got to repent. Not just believe. Not just believe. Not just believe.

But actually change. Real change. Amen. And be zealous about it. Amen.

I'm going to preach all day until somebody falls out the window. Like they did with that Paul or Peter that preached unto the man. It was Paul, wasn't it? That preached unto that man. I've heard stories that when I was a kid, back in those days, decades ago, that, and I even remember some of it slightly when I was a kid, how they would just preach and preach and preach and preach and preach until the upper night. I do remember that. You might show up at church about seven o'clock that evening and not leave until one or two o'clock in the morning. And you know what? We were not exhausted. We were not tired. We were not looking forward to going to bed. We were excited. We were joyous for the Lord. Amen.

It's not like math class. Amen. It's not math class. I think what I'm talking about is very interesting topics. Amen. I don't think this is something to make us go to sleep with. Amen. If it's interesting, then it's interesting. Amen. And it demands reaction. Amen. But people today, they can go to Walmart for two hours, but they can't listen for a sermon for two hours. Amen. Way different. Amen. It's priority, mentality, lukewarmness. Amen. People used to have a passion for the Lord. Even if it was in the Babylonian church,

they still had a passion for the Lord back then. Amen. It was better than what it is today where the churches are empty. Amen.

But let's go over to Hebrews 4 now. Hebrews chapter 4. We read this recently, and we've read it a million times over and over and over and over and over, but we're going to keep reading it until everybody believes what it says. Amen. Hebrews 4 verse 9. We might as well start in verse 8. Hebrews 4.

This is page 234. Page 234. Andrew says, I'm up for it, Pastor. Preach all day. Go ahead.

Go ahead. Ease up for it. He didn't say that. I'm putting words in his mouth. But I believe he'd be okay with it. Amen. Hebrews 4 verse 8. But if Jesus had given us a new rest day, a new Sabbath, would He not have spoken of another day after that, after His resurrection or crucifixion? Amen. Verse 9. Therefore there remains a keeping of the Sabbath for the people of God. Amen. That word remains. How would you define the word remain? There's something remain, but something else not remain. Right? Something is taken away. Something is left, but something remains. This is easy stuff. Even a child could understand this. Amen.

If it remains, it remains. It's still intact. It's not done away. Amen. This is easy stuff. Even a little child could understand this. Amen. So how can we read this and then walk away from it unchanged and disobedient or hard-hearted or hard-mind or hard-brained? Amen.

It's so simple, so easy. It says it straight out. How can there be any debate over it because it just says it straight out? It even says in verse 7, not hard in your hearts. Exactly. Oh my God. Praise the Lord Jesus. Amen. Verse 7. He again specifies a specific day. It's not just pic-a-day. Amen. Then it says today, saying through David after so long a time, just as it's been said before, today, if you hear His voice, do not hard in your hearts. And He says it in connection to the Sabbath, in the context of the Sabbath.

Amen. You can't get more clear than this. And yet, how many of these pastors would say that Jesus changed it, changed the day, or the day is completely done away with and you can pic-a-day because they want to try to twist, is it Romans 14? No. Romans 14, I know that's what it is, where it says they were not to judge a brother about the day, about whether he eats today or not eats today, stuff like that. That's nothing to do with a Sabbath.

It has everything to do with eating. If you choose to fast today, and I don't want to fast today, then that's an individual choice you have made and I won't judge you for it.

Why would I judge you for fasting today? Amen. And the Jews had all types of fast days. All types of fast days. And that's what He was really talking about. Amen. It says nothing about the Sabbath in Romans 14, and yet all these preachers want to say that

Romans 14 teaches that you can pick any day you want to and not judge me for keeping Sunday, because that's the day I pick, or Wednesday because that's the day I pick and you can't judge me for it. That's twisting the Holy Scripture, and that's treating Scripture like trash, because it's twisting Scripture in every direction that they want to twist it with no honor and respect for what it actually does say. The word eating, food, me, and drink is throughout that chapter, over and over and over and over. It's throughout that entire chapter, over and over and over and over and over. Food, drink, eating, not eating. It's about judging people about when they fast and not fasting. It has nothing to do with the Sabbath. The word Sabbath doesn't appear not even once in that chapter. So why are they twisting it? The truth matters. Amen. The truth matters. Here, it says it straight out, so clearly you can't twist it. And they still twist it. Amen. Because what they try to say is that as long as we live in Christ and believe in Christ, that we rest, and He is our rest and He is our Sabbath. That is the biggest, biggest pile of bull crap I ever heard in my life.

