

## I. Recap of Camp

We had a great week at camp. You know, camps are like churches and Christians—we're supposed to get better every year. The theme this year was built around a movie called *The Bourne Identity* about secret agent Jason Bourne who loses his memory. He spends the whole movie trying to figure out who he is while all the forces against him want to keep him from finding out who he is. We took that idea and developed it into a spiritual aspect—*The Born Again Identity* and helped the kids find their true identity in Christ by being born again. I built each night on II Corinthians 5:16-17 and the seven things that changed about you the day you got saved.

*Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he] is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. II Corinthians 5:17*

### ➤ The Seven Things that Changed the Day you got Saved

These are good for any Christian because within these seven are where you find your true identity in Christ.

1. **Change in the Inner Man**—Salvation; your soul is separated from your flesh.
2. **The Outer Man Changed**—Once the inner man is changed, the outer man changes also. It's becoming a witness for Christ because of what took place on the inside.
3. **The End of Man Changed**—Knowing for sure that when you die you will go to heaven to be with the Lord.
4. **Your Perspective Changed**—Now you have the ability to see things from God's standpoint; not the way the world paints it, but how it's painted through the word of God.
5. **Your Purpose in Life Changed**—You really begin to understand who you are, what your purpose is in life, and why God saved you in the first place.
6. **Your Passion Changed**—Now you love the things that God loves by spending time in the word of God.
7. **Your Patience Changed**—It doesn't happen instantaneously; it takes time. At the first coming of Christ, the Lord spent 3½ years with His apostles. You give me 3½ years with a young person's undivided attention and getting them into the ministry with people working with them, and it will change their lives; however, it takes patience.

The alternative to being everything God wants you to be is found in Daniel Chapters 1-2 where Nebuchadnezzar took Daniel and the Hebrew children of the king's seed (in the line of Christ) and wanted to change their identity with God and Israel to the identity of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar charged the master of his eunuchs to feed them and give them everything that Babylon (type of the world) offered, and at the end of three years they would stand before the king.

It will take 3 to 3½ years for you to be well on your way to becoming everything God wants you to be, or 3 to 3½ years for the devil and world to destroy you so that you'll probably never do anything for God. The key is to get the understanding of who you are in Christ—our born again identity.

### ➤ Three Key Areas That God Has Provided which you must Understand and get into your Life

Camp was a time to get the kids alone and into the word of God, but the real work starts once they leave camp. There are three key areas that God has provided which you must understand and get into your life if you're going to make it, and it works for all of us.

1. A Place to Believe. God has provided a place to learn to believe the things that God wants you to believe—salvation, spiritual growth, and how to stay away from the world. God has provided your youth group and this church.
2. A Place to Belong. It's making the right relationships and having the right associations. It's getting all the help and right direction as you grow in the Lord. It's invaluable to have someone your own age that you can identify with. *Proverbs 27:17: Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.*
3. A Place to Become. It's a place to become everything that God wants you to be. A place you can build a foundation once you get saved. The Bible says in I Corinthians 3 that you build on that foundation gold, silver, and precious stones.

The real key to success of any camp will be the spirit of that camp. I also wanted the kids to understand that life is about the choices we make. You only get out of something what you put into it. As I was putting all of this together, I thought that this is also the answer to all of our struggles and the turmoil we face in life.

## II. Review of Psalms 13

The last time we were in Psalms 13 it was a dismal message from the aspect that God's people are so defeated today. I'm going to read these verses again, but today we're going to come at it from a slightly different angle.

1. *How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?*
2. *How long shall I take counsel in my soul, [having] sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?*
3. *Consider [and] hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the [sleep of] death;*
4. *Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; [and] those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved.*
5. *But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.*
6. *I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.*

➤ Four Ways to Consider Him

**Last time we talked about a defeated Christianity and us wanting Him to consider OUR affliction but never willing to consider Him in His affliction** (to consider His struggles and find the answers).

