

OPEN BIBLE STUDY SERIES

THREE RESULTS OF LISTENING TO PAUL

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A Dispensational Study

First Printed in 1985

Reprint 2006

Printed in the United States of America

All Scripture quotes in this book are from the Authorized King James Version of 1611, unless noted. Any deviation therefrom is purely unintentional.

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(This booklet is transcribed from a sermon preached in 1984)

Turn in your Bibles, please to the book of Numbers. We are going to look at a few Old Testament passages and then we will go to the New Testament.

Everybody is following somebody. Most people are followers and I think it probably should be that way. God selects certain men to lead and to guide and lays His hand of blessing upon them. He has always done this down through the ages. In each age, whenever we deal with the matter of the revealed Word of God, God has always had His spokesman for that particular age. For example, in Numbers chapter 12, under the Dispensation of Law, God has His spokesman, Moses. In Number 12:1,

12:1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

2 And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.

3(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

4 And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. (Num 12:1-4)

God called Moses; Moses didn't call himself. It was God Who called Moses back in Exodus and said to Moses, "You're going to be my spokesman; I will reveal My Word to you. Moses, it is your responsibility to give It to the nation of Israel. You're My spokesman for this people."

Whenever these people murmured against Moses, they were refusing God's will for them in that particular age. And they were certainly wrong to murmur against God's spokesman. God makes it clear later on in the chapter. Look at Numbers 12 and look at verse number 7.

7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses? (Num 12:7-8)

The Bible says:

“And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them;”

9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.

10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. (Num 12:9-10)

Leprosy! God showed Miriam and Aaron that it was a sin against Him to speak against His spokesman in that dispensation of the Law. Moses prayed for them in verse 13, God forgave them and healed Miriam, and of course, did not kill Aaron because of Moses's prayer.

Turn, please, to Numbers, chapter number 16 and another case – Korah. In the New Testament, you read it the way it is spelled, “Kore”. It is another way of saying the same thing. In Numbers chapter 16, Korah doesn’t exactly do the same as Aaron and Miriam. Instead, he says we should mingle Moses’s ideas with our ideas. In effect he is saying, “We’re just as good as Moses is, we can give some good ideas, we can help; let’s keep his words, but let’s keep somebody else’s too.”

Look at Numbers 16:3.

And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD? (Num 16:3)

Look at verse 5

And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him. (Num 16:5).

Turn, please to Numbers chapter number 16:31. Here is the end result of these men who speak against God’s spokesman:

**31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:
32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.
33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation. (Num 16:31-33).**

God opened up the earth. Hell opened up her mouth and these men and everything that pertained to them went down into Hell alive to burn for all eternity. That was God’s judgment for a man under the Law to question what Moses had said or try to insert personal thought into that particular period of time. God said, I’ll tell you what I want done and it will be through Moses. It will not be through anybody else. He’s my spokesman.”

The Lord Jesus Christ came to the nation of Israel. The Lord Jesus Christ came and told Israel what they needed to do. He told them that they needed to repent and turn to Him and accept Him as Messiah. Whenever the Lord Jesus Christ came, He didn’t come specifically to the Gentiles, He came to the nation of Israel.

24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (Matt 15:24)

The Lord sent His disciples out and they were sent as Jesus said in John 20:21, **“As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”** They went out to the nation of Israel.

Then God called a man by the name of Paul. God gave to that man, Paul, the doctrines for this present dispensation of grace. Turn, please, to Ephesians chapter

number 3. Let's look at this chapter and we'll see what the Bible says about this man being God's spokesman for this age.

In Ephesians chapter 3:1, Paul said:

**3:1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,
2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to youward:
3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,
4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)
5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; (Eph 3:1-5).**

Then he goes on to tell the content of that mystery and the results of that mystery. Paul said, "God has made known to me the dispensation of grace and I am your spokesman, Gentiles."

Now every person here this morning is a Gentile. We're all Gentiles and God has sent this man Paul to be our spokesman. This is the age of the Gentiles. This is the time when God has set Israel aside; God has blinded them, they are broken off. Israel, as a nation, will not hear God's Word. They are going their own way. God will deal with them later on. But in this particular time, known as the times of the Gentiles, God is dealing with the Gentiles and He has called one man to be the spokesman for them.

Look at Romans 15:15-16. If a person knows his bible, he knows this – Paul is God's spokesman for this age. It's Paul who tells you what to believe and what to do. We don't go back over to Moses to get directions over there; we go to Paul and we listen to him. Listen to what he says in Romans chapter 15:15:

**15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God,
16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. (Rom 15:15-16).**

Paul is God's spokesman. It doesn't mean that Paul originates anything; Moses did not originate his message. God gave it to Moses mouth to mouth and He said, "I will speak apparently to him, not in similitudes, not in dark speeches." He said, "I'll speak to him mouth to mouth." God, when He speaks to us in this age, uses one man, the apostle Paul, to speak to us and give us directions and directives. He gave us a body of material from Romans through Philemon, so that we might know in our church what to do and how to do it. We know in our church what to preach and how to preach it; we know what to stand for; we know when to open our mouth and stand up and say, "That's wrong" and "That's right" and we'll know when to keep our mouths closed.