He is our rest. He is our Sabbath. Last time I looked on the calendar, we have actual days of the week, and I don't see no verse in the Bible where it says that He replaced a day of the week, and He became the new day of the week. He's the Lord of the Sabbath. He's not the Sabbath itself. Amen? Amen. He's the Lord of the Sabbath. He is not the Sabbath itself. Boy, they love to twist it, don't they? The truth matters. Amen. And they try to say He's talking about Joshua rather than Jesus. But the context is Jesus. Amen? The context is Jesus. Amen. Because they actually did have rest under Joshua. It says so more than once in the book of Joshua that they were given rest under Joshua. Here it says if this man, whether it's Jesus or Joshua, did not give them another rest. Amen? So it can't be Joshua because they did have rest under Joshua. It says that more than once in the book of Joshua. Amen? But Jesus did not give us a new rest, a new time of rest, but rather it remains. It actually uses the word remain, which means remaining after something is taken away. I say this because the truth demands reaction. It demands change. We could have been born as a Muslim honoring Fridays and Friday nights. We could have been born in some cult that believes in Tuesday. I actually saw somebody on the internet at one time, I think, that was teaching the Sabbath on Tuesday or something like that. We could have been born in any type of cult, teaching any day of the week, but the truth matters. And what the Bible says matters. Amen? So we must be willing to change from whatever cult we were raised in, whether it was the Baptist cult or the Presbyterian cult or whatever cult we were raised in, we have to be able to come out of that and come to a reaction of repentance, of change, of direction, change of life, change of mentality, to accept what the Word of God really does teach compared to traditions of mankind. Amen?

And I will also now bring up about the halal mark. The halal mark is a crescent moon symbol of Islam that appears on the products in the stores all across the world, and it's actually the law in some Islamic nations that the products must be halal in order to be bought and sold.

This is a real danger to our souls. It's a real danger to our society, to our children, to our families, to our culture, to everything that exists, because it's Islamic conquest.

Amen? Islamic conquest is a very serious thing that I'm talking about. It's a real thing. They actually have a mosque up here in Johnson City, and there are Muslims walking around in the stores right here in this town. Amen? And that number is growing consistently over every month and every year. That number is growing, growing, growing. Amen?

And more and more of them coming in from California and other states constantly. Amen? It's Islamic conquest. It's something we must be aware of and reactive to. We have to react to it some way or another before they overtake us. Amen?

So the halal mark, and they actually call it a mark. That's their words, not mine. And what does the Bible say? It's about a mark of conquest. Amen? And it's Islamic. It's Islamic. That's the most serious threat of religion to us. Amen? Communism and Islam are the most serious threats that mankind faces right now. Amen? Through Biden and the Democrat regime, the illegal regime that we have dictating over America right now that are pushing Islam and homosexuality down our throats. And they're constantly trying to pass new laws through the United Nations and all other types of organizations and the U.S.

Congress. They're at least attempting and trying to pass laws that if we even preach against Islam or even say or post on social media anything about Islam, we could go to prison for it. This is a serious threat.

So we have to realize that when we buy products that have an Islamic symbol on the product, we're doing much, much, much, much more than just buying something we want. We're funding, we're sending money to that corporation that is part of the Islamic conquest, that is part of the Islamic conquest mark on the products and overtaking our products, overtaking the finances. There are actual banks that are halal certified now and halal Sharia compliant.

When I talk about halal, I'm talking about Sharia law. That's exactly what I'm talking about, Sharia law. Amen?