I took you back to Hebrews Chapter 12 and showed you the four ways that we need to consider Him when we're going through some tough times.

1. Consider Who He Was
2. Consider What He Endured
3. Consider What He Became
4. He Considered the World and Bought It (Proverbs 31)

I showed you that's what we need to do. When we get into trouble, when we have all the issues of life that human beings have, this is the only answer. The world's answer is to put you on some kind of medication or send you to see a psychiatrist or a therapist. **Let me tell you—God's structure for fixing your problems is the New Testament local church. A friend of mine preached here a few years back, and he said something that I've never forgotten. He said everything you need is in the house of God, and that is so true.**

➤ The Bible has the Answer to Whatever Problem you Might Have

Like I always say, you only get out of something what you put into it. We all have issues; we all have problems. How many times have I told you that whatever problem you have, the Bible has the answer; but you have to do three things.

1. You have to honestly identify the problem.
2. You have to honestly isolate the problem.
3. You have to take the word of God and annihilate the problem.

Focus on the problem. You have to break it down; find a place in the Bible where your problem occurs. Find an example, where somebody else had something similar. Then get the verses and begin to apply those verses into your life. Then annihilate it; tear it apart. Do you know why people won't do that? All my ministry I've had people for whom the answer is so simple. It

may take some work, but you know what the real problem is? It's easier to take a pill and think that it's going to make all your problems go away. That's what the world has for you today. For whatever reason, we don't want to stop, look, identify, and take ownership of what our problems are.

These four ways to consider Him will always help us keep our perspective because that's what we lose when we lose our edge, and it all comes through the three things that God has provided for you in this church: **God has provided a place for you to believe; God has provided a place for you to belong (no man is an island); and God has provided a place for you to become everything that God wants you to be.**

### III. Psalms 13:4-6

#### ➤ I Shall not be Moved

*Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; [and] those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved. Psalms 13:4.*

Now the key word for the child of God is the word "moved." **Once we lay the foundation in our life of salvation (I Corinthians 3) we are not to be moved off of that foundation.**

At Camp, I wanted to drive this home. I used the song *I Shall not be Moved* which I modified a little bit.

*Jesus is my Saviour; I shall not be moved,  
Jesus is my Saviour; I shall not be moved,  
Like a tree planted by the river; I shall not be moved;  
I shall not be moved.*

*When my cross is heavy; I shall not be moved,  
Church of God is marching; I shall not be moved,  
When my burden's heavy; I shall not be moved;  
I shall not be moved.*

*When my friends forsake me; I shall not be moved,  
When my friends forsake me; I shall not be moved,  
So, come and join His army; I shall not be moved,  
Come and join His army; I shall not be moved,  
Come and join His army; I shall not be moved;  
I shall not be moved.*

I was trying to get into them that once you get saved and you lay the foundation, you don't get moved off of it. **The principle for God's people is not to let your enemy move you.** You can see in Psalms 13:4 that when they do, they rejoice. When they see us as Christians fall, go to the world for help, and not apply the principles or do what's right with the word of God, they rejoice in that. They say, "See, the Bible is not real! See, it really didn't mean anything to them!" They

rejoice because **the thing that convicts them about their sin is a Christian life that's never moved; therefore, when they move us, they rejoice.**

**Now to be unmovable is to have steadfastness in life. The foundation you lay at salvation will be the foundation you build your temple on, and because of that you build on that foundation, and you should never be moved off of it.**

*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

*For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. I Corinthians 6:19-20.*

When a child of God puts those three areas in their life (a place to believe, a place to belong, a place to become), and they build those seven things on that foundation that changed the day they got saved, the end result is simply going to be that now you have:

- Sound Doctrine—1 Timothy 1:10 will lead you to having a
- Sound Mind—2 Timothy 1:7 will lead you to speaking
- Sound Words—2 Timothy 1:13 then you will have
- Sound Speech—Titus 2:8 which will produce a
- Sound Faith—Titus 1:13 and then
- Sound Wisdom—Proverbs 3:21