Look at Romans 11:13. The chapter says earlier that Israel has fallen. It says they've been diminished and in the same chapter Israel is set aside. All spokesmen to Israel have also been set aside. In this Age, God is dealing with the Gentiles and in this Age, the spokesman is Paul.

“For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:”

Paul didn't magnify himself, he magnified his office. Just as Moses said, **“This is the Word of the Lord”**, so Paul says, **“This is the Word of the Lord.”** No wonder we find Paul making statements like the following one. Look at I Corinthians 11:1. No wonder he makes a statement like this. God has selected him; God has chosen him; God has revealed the dispensation of grace to him. What is to be dispensed out in this age of grace, God gave through the apostle Paul, and Paul says:

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

The Lord Jesus Christ called Paul and told Paul what to do in this age. Paul said,

“Be ye followers of me”

Now, folks, that means that if you are a Gentile, which you are, and you are living in the Church Age today, which you are, and you are living in a period of time covered between Romans through Philemon, which you are, then that means you are to listen to Paul. You are to be followers of him. That means that you should not go back over there and follow Moses and do what he told you to do.

One reason I know that I am not under the Law today is that I am under God's grace. I am under a different spokesman; I am in a different period of time. There are many things that are different.

Now watch. There are some things that are the same. It's true, that over there you are not to commit adultery; it's true, here, that you are not to commit adultery. It's true that you are not to lie under this dispensation. In fact, in any dispensation lying is rejected by God. But there are other things, outward things, that change. Outward things change with God. He will change thing around. He will move things around. The reason there is so much confusion today is because men are not following those things given by the apostle Paul. He said, **“Be ye followers of me.”** And things are confused. Folks get the Bible twisted and try to put us under the Law when we know we're under grace. Churches begin to fight against each other because some person in the congregation has their own particular doctrine that they've hammered out and they're persuaded that they ought to have that little doctrine taught, although they have no justification wherever in the Word of God. Where I have clear scripture, I am to stand and I'm to preach it. But where I have only personal preference or the liberty for personal preference, than I can state my personal preference. But then what you do is no business of mine.

I believe this: I believe God has used fundamental, independent Baptist churches to His glory. I believe that. I am a fundamentalist. I'm not a fundamentalist like the newsmen would categorize fundamentalist. You see, they call a Jehovah's Witness a

fundamentalist. They call a Morman a fundamentalist. They call a snake handler a fundamentalist. Well, I'm not like that. I believe there are certain fundamentals that you follow and certain things that God has given out that's very clear. I'm a fundamentalist in that sense. Not only that, I'm independent. I'm independent of all men telling me what to do. You know, I'm so independent, I'm independent of the independents. So you know the only thing I am in captivity to? So you know the only thing that I'm under? I am under the Word of God. I am under this Book. This Book tells me what to do. That's my only authority. That's the only thing I'm going to listen to. That's the only thing. And that's the only thing you should listen to. Now when I stand and preach the Word of God, then you say, "Amen" if I'm preaching it right. If I stand up here and give you my personal preference, you just let it go right on by. If I have a clear statement in this Book and that Book tells you to do something, you'd better listen, because I'm preaching the Word. Now watch. The Book didn't say "Give the interpretation of It", the Book just says, "Preach the Word". That's my job. If preachers would stick to doing that, you would have less trouble, less confusion, less everything that is bad. God's people would prosper, churches would grow, and they'd be blessed. I have no desire whatever to be a spiritual dictator in this place. I simply want to do what this Book says. I want to do what God has told me to do in this age and I want to plead with you and beg you and beseech you, as children of God, to do the same thing – to follow the Book. That's my whole burden of preaching.

I appreciated the songs this morning about the Bible – "Standing on the Promises" – that's all I've got to stand on. "Holy Bible, Book Divine". You know most folks don't sing about the Bible nowadays because most folks don't know where the Bible is. They've got all kinds of things running around called Bibles, they don't know which Bible it is.

When I stand up and preach, I stand up and preach the Book that God has blessed for over 360 years, the King James Bible. This Book has been approved for over 360 years. God has honored It. God has blessed It. I preach the Word of God. This Book tells me it is the same Book that God gave in the beginning. This Book says, "**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.**" I know this. I know that because of this Book, my life is totally changed. I know that God took me out of all the beer joints, all the hell-holes, and God took me out of all the filth and He gave me eternal life and I know that it was because of what this Book said. It wasn't because of what any preacher told me, unless he told me exactly what that Book said. And whenever I heard what that Book said, I knew exactly what I had to do to be saved, I knew exactly what it said about salvation, I knew what God wanted me to do.