And yet, it's right here in this little tiny town, creeping in little by little by little because people are so complacent and not seeing the threat. If you give the devil an inch, he'll take a mile, he'll take 10,000 miles. Amen? The truth matters and we have to become more reactive to the truth, to spiritual threat, to spiritual deception, to spiritual conquest that wants to conquer every inch of the world.

And we're not going to be able to stop them. It's written in Scripture that the Antichrist will be given by God power over all nations. It says it in Daniel, it says it in the book of Revelation. We're not going to be able to stop that. But it's still our individual

responsibility to say no to it, to resist it, and not to embrace it, not bring it into the house. Amen? Because you don't want to embrace stuff like horror movies, bring it into the house, or pagan altars, or Ouija board, or even something that represents Islamic conquests and funding it by buying those products we're funding. We're giving them our money and every dollar counts. It really does. Amen?

So I'm preaching about willingness to grow in understanding, to not stay ignorant about the devil's devices of false religion in every aspect. So I'm not preaching only against the Baptist Church, I'm preaching against Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, the Baptist, the Presbyterians, the Catholics, the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Seventh-day Adventists, and all groups that are those corporative groups. All of them. They're just corporations. Amen.

Man-made religions that twist the Bible. Amen. And are very ignorant of the Bible, and they want the people to stay ignorant of the Bible. They don't teach you to study. Amen. They don't teach you to test the pastor. They don't teach you to reexamine the Scriptures. They don't want you to take notes of the sermon. They don't want you to come out of Babylon because they are Babylon. Amen.

Look at Revelation 18 now. Revelation 18 verse 4. I think I've got time for God. Amen. I think I've got time for God. Who's with me?

"I am."

Yep. Are you with me, Brother Jared? You got time for God? All right. You want more of His Word? Amen.

"Amen. We're not sitting in the window or on the roof, so we're not in no danger of falling off."

Amen. Revelation 18:4 I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her, my people, so that you will not propitiate in her sins and receive of her plagues. The threat here is sinning, but also being punished.

Receiving of her plagues. Amen. Come out of her, my people. Come out of her, my people.

What is it talking about? Come out of what? Come out of what? The context of the chapter is Babylon, and we know that Babylon is a literal, physical city with merchant ships and the seaport, and it has a whole list of things that are being transported throughout that seaport, merchandise, frankincense, and ivory, and different types of wood, and different things. So we're not going to ignore that, and we're not going to deny that there's an end time city of Babylon. But again, we are to treat the scripture as spiritual thought.

Spiritual food for our brains and our souls. Spiritual food. So we look beyond the physical aspects of the city of Babylon and think about the spiritual aspects. Amen. The

city has a government. Amen. What city doesn't have a government? And we know that the governments of this world are led by the Moslems and the Communists, the Nazis, the anti-Jews, the anti-Zionists, those people that have been brainwashed and programmed to hate Israel and to hate the Jews. It's the Jews' fault. Everything. They're the seed of the devil.