When all these things are in place (because you have a place to believe, a place to belong, a place to become) and you add the seven things that changed about you, now you have sound wisdom and you're unmovable. Now you are steadfast. **You learn to run your emotions through the word of God instead of around the word of God.**

➤ Don't let the Devil Move you off your Foundation

Back in Canton, Ohio where I'm from, there was a Greek Orthodox church downtown. It was a big church with a big dome. In 1957 when I was seven years old, for whatever reason, they decided they wanted to move out of town. Rather than take it apart piece by piece, they lifted the whole church. They loaded it up and slowly drove it down through town taking it about 20 miles outside of town. We went downtown and watched them move the church building.

When I went back to Canton a couple of months ago, I decided to look for the church and find out what happened to it. When I pulled into the parking lot, there it was just like I remembered it. It was huge, except it was empty. It was grown over with weeds, and nobody used it as a church anymore. Immediately, I thought to myself, "They should never have moved." They moved from a spot in town where there were lots of people to a place that was barren and without people. If that's not a picture of God's people...God wants to put them in a place where there are lots of people and where they can really do the ministry, but they let the devil move them off that foundation.

## ➤ Colossians: A Picture of the Laodicean Church Age

I thought about the book of Colossians. The book of Colossians is about the city of Colossae, and there was a church there. Paul, when he writes to the churches, names the books after the cities. When you look at the seven books that Paul writes to the churches, you will find that the seven churches line up to the seven churches in the book of Revelation. Colossians will line up to the Laodicean church. In fact, you will find in the book of Colossians that the name Laodicea is mentioned five times.

You'll find several times in the Bible where the word beguiled is used, and if you match it up to Eve in the garden (Genesis 3) and Paul to the church (2 Corinthians 11) the connection is quite incredible.

When you break it all out and look at the book of Colossians as a picture of the church age we're living in today (Laodicean), it really comes alive.

- Colossians Chapter One: He lays out what the real problem is in the Laodicean church today—the fact that the churches have lost who Christ really is.
- Colossians Chapter Two: Almost point by point he shows you what the issues are in the church in 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century Christianity once they lost who Christ is in Chapter one.
- Colossians Chapter Three: My response—how do I keep from being moved in the church age that we live in, the church age which wants to get us off track in everything.

I knew there also had to be some kind of historical meaning, too; therefore, I started to do a little investigation. I found that just 11 miles to the south of Colossae was the city of Laodicea. We're in Blue Springs but get on 40 Highway and drive 4-5 miles down the road, and you're in Independence. If you keep on going, you're in Kansas City. **If there wasn't a sign saying you're leaving one city and entering another, you'd never know you went from one city limit to the other.**

This is what has happened in Christianity. **God's people have been moved off the foundation without them ever knowing they have been moved into Laodicea, and that's why we have the problems that we have.**

Keeping your balance is vital, and when you're young it's the greatest challenge you have because of everything this world wants to throw at you if you don't keep the right perspective, don't have the right purpose, and are not dialed into a place that God provided for you to believe, to belong, and to become. It's going to get you off track, and you're going to lose your balance.

## ➤ Paul's Six Things to Remember from Acts 20

Acts 20 is Paul's farewell address to the church at Ephesus before he goes to Jerusalem. For me as a pastor, Acts 12, 13, and 20 are the greatest chapters where I am told as a pastor what I need to do in my church.

In Acts 20 Paul gives them six things to remember:

1. Acts 20:19—They are to serve the Lord with humility.
2. Acts 20:20—They're always to be giving to others and for others.
3. Acts 20:21—They're always to be involved in evangelism—winning people to Christ.
4. Acts 20:27—They're to continue to preach the whole counsel of God; in other words, you don't get to pick and choose out of the Bible what you want to believe.
5. Acts 20:28 & Acts 20:31—They're to be vigilant, to keep their eyes open.
6. Acts 20:22-23—They're to be steadfast, unmovable—that's what the church needs to be.