I hope that we will have more sense than one preacher I heard about. He got up and said: I'm going to teach you folks this morning how to milk a bear from the Bible. That Bible teaches that over there in Genesis chapter 24:47. It says a '**son whom Milcah bare**' and it says that if he can 'milk a bear', then you can too, brother."

Of course that thing was Milcah, M-i-l-c-a-h, a woman. He was reading that thing all mixed up and he saw "son whom Milcah bare". He thought he, the son, milked a bear in the Bible.

I heard another fellow talk about this:

“Folks,” he said, “baseball is holy, baseball is righteous and I can prove that God is not against baseball. Bless God. He may be against football, and He’s against all those other ungodly games, but He ain’t against baseball, because the Bible says in the very first verse of that Bible, it says, ‘In the big inning...’” He went on and he preached about baseball for a long time and how it was all right to play baseball.

I heard about another guy who was trying to justify his drinking. “Listen. God, ain’t against liquor. He named a book in the Bible, He-brews”.

He was going to prove that the Lord was a moonshine brewer. You learn all kinds of crazy things from crazy people that are going on in that Bible. Some will try to prove everything by the Word of God. Listen, we ought to have our Bible in our hand and know whom we are following. I’m to follow the apostle Paul in the matters of doctrine. All the Bible is for my learning, but in order to find out what a man must do to be saved and serving in this Age, I must follow Paul. I must see what he says about it. In order to find out what this church is supposed to be doing, I’m supposed to follow Paul.

Number one. The Word of God is opened by Paul’s preaching. The Word of God is opened by Paul’s preaching. Unless you see this, unless you know who you are supposed to be following, you’ll be confused. This Book will be a closed Book to you. This Book is opened by Paul’s preaching.

Look at Titus 1:3:

But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour; (Titus 1:3).

Paul said God “**manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour**”. He said, “Jesus Christ has given me commandments to give unto you. Here are the commandments for this Church Age, when you know that I am God’s spokesman, the Word of God will be opened to you. It will be manifest”.

Now if you have a manifest of a truck shipment, you have a list of everything that is in that truck. You don’t have to go in that truck and look around and try to see. Everything is listed on that manifest. It will tell you everything that is in that truck. Everything is open to you that is in that truck. Whenever you understand what Paul says to you, this Bible will open up to you. Many things you did not understand before will be understood when you begin to rightly divide the Word of God. Let Moses be the spokesman of the Law. Let Law stay under Law. Let grace stay under grace and this Bible will be opened up to you. Things that have been closed to your eyes before, all of a sudden will be as clear as day.

For example, in Luke 18:31, Jesus said this:

31 Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.

32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on:

33 And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

34 And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken. (Luke 18:31-34).

If you are saved, there's not a person here this morning, who has any problem at all with that passage. Everybody here understands what the Lord just said. This saying is not hid from you. Everybody here knows those things that the Lord just said. You know Jesus died for your sins, you know He was buried and that He rose again the third day for your justification. Every saved person here this morning knows that.

But watch. Here you've got some men back in Luke 18 when the Lord talked about His death, burial and resurrection, who **“understood none of these things; and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.”**

These things I understand; these things are open to me; these things I know today. Why? Because I'm in a dispensation when God has opened up His Word and a man can understand things that men in other ages never did understand.

I'm telling you, we're living in a time today when God's man can have the Word of God opened to him if he listens to what the apostle Paul said.

Look at Romans chapter number 5. You'll search and you'll look in that Old Testament and try to find why Jesus Christ died and when He was to die and whether the sufferings were before the glory or the glory after the sufferings and you can't find that. You've got to go to Paul to find out why He died. Look at Romans 5:6. Here's why Jesus died. If you're here this morning and you're not saved, here's what Jesus did for you.

“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

Folks, that Book says in Romans 3 that all of us have sinned; that every person here this morning is a sinner. I'm a sinner, you're a sinner, we're ungodly, we have no good deeds of our own. I can't stand up here and say that I'm better than you are. You can't sit there and say that you are better than me or you're better than the person next to you I don't care whether you are saved or lost this morning, this Bible, the Cross and the depravity of man puts everyone on equal ground. That Book says, “All have sinned.” We are without strength; you can't get to Heaven on what you do. The ungodly cannot stand in God's sight. Now God knew that, so here's what Jesus did for us. Jesus came down from Heaven's glory, was born of a virgin, made Himself flesh, dwelt among men and went to the Cross of Calvary. There the God of all the universe died for our sins upon the Cross. That Book says **“Christ died for the ungodly.”** He died for me. I

deserved to die. I deserved to go to Hell. I cannot come before a righteous God. I deserve to be separated for all eternity and burn in the Devil's Hell. I deserve that, but Jesus died for me.