They're the seed of Cain, the serpent seed, all those conspiracy theories. The Jews are not the Jews. They're the synagogue of Satan. This is the brainwashing that you receive from the internet. The internet. The devil's device. Amen. People go to the internet, which is developed by the CIA, which is developed by the New World Order, to program how you think. Well, I read it on the internet. Mr. So-and-so said it. I read it. I watched a video and I've watched a million videos that says everything's the fault of the Jews. They control all the money, all the banks, everything. And ignore how it's Russia, it's China, it's the Muslims, it is Syria, it is Saudi Arabia. Ignore all of that. The communist aspect, which we're seeing, hit us in the face. Amen. And our current generation, we're seeing how the Russians and the Chinese and the Iranians, that axles of evil, as Reagan so rightfully said, that axles of evil, we're seeing them how they are the controllers of the New World Order, how they're throwing Islam down our throat, communism down our throat. They're not throwing Judaism down our throat. Amen. The real power behind all of it is the Muslims, the Arab nations, the Gentile nations, the Chinese. They are the real threat. Have not anyone read the Bible about Esau and Jacob, about Ismael and Isaac? Have not anybody read the Bible about how that you have the spiritual war in the flesh between these tribes and ever thought that and take it to heart and to the brain, to think about how that same war still exists today of the Gentiles versus Israel, the Gentiles versus the Jews. Of course, I know the Jews are not the only tribe of Israel. We also got Manasseh and Ephraim, United States, the British throne, things like this. But we need to think about such things because we're under threat of Islamic conquests and communist conquests. Amen. The 666. Amen. These are things to think about and how that plays into our local churches because I remember reading not too long ago, a few months ago in the local newspaper, how, I don't know specifically what church it was, but it was one of the Presbyterian churches here in town, downtown somewhere, that had embraced and invited a Muslim teacher right there in the church and had the whole congregation come and listen to this Muslim talk about how wonderful Islam is and how wonderful the Quran is. And they actually invited him back. Why would I want to step in that church ever? Why would I ever want to go and listen to that pastor to say anything? Amen. The Islamic conquest is real and in this town and in these churches. Amen.

And what is the origin of Sunday worship anyway? The Vatican and Egypt and Assyria and how the Vatican brought in the obelisks of the sun god Ra from Egypt is there at the Vatican.

Sun worship, Sunday. Why is it called Sunday? Why is that the holy day of traditional Western religion, the day of the sun? Come on now. The Vatican is well known for sun

worship and Islam for moon worship. So if you have the eastern leg of the woman that rides the horse or the monster of Babylon, the eastern leg being Islam and the western leg being the Roman Catholic Church, wake up and come on now. Come on now. On the website I Saw the Light Ministries, I have 19 or 21 ways that the Catholic Church, which is the Baptist Church and the Pentecostal Church and the Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church and all those churches are just daughters of the Catholic Church. Every one of them.

They're not Protestant. They're liars. They're liars from hell. The only thing Martin Luther did was hate the Jews. Amen. Martin Luther was the Hitler of his time and that's documented history, recorded history. Why would I want to be a Lutheran and why would I ever want to visit a Lutheran church when Luther ordered the murder of Jews just like Hitler did? Why would I want to respect such a man? Amen. If I had a dad or a mom or brother or sister that was a Lutheran, I would try to witness to them and if they were not willing to repent, I would say, do not call me and do not visit me ever again because you're of the devil.

That's exactly what I would say and this is the God's honest truth. I raise my hands to God. Amen. I did forsake my dad and my mom and my brother and my cousin because the Bible says that if you're not willing to forsake these people, then you are not worthy of me.

But everybody just wants to rip that page out of the Bible and ignore it and treat it like trash and so I don't have to do that even though it's the words of Jesus. Well, he was talking to those people. He's not talking to me. I don't have to deny myself and my family and other people. All I got to do is believe. Mercy, mercy, mercy, grace, that's all, that's all. I'm going to heaven. I'm saved. I know it. I know I'm saved. Bullcrap.

You don't obey God. You read the Sabbath still remains and you don't care. Because the truth don't really matter, does it? And everything is vain and we might as well give up. If I die today, if I die tomorrow, it's God's will. Bullcrap. It's your own fault if you die today.

It's your own fault you die tomorrow because you're so stubborn. It's time to change. It's time to repent. It's time to either believe the word of God or just admit you're an atheist and you don't believe the word of God. Because that's what it really all boils down to. Just like I just read in history during the time of Polycarp, if a person didn't really believe the true word of God and the God of Israel, they just called them atheists. Because you either believe in the true God or you don't. It's that simple. Amen. I wonder how effective the word of God would be today. It's not the word of God, but rather the receivers. Amen.

There's a phrase, a proverb of our time that says something like this, anything worth having is worth fighting for. Amen. Anything worth having is worth fighting for. There's

another proverb of our time, no pain, no gain. Amen. Another proverb of our modern generation, something like this, when time gets tough, the tough gets going. Amen. We don't have to turn there because I know you're sick of the scripture right now. So we don't have to turn there. But 2 Timothy 4 tells us that people are going to gather themselves to preachers who tickle their ears. Amen. And that's what we're seeing with the television evangelists and local churches. People gathering themselves to preachers who tickle their ears. Feel good message that does not convict the heart. Does not step on the toes. Does not offend. Because it's okay in those churches to be complacent and to be entertained. I tell you why. If I was to walk into a church and they turn off the lights and put a movie light beam on the stage where people have choreographed the dancing, or rock and roll music, or hollering hee-haw in these cowboy churches, I would turn around and walk out of that heathen place.

Treating God like a game, these cowboy churches. It's not a game. It's making fun of God. It's blasting me. It's treating, like the sanctuary is nothing but a movie theater. I mean they turn off the lights at church and have people who have choreographed, pre-planned every song they're going to sing. That is not worship. That's entertainment. It's Hollywood. That's not worship. It's not worship of the true God. Amen. Church is not a game. It's a place to learn, to grow, to be convicted of your sins, and to repent. It is a place of repentance.

Amen. Miracle confirmation of the sermon today. We have this broadcast. We broadcast on the internet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We always have, unless I forget to hit the button, which is too often. I do apologize for that. But normally we try to broadcast 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, recorded gospel music, recorded sermons, documentaries, and other content on the website to always give people something they can listen to that's healthy for their soul so that they don't have to go elsewhere. So that they don't have to go to YouTube and listen to all that programming crap. Something that's healthy for them to listen to. Something that's truthful and accurate and inspirational and life changing. Something that's fruitful. Amen. So, when I checked that this morning, I clicked the button to listen to what was playing at the time. Right now I have 222 audio files that it plays at random. Just at random of the files I programmed in there. And I clicked the button to listen to see what was on and make sure it actually was working, actually was playing.

And what I heard came from it was these words. Three words I heard. "The changed person." Amen.

It plays 222 audio files at random. And just by, do you really think it's coincidence that when I hit the button for just a second and then re-hit it to stop it, the only words I heard was the changed person. That's no coincidence because God knew I was going to preach about change. Amen. You can't call that a coincidence. That goes beyond millions of numbers of statistics, what would it be, one in a billion or something, to be the one second. Not just one out of 222 files, but also that that file and that moment of

the file, that second of that particular file would be playing at that particular second of that particular day on this particular morning of this particular sermon.

How many one in a million, one in a billion would that be? Amen. That's God.

And that's God sends you and to me, to every one of us, I approve of this message. That's exactly what God is saying. Amen. Well, we get to do all this again tomorrow. And I'm sure you're excited for that. Tomorrow, same time, same channel, eleven o'clock in the morning eastern time zone because tomorrow is the first day of the eleventh biblical month in God's calendar, the eleventh biblical month. The year is almost gone. Time flies. Amen. Praise God. And the Bible does talk about, even when Jesus comes back, that the people will be meeting on the first day of the month, even after he comes back. That's what the Bible talks about. More than one place. You can search it. You don't have to believe me. Search it out. And that's called a new month, a new, new year, not new year, a new moon. And the word month comes from the word moon. That's where you get the word month from. It means moon. It actually means moon. So when you say we have a new month, you're saying we have a new moon. It's the same thing. And if they're going to do it when Jesus comes back, then we ought to be doing it now as well. Amen. Because what Jesus does and the way He runs His church is the way we should run His church today. Amen. God does not change. He's the same today, tomorrow, forever. He's the same. Amen. He wants people to worship Him not less but more.

And as it says in Hebrews, not to be as like those that are forsaken the assembly. Amen.

We're not like those that forsake the assembly. And it says, even so much more as the day draws near. In other words, as the day draws near for His return and the end of this generation, we should not be forsaking gathering ourselves together, but even gather more would be what we need as a people, as a church, as a society, as a generation. We need more hard preaching, not soft preaching. We need more hard preachers, not soft preachers. Amen. We've got enough soft preachers, too many of those. Amen. They remind me of the Pillsbury Doughboy, finger in the stomach, tickle, tickle, tickle. Amen. That's why these churches remind me of. Well, praise God Almighty.