My wife sang the song this morning, "There's room at the Cross for you", and there is. Every person who comes to that Cross and sees that Jesus died for their sins, and by faith, receives that, the Bible says that man is saved. The Bible says, "**whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**" Now if you have never come to the Cross, if you have never seen your sin, you're not saved. A lot of folks may try to tell you a lot of thins, but I want to say this: salvation is simple. Salvation is simple. The Lord Jesus Christ says, "Believe on Me." This Book says, "**Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**" If you see yourself as a sinner, wicked, Hell-bound, undone, and Jesus dying for you and you know Jesus died for you, all you have to do by simple faith is receive that. Some folks want to make salvation complicated and difficult. If you don't feel like they felt, maybe you're not saved. If you don't talk like they talk, maybe you're not saved. The Book says Christ died for the ungodly. Are you ungodly? Did Jesus die for you? Have you received that?

Look at verse 7.

"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But," (verse 8) "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

No love is like that among men. Jesus loves you this morning with an everlasting love. Jesus loves you, with a love you can't find anyplace on this earth. Why, the dearest mother's love, the most devoted mother's love, seems like mere child's play compared to Jesus's love for every ungodly, Hell-bound sinner. Every one of us in this room has broken God's laws. We've broken His commandments. We have disobeyed Him. But Jesus came and He died so that the ungodly might go to Heaven, so that the ungodly might have godliness given to them, so that the unrighteous might have righteousness put to their account. Here I am an old black, wicked, dirty sinner, deserving to go to Hell. My heart is black, ungodly, without strength. This Bible says that whenever a man believes he is ungodly and that Jesus is righteous and clean and without sin, as the sinner's substitute, this Bible says that God imputes the righteousness of Jesus Christ to that sinner. When God looks at me now, He doesn't see me, even though I am still the sinner. When He looks at me, He sees His dear Son. Folks, whenever Jesus Christ saved you, God imputed to you, put to your account, the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Christ died for the ungodly.

Watch it. This black pen does not become white. It's not His righteousness; it's still black. It's the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Covered by the Blood of Jesus Christ. Now that's what you need this morning. You know if your heart is like that; you know if your heart is black and dark. If your heart is black and dark like that this morning, and you know you're a sinner and you know you've disobeyed God, you know you disobeyed

this Book, you know you've disobeyed the things that are right, I'll tell you what you need – you need the righteousness of Jesus Christ. That is the only way you are going to stand before God. And if you'll receive Jesus and see yourself as a sinner while you see Jesus as righteous, God will save you. That Book says that He is the Son of God without sin. If you see yourself in that condition, and call, the Book says, **“Being justified by faith, we have peace with God.”** God just covers over with His righteousness.

Romans 5:8 says, **“While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”** Jesus died for you. Now listen, there is not a person in this building this morning who could be saved believing anything else. You can't be saved believing in your goodness. This is the only thing. You've got to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. He's the Saviour; He's the only way you can be saved. The word of God is opened by believing what Paul says to the Church. In this age, you'll not find in any place in the Bible open up the Cross like Paul's epistles. Have you ever noticed when you want to show someone else how to be saved, Christian, you always go to what Paul said about it, I Corinthians 15, **“Christ died for our sins”**? You'll show them they are a sinner, Romans 3, and you'll show them that Jesus died for the ungodly, Romans 5, Romans 6 and you'll show them those things? It's because the apostle Paul opens up these things to other ages hidden, but the Word of God is opened by Paul.

NUMBER TWO. THE WORD OF GOD IS FULFILLED BY PAUL'S PREACHING. Not only is the Bible opened up, but the Word of God is fulfilled. Look at Colossians chapter number 1 in verse number 25. He says, **“Whereof I am made a minister”** speaking to the Church, the Body of Christ. Paul said, **“am made a minister according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God:”** Paul's preaching fulfills the Word of God. What do you mean by 'fulfill'? Well, when you fulfill something, you fill it up to the full. It's having a full fill. It's when you don't need anything else.

That Book says that **“All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works, that the man of God may be perfect.”** Fulfill. You've got Paul's letters and he fulfills the Book.

Now watch. Did you know this: Peter did not add anything whenever he wrote his epistles. Even though it is in the Bible after Paul's epistles, he added nothing as far as new revelation goes. Jude, though located later than Paul's letters, added nothing to the Gospel of Grace.

If the book of Revelation was written in 95 AD, it didn't add anything to revelation already given to Paul. Did you know that everything they wrote about had already been written in the Old Testament? Did you know that you could take Paul's letters out, Romans through Philemon, bind them up and close them and stand and preach the tribulation period, using the Old Testament and other New Testament books? Boy, I could talk about tribulation. Brother, I could take Matthew 24 and show you that the

Gospel of the Kingdom is going to be preached before the end comes. I could show that that Bible says that there are going to be signs in that tribulation period. I could talk about the anti-christ, that son of perdition that is going to come. Brother, I could talk about that anti-christ and that false prophet over there in that book of The Revelation. I could preach that thing. I could take you over to Daniel 9 and show you that little horn. I could you that prince that shall come that is going to make a covenant with Israel. I could preach a whole lot about the Tribulation. I could preach the Millennium; the millennial reign of Christ. I could talk about the 1,000 years of peace. I could do all that. But there are some things that I could not preach if I closed up Romans through Philemon. I could not preach church doctrine. In I Timothy chapter number 3, verse number 14, Paul said this:

14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. (1 Tim 3:14-15).