I thank You, Heavenly Father, for Your miracle confirmation of Your blessing upon today's sermon. We pray that Your Word penetrate the minds and the hearts. We ask You, Lord, to change our lives and to have spiritual surgery upon our minds and our thoughts and our spiritual eyesight. We ask You, Lord, to help us, Lord, to change and to repent and not be stubborn and not be complacent, but to have a real change and a real reaction and a true reaction and the right reaction to the Holy Word that we have shared today. We thank You for the spiritual food that we have enjoyed, that it would nourish our hearts and our minds and penetrate the toughness and circumcise our

hearts and our minds. We pray for this knowing that this is Your will, the acceptable will of the Lord. We pray for all the new people listening as well as the people that's been listening for a long time. We pray for all of them and for all of the church and Islamic and communist nations for Your power of protection. Please help us to keep them in our memory and in our thoughts often and even more often. We ask You, Lord, to help us to be passionate and zealous for the truth and for our spiritual family and for putting You first. We ask You, Lord, to help us to surrender to You, to put You first in our spiritual family and the truth of all things, to come first in our lives. We ask You, Lord, to save us and to deliver us from all the enemy's devices. We ask it knowing that You're faithful, if we seek it, if we really want it, if we're willing to follow through with it, that You'll do Your part and we'll do our part and we'll meet halfway. For You're not a genie to just wave a magic wand or snap your finger, but You want reaction for us that we would meet You halfway on this journey. Two-way street, two-way relationship, a real relationship between You and us. We accept it. We ask for it. We receive it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Praise God. Praise Jesus. Amen?

Brother Jared, you got anything to add, and I'll also open up the chat room here that if anybody has anything to type into the chat room. I also want to remind people that you are free to sing songs, give testimonies, and things like that as God lays on your heart. The Bible does talk about that every person brings something to the table. If you have something to share, then you have the freedom and the liberty to do so. Amen. So we give people time. As Brother Jared turns to the Scriptures, we give people time in the chat room for anybody. If you know you're going to sing a song, if you can let us know. We'll try to figure out a way to do it on Telegram or WhatsApp. If anybody wants to contact me on WhatsApp right now, I've got my phone here with me and we can do that. You can play a song or give a testimony or on Telegram. I'm not paying no attention to media, but hopefully I might get a notification on Telegram or WhatsApp. Wow, and I think that Richard in Cuba may have either tried to contact me earlier during the sermon or had at least came back on Telegram at least. And I was thinking that maybe he might have been in prison or the military or something down in Cuba under the communist regime there. I've been worried about him for a long time. So it's good to see or somebody using his phone, one or the other, coming back on Telegram. So let's all pray about that as well for Richard in Cuba, that he's safe, and I hope it really is Richard and not somebody else with his phone, and that he would actually successfully contact me. And this time, stay faithful to Jesus in this ministry as well. Let's pray for him.

I do appreciate that Brother Jared has been with the ministry for four years and he was baptized four years ago this past Thursday. I also appreciate his work on the Alpha and Omega Bible for the updates. We've got all the words of God in bold now throughout the entire Bible, even in the Old Testament. The color editions, the words of God are in red, even in the Old Testament. Black and white editions, they'll be just in bold. We're

getting the text to speech uploaded maybe today or tomorrow. We'll get the audio files where you can listen to the AOB Bible on the internet, on the MP3 files audio. That will be uploaded, finished by sometime tomorrow, hopefully. We have the AOB now in a website format as well, as well as the PDF and the paperbacks and the Kindle.

We have now the ability to where you can read the AOB Bible on a website in a website format.