He said, "I'm writing these things so you'll know how to behave in the church". The only way I know how to behave in the church is by what Paul says. I can tell you how to behave in the tribulation; I can tell you how to behave in the Millennium; I can tell you how to behave under the Law by the rest of the Bible, but I couldn't tell you how to behave in the Church Age unless I had Romans through Philemon. I'd have to give you principles from another age, another period of time, doctrines from another age. This Book is fulfilled by Paul's preaching. Many things can be preached without Romans through Philemon, but you can't preach church doctrine without them.

You know why you've got all kinds of confusion today in religion? I'll tell you why, because men don't believe what Paul said. They don't believe what he said.

Turn, please, to I Timothy 2:11. We've got a church in this area who has a woman pastor. Paul says, "I am going to tell you how to behave in the church". I Timothy 2:11, look at verse 11.

11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. (1 Tim 2:11).

Now that doesn't mean this: it doesn't mean that a woman must keep her mouth absolutely shut, doesn't say "Hello", "Hi", "Howdy", or whatever. He tells you what he means, in the context, when he say that a woman is not to teach nor to usurp authority over the man. Let a woman teach other women. Let the ladies teach the children, but when it comes to a woman standing up and pastoring, she is to keep her mouth shut. Excuse me, ladies. OK? God says, "Keep your mouth shut!"

You'll find all sorts of problems coming on, you see. To have a woman stand up and teach a man the Word of God is a denial of what that Book says. **"Let her learn in silence with all subjection."** That would stop women preachers; that would put them out of business all together. Now, do you know where they get their disobedience? They ignore Romans through Philemon all together and say, "That is just Paul's ideas". They go over yonder somewhere and pull a prophetess out from under the Law. They did do it

over there, and it will be okay in other ages. Ladies, you are going to have your day of liberation, but you ain't going to have it until God gives it to you! You can't get it any other way. Now if someone says, "I don't like that", then you don't like God. Don't get mad at me. Bite your hand or something, if you get mad about this thing. You say "I want to teach men, I want to teach men this, I want to teach men that..." Just wait. Someday you're going to get to teach us something. The Lord is going to let you stand up and share some things with us; you're going to be just as much in authority as I am or your husband or anybody else, but until that day, that Book says that you're to be in subjection to the authority that God has put you under. If I were to stand up here and tell you what I thought about things, I'd be just as wrong, ladies. I can not stand up here and tell you what I think about things. That Book says, "**Preach the Word.**" If I don't preach that Book, I'm wrong. If I preach my ideas, my thoughts about the matter, then I am wrong; I'm just as wrong as a woman preacher. That Book says, let women keep quiet. Let them keep their mouths shut.

Look at I Corinthians chapter number 14. Remember, you're still in Romans through Philemon. I Corinthians 14. In I Corinthians 14, look at verse number 34:

34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. (1 Cor 14:34).

Now he's talking, in the context, about tongues. Do you know that if every Pentecostal church in this area, and every Pentecostal church in America would keep that rule, their program would collapse? See, he's talking about tongues as he goes down through there in I Corinthians 14, and he says let women keep their mouths shut. I Corinthians 14 – "Let your women keep silence in the churches for it is not permitted unto them to speak." Now watch this. That Book says this in verse 37:

37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. (1 Cor 14:37).

Somebody think they're spiritual? Somebody think they're a prophet? Paul says, "You listen to what I say; I'm giving you the commandments of the Lord." He says, "Let the women keep quiet." Then a Pentecostal woman preacher has got no business standing up opening up her big, wide, loud mouth – she ought to just keep it shut.

You say, "Well, Brother Reese, you're awfully hard on that." Well, I know what that Book says and I'm going to preach that and I'm going to teach it. Some things I can't preach and teach, but some things I can preach and teach. It is wrong whenever women begin to teach men. If folks would listen to the Book, it'd take care of that.

Not only that, but that Book also says there are only two offices in the church. Look at I Timothy chapter number 3. Only 2 offices. There ain't no such thing as four offices in the church. You say, "ain't"? You use "ain't"? I sure do. Look at I Timothy 3. Verse 1.

3:1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. (1 Tim 3:1).

That's the office of a bishop. All right, that's one office. Down in verse 10, the office of a deacon, that's the second office. Those are the only two you'll find in this Book. You will not find any office of a deaconess. You don't find one who is separate from a bishop who is called an elder. You don't find elder, bishop, deacon. There's no such thing in that Book. That Book says there are two offices. And the bishop is the same thing as an elder and all you have to do is to compare some Scripture with Scripture to prove that. The bishop, the elder, the pastor is the same thing. All you have to do is run the references and you'll find out that he is talking about the same office. They're the same office, just three different functions of that office. Then you have the offices of bishop and deacon and that's all you've got. You don't have anything else. Two offices. When folks forsake Paul's epistles, they get away in their own speculations, their own daydreams, set up their own little ideas. Now watch this. It says this in verse 2:

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; (1 Tim 3:2).

That thing doesn't say the wife of one husband. It says that a bishop will be the husband of one wife. Now, if it is okay for women to be pastors, to be overseers of the flock, He would have put in there, "the wife of one husband". That thing says "the husband of one wife." Boy, that fouls them up, doesn't it? That Book's got so many traps for someone who runs in there and pulls out what he wants to, that he can't get away without getting his snipped off before he gets out.

Look at this: if folks would follow the apostle Paul, they wouldn't have any problem at all. You'd know who was supposed to be pastoring by what the qualifications were in chapter three. Now I'm afraid most folks don't. I'm not against women. I know some people say that the three most effective means of communications are telephone, telegraph and tell-a-woman, but I've never spread things like that. I heard someone tell jokes on the women like that. I heard someone else say that Mary Baker Eddy Glover Smith, whoever she was, Christian Scientist, said that folks didn't really die, they just went to sleep and woke up in a little while. She had a telephone buried in her coffin with her. And so the Christian Scientists have been trying to call her for the past 55 years to find out whether or not she's dead. They can't get her on the phone – there's a busy signal on that thing. Now I don't say that women stay on the phone a long time and I wouldn't spread things like that. I heard someone say that they knew there was a man in the moon when they went up there and not a woman because when they went up there, it was quiet. But ladies, I wouldn't say things like that.

I know this. I know that when a man follows the Word of God, It'll keep him straight. Whenever he gets away from this Book and from the principles given, he'll not have a full ministry, he'll have a partial thing and he'll always be having to fight to justify this and justify that.

Number three. The Word of God is understood by Paul's preaching. You'll understand it. Look at II Timothy chapter 2 and verse 7.

7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. (2 Tim 2:7).

God never tells a man in this age, “Look, you go over yonder and you listen to what Moses said and I’ll give you understanding.” He doesn’t tell you, “You go over yonder and you listen to Peter and I’ll give you understanding.” He doesn’t tell you, “Look, go over there and live in the Tribulation and I’ll give you understanding in what you’re supposed to be doing now.” He doesn’t say, “Go over there in the Millennium.” He says, “You’re living in the church age; listen to the spokesman to the Church Age and I’ll give you understanding in all things.”

When I was first saved, I heard men say that I should go out and pray to get the Holy Ghost. I was so naïve that I believed any man who stood behind the pulpit ought to tell the truth. (I’ve found out since I got saved that there are more liars behind the pulpits than there are in the pews. Amen and amen). All you preachers hear that? I found out that there are as many liars behind the pulpit and probably more so than ever has been any place. Men get their own little ideas and they want to preach them and they want to teach them.

I heard this man say, “You ought to seek the gift of the Holy Ghost, and if you will seek the gift of the Holy Ghost, God will take you and guide you.” All right, now these folks told me, “Look here, all you have to do is keep on seeking, keep on praying and certainly you will get it.” One of their favorite passages is Luke 11:9.

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. (Luke 11:9).

Now the Lord Jesus Christ is giving this before Calvary, before this present Church Age. Jesus says men ought to pray and ask for the Holy Spirit. I don’t doubt that one bit. I believe that thing; I believe it’s true; I believe H said it just like it says it; I believe they had to ask God to give them the Holy Spirit at that particular time when Jesus was preaching and teaching those disciples. I believe it happened just like the Lord said. But whenever some man stands up and tells me that Luke 11 is to us in this present Age, that man, before he stands up to make himself a teacher, should know more about God’s Word.

I got down on my knees back then and I asked God for several days to give me the Holy Spirit. I wanted all of God’s power on me. I prayed and asked Him to give me the Holy Spirit. Folks, I expected something to happen. Every time a bird chirped, I thought maybe that was the Holy Spirit coming. Every time a door slammed, it scared me to death. I thought maybe that was the Lord going to come upon me.

Just like any good Pentecostal, I was praying and hollering and screaming and begging and pleading. I wasn’t putting on about it, I was serious about the thing. But nothing happened. I’m glad; I thank God nothing happened because later on, I picked my Bible up and I read in Romans chapter number 8 (and you will notice where I read it), Romans 8:9.

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (Rom 8:9)

Man, I looked at that thing, and said, “Hey, wait a minute. That Book says that anybody that has the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour has got the Holy Spirit. He’s got the Spirit of God dwelling in him.”