That's real exciting, very useful, easy to use, easily navigate from book to book to book and chapter and verse number across the Bible. I'm really excited and really happy about that. I believe that's going to help a lot of people to find the truth and a lot of people to get saved. The Alpha Omega Bible has been the most fruitful task of this ministry.

People all around the world learning about it, using it, sharing it, telling other people about it, people ordering it, and it's growing. Amen. A lot of miracles, so many, that at my age and my level of exhaustion from working so hard for so many years in the ministry, it's now hard for me to keep up with so many miracles. Miracles after miracle after miracle after miracle that we see in this ministry. I praise God for it. It's the hand of God.

When you say the hand of God, there has to be change. There has to be a reaction. There has to be praise. Amen. I'm not too lazy to raise my hands because I serve a great God. Amen. The Alpha and the Omega.

I remember a woman a long time ago, she gave a testimony in a church that at one time she had been stricken with some kind of a sickness, disease, illness, and that she was healed from it. And so now that whatever it took to get her in church, to hear the word of God, that she was going to do it, that you couldn't keep her from that. Even if she is sick, if she was to get very, very, very, very sick and barely able to move, just carry her out on a stretcher and prop her up in the corner somewhere in the church because she is still going to be there. Amen. That's passion. That's zeal for the Lord because God is so good to us. How can we not be good back to Him? Amen.

We take for granted so much the blessings of the Lord, the provisions. The testimony is so powerful. The Bible says in the book of Revelation, chapter 12, that we overcome the devil by the word of our testimony. Amen. We've got to be willing and able to give a testimony for the Lord. And it never gets old. He may have done it 20 or 30 years ago to deliver us of cancer or diabetes or something, but there's always a new person that hasn't heard the story yet, that hasn't heard the testimony yet. Amen. There's always somebody new going to listen to these recordings, either live or to the recording later on. And those people can be blessed by that. And that overcomes the devil, the devil of doubt, the devil of unbelief, the devil of not trusting God and not believing in God and different things.

So many devils are overcome by the word of our testimony. And it should be our passion to speak about the Lord, about how much, how great He is, how great He is. Amen.

Brother Jared knows, some of you know, how many times I have stood here extremely sick, extremely, extremely, extremely sick, and been through some very extreme sicknesses several times over the years. And it was only, only by the power of God that I was able to stand here, not just for 30 minutes, not just for an hour, but two hours and two and a half hours, even when I was sick. Because God is too good for me to fail Him. God is too good for me to give up, or me to be lazy or complacent on Him. If He died on the cross for me and was on that cross for several hours for me, then I can stand up and honor Him on my feet and worship Him and declare His Word and His message. That is the least I could do. And if one of these days I have to preach in my hospital bed, I will do it. Amen. You cannot keep me away from doing what I was called to do. Amen. The devil ain't going to win.

I'm in a war and I got too much to lose and I am not going to lose. Amen. When are you going to realize you are in a war and that you are called to be a warrior? Amen. It's time to rise up out of our slumber, for the time is at hand. Amen. The days are evil.

Amen. We need warriors. We need more laborers. Me and Brother Jared, we work ourselves to the death. We need laborers. We need men to quit their jobs and fly out of town. We need people who will surrender to God and come and be a student and a disciple and come to be a warrior and a worker. We need people who are willing to surrender their lives to where God comes before family and friends and job and career and education. We need people like Matthew, that when Jesus said, follow me, Matthew didn't say I got an electric bill to pay. He just got up and quit his job right there on the spot and followed Christ.

No debate, no second thought. That is what we need today. Amen. Let us not pray for God to send more laborers, but let us be the more laborers. Amen. Praise God. I'm glad I came to church today. Aren't you? Praise the Lord. Amen. Praise God. Praise the Lord. God is too good to not get excited and not get happy. Praise God. God is good all the time. Amen.

Praise God. Alright, I'll let you all go and I'll talk to you tomorrow morning. Be here or be square. Amen. Praise God. All this in Jesus' name. Amen. Now if I can find that button and the other button and the other button and the other button. Praise Jesus.

Copyright 2023 I Saw The Light Ministries