I began to look at those Scriptures. I began to look over in Ephesians 1 and Ephesians 4. I found out that the day that I believed, God baptized me into the body of Christ and also made me to drink into one Spirit. I didn’t feel it. I didn’t taste it. I didn’t see it. I didn’t hear it, couldn’t touch it, but God’s Word said it happened, and by faith I believed God’s Word above all the Pentecostals and faith healers and so-called Holy Ghost preachers. I believe this: I believe that if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ in this Age, he is none of Christ’s. If somebody teaches you that you have to get the Holy Spirit after you are saved, folks, what he is telling you, is that you are not saved. In effect, that is what he is saying.

Now he thinks he is already saved and he thinks he’s got evidence of the Holy Ghost by his speaking in tongues. But he has twisted that Bible up and messed that Bible so bad! I’d rather hear somebody teach how to milk a bear than somebody teach how to get the gift of the Holy Ghost and speak in tongues. Milking a bear is a lot more spiritual than speaking in tongues in this Age. Somebody says, “Oh, blaspheme the Holy Ghost. Commit the unpardonable sin.” Well, you ain’t been reading your Bible again because Romans 5:20 says, **“Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:”** There is no unpardonable sin in this age!

Now you talk about having fun in a preachers’ meeting. Can’t you imagine a red-headed rascal like me in a preachers’ meeting? Oh, I have fun with ‘em. Some of them don’t like it because you know what you do when you stand up and preach God’s Word? You tear the religious playhouses down. There’s whole lot of playhousing going on today. I’m not up here playing with you. When God saved me back yonder, it wasn’t anything of my own. But I do know one thing: he gave me a love for this Book to preach this Book. I’ve given out some awfully foolish things before, but it wasn’t because I wasn’t sincere about it – I was sincere and honest. By the grace of God, I am what I am. I want to do this – I want to correct any of my preaching by this Book. Anything I given wrong should be corrected. If I gave an outline yesterday that was wrong, folks, by God’s grace, I hope I have enough grace to stand up and say, “Look folks, I preached the wrong thing yesterday. Look what I see in God’s Word here. This Book is the authority.” There is no guess work about the thing. It either says it or it doesn’t say it.

All right, that Book says that if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. If you’re saved this morning, you’ve got all the baptism by the Spirit you’re going to get in this Age. You might just as well appropriate by faith what you’ve got in this Book already. Believe what God says. You’ve already been made to drink into one Spirit. I Corinthians 12:13.

The Word of God is understood. Look at this. Turn, please, over to Matthew chapter number 19. I used to read this passage and cough when I'd come to certain sections. I used to be afraid for a man to ask me this question about Matthew 19. I was fearful of it. I used to tremble in my boots about it, because I was afraid someone would ask me about it and knew I couldn't do anything with it. There wasn't anything I could do with it. I heard one college teacher, a professor in a fundamental school, say about this passage in Matthew 19, "You just can't answer it." At least he was honest enough to admit you couldn't do anything with it. You just had to leave it. But when you know what Paul says over there you understand that we are dealing with a different period of time. When men are required to do different things, then you'll understand something about what you have to do to be saved in this Age and things you don't have to worry about over yonder. Matthew 19, look at verse 16. The question is asked by a rich young ruler.

16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. (Matt 19:16-17).

Plain question. I know what to tell anybody who comes and asks me what to do. If you were to come to me after this service, "Brother Reese, what do I have to do to have eternal life?" I know what I'd tell you. I wouldn't tell you to go back somewhere and tell you to make sure that God is calling. I ain't going to discourage you. You get discouraged enough just listening to me preach. I'm going to do what this Book says. This Book says, "Whosoever will let him come." That book says "Believe." That Book says "Call." If you want to call, if you want to believe, okay, you can get saved. I'm not to stand back and question you. You come to me and ask, "What must I do to have eternal life?" I know what I'd tell you. I say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ". You believe you're a sinner? You say, "Yeah." You believe Christ died for sinners? You say "Yeah." I say, "All right then, that Book says all you have to do is trust Him. Will you now?" You say, "I'll trust Him." And if you say you trust Him, I'm gonna take your word for it. I'm not going to be a supercritic and set back and say, "I wonder if he's really saved, wonder if that is saved, wonder if this is saved, I know this one is lost, know this is lost or know that is lost. Now if God would go around and stamp on the backs of all men whether or not they're elect, I'd be able to tell you who's saved and who's lost. But until God does that, I can't do that. I've seen an awful lot of folks whom I thought were spiritual and they wound up the most carnal folks I ever saw in my life.

In Matthew chapter 19, he says, "What must I do to have eternal life?" There's nothing difficult about it, and there wasn't anything difficult to the Lord when He was preaching the gospel of the kingdom. Here's what a man had to do – he had to give up his material goods. He had to take up his cross and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Sell 'em. Get rid of 'em. If you really believe He's the King, you get rid of all your goods and quit trusting and worrying over your finances for He's going to set up His kingdom. You're going to follow Him. That is exactly what the Lord said.

“But if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.”

He said, "Which?"

Jesus said, "**Thou shalt do no murder. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness. Honour thy father and thy mother...**"

Then he said, "**I have kept all these, what do I lack yet?**"
The Lord said, "**If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.**"

There's not a preacher upon the face of this earth today that if a man came up and asked, "What must I do to be saved? What good thing must I do to have eternal life?", that any preacher ought to tell him that. Now these are the words of the Lord. But, folks, the words I've got from the Lord are just as much the words of the Lord today, as these are the words of the Lord back in Matthew 19. This is a different dispensation and if I'm going to mix that Bible up and tell you to do everything that's in this Bible, then I'd have to tell every man in this building, "Look, you go and you sell everything you have. You sell your house. Go sell your car. Go get rid of everything and you give it to the poor. You'll have treasures in Heaven and come on, Let's have a common group of people here and let's be looking for the Kingdom." I'd be all fouled out if I did that. Man, that would be bad for me to do that.

Turn, please, over to Ephesians chapter number 2. Here's what I'd tell you. Notice again where we go. Ephesians chapter number 2. You say, "Brother Reese, I want to be saved. What do I have to do?" Alright, I'll tell you, the Bible says you're a sinner, that Jesus Christ died for your sins, and then, watch this. You say "Well, what do I have to do? Do I have to do anything?" Well, I'd say, Ephesians 2:8 and 9 says this:

**8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Eph 2:8-9).**

Do you know what the Law said? Watch it folks. Do you know what the Law said? The Law said you bring a gift to God and then you can be saved. That's what the Law said. The Law said, when you sin, you bring a lamb. You bring a gift to God and that's the way you're saved. Jesus said, "Look, if you really want to have treasure in Heaven, you go sell what you've got, give it to the poor, come and follow me." You give, you see? The Law says, you give and then God will give. You know what this Book says? This Book says God wants to give something to you.

**"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
Not of works, lest any many should boast."**

You don't have to do one thing to get it. If you did, you would begin to brag on how your heart felt and how much you began to feel pained about sin and so forth and so

on. Some of the biggest religious hypocrites on the face of this earth talk about how they felt whenever they got saved. I don't care how you felt. I want to know this. Did you get saved by grace? Or did you get saved by some kind of works system you set up? Folks say they've got to "pray through" and "hold on", cry and make sure they feel so bad about sin. That Book says that salvation is not your giving something to God – God gives something to you. Whenever you get saved, you're at an absolute end to yourself. You don't have anything to give. "In my hand no price I bring, simply to the Cross I cling." I haven't got anything.

If I were to take everything I'd ever done in this life and try to make it something and try to find some kind of good thing in it, it would be vanity. If I even tried to find some kind of good thing in my praying and say, "Boy, I said it just right." That is not salvation. That's my trusting in myself. Salvation is when a man totally, everything, absolutely, surrenders all of everything and doesn't try to give anything to God. God gives salvation to him.

Now is that your situation? You who are here this morning, have you trusted Christ as your Saviour? Trust – you don't do anything – you trust Him to do it all. The Bible says, "**All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.**" But that Bible says, "Christ died for sinners." That Bible says this: "**whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**" You say, "Brother Reese, isn't that doing something?" No, that's not doing anything. That call, is absolutely just standing back and saying "God, I'm not worthy. I'm not worthy. Jesus died for me". That Book says that whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved. Lord, save me. Filthy, undeserving, Hell-bound sinner.

God will save any person in this building today. Just see yourself as a sinner. See Jesus as your Sin-Substitute. Receive Him. Have you received Him? If you haven't received Him, then you're not saved. If He's not your Saviour, then you're not saved. If you're trying to do something to get to Heaven, you're not saved. I don't care how religious you might be. I don't care if you've got the terminology. I don't care if you think you signed a church roll. "I did this, I did that." I don't care, you're not saved. That Book says that the Gospel is that Christ died for our sins. That Book doesn't say that the Gospel is that you've got to do something, pray this or feel this way. That Book says that Christ died for our sins. Everything's toward us. Nothing of us toward God. Christ died for our sins. He was buried. He rose again the third day. Any man who receives that Gospel, that Book says that God will give him the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Here's your black, dirty heart this morning. Wouldn't you like to have a new start? Wouldn't you like to have a new life given to you and have the righteousness of Jesus Christ put to your account? Christians aren't perfect people. Christians are just forgiven of sin, and clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Is that your condition this morning? Being justified by faith, we have peace with God. You know what that old sinner can do? That old sinner can just rest. Boy, I tell you, that's rest in the Lord Jesus Christ. Just rest in the Lord Jesus Christ. Don't try to point anything to yourself,

because the minute you do you get away from the Lord. You say, that's all my righteousness right there; the righteousness of Jesus Christ. If this is your position, the Bible says, Christ died for you. He died for – the ungodly. God wants to put His righteousness to your account. Won't you trust Him?