He tells them in Acts 20:23, *Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.* Basically, he tells them that he has been through it. What he's telling them to do he's learned through the hard knocks of the ministry.

Then he says in Acts 20:24, *But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

You see, that's what the devil wants to do when he moves you so your enemies can rejoice. He wants to take those two things away from you. He wants to keep you from finishing the course that God started you on, and he wants to take away your testimony of the gospel of the grace of God to the world.

➤ **Nine Characteristics that Form an Unmovable Balance in the Christian Life Found in the Book of Philippians**

Philippians is Paul's most personal book that he writes to the seven churches. This church has nothing that he needs to correct; they're a really solid church. In church history this church lines up to the Philadelphian church. In this book, he gives us 10 of the greatest principled verses ever found in one book. When you study them and get them laid out in your Bible, you will find the balance of the Christian life unlike any other place in the word of God. (This would be a great question for Bible Study).

This church was special to Paul, so he wrote them a special letter because, unlike all the other churches, this church was unmovable.

**When I read down through this book years ago, I found nine characteristics of Christian balance in their lives that we should all have.**

1. **I am to be self-reliant**: In any situation you ought to know who you are, and you ought to be able to take the word of God and do whatever needs to be done. You should be self-reliant but never self-sufficient. You always want to trust God with what you have.
2. **I am to be tactful in what I say**: You need to be able to reach people; therefore, you need to look ahead to avoid shutting doors. However, you're never timid in what you say. You always give them the truth; you just find the right way to say it.

3. **I am to be serious:** You can have fun, but when it comes to the preaching and teaching of the word of God and building people, you need to take that seriously. You should be interesting, but never boring or sullen; rather, painting a picture of words from the word of God that gives the people who are listening the picture that God wants them to see.
4. **I am to be tender:** You are to be tender to people's problems. It's an emotion that most people have, but they don't have a good balance. Tender but not touchy or offended by what people say.
5. **I am to be generous:** You are to be generous but not gullible. I'm here to help anybody, but there are those out there that will take advantage. You've got to genuinely help people that want help—not only physically, but spiritually.
6. **I am to be meek:** You should be meek but not weak. Real Bible meekness is power under control. It's the power of God in your life but under control so that you don't give the glory to yourself, you give the credit to Him—and that is where your meekness is.
7. **I am to be gentle:** You are to be gentle but not hyper-sensitive. You don't take things personally. Don't go cry in a corner someplace if you don't get invited to something—get in your Bible instead.
8. **I am to be steadfast:** You should be steadfast but not stubborn.
9. **I am to be unmovable:** You are unmovable but not stationary. Even though you are grounded on your foundation, you realize that you've got to be able to adjust to different circumstances.

**These are the nine Christian characteristics that form an unmovable balance, and in these, I shall not be moved.**

*But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. Psalms 13:5.*

This is a great verse and a great principle. Considering all He did for you, understanding it, and then seeing His mercy in your life—your enemies don't have that, and ultimately, they are going to wind up being destroyed. **In your heart, in the midst of your trouble, you're rejoicing in your salvation. Even in tough times you still know that you've got the victory.**

*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. I Thessalonians 5:18.*

It's because you have grown in the place that God has provided for you (a place to believe, a place to belong, and a place to become), and now you're understanding that no matter what (Romans 8:28) you give thanks for all things...even the bad things because ultimately you now understand *that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the*



*called according to [his] purpose.* God has a plan through it. You need to rest in that, see the victory in that, and rejoice in that.

*I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me. Psalms 13:6.*

➤ Songs of Degrees, Israel's Song of Victory, and my Song in the Night

Fifteen of the Psalms are called Songs of Degrees that David sings in his tough times. **They're called Songs of Degrees (Psalms 120-134) because when you go through something tough, God will give you the victory by degrees—one day at a time.**

In tribulation, you'll find Israel's song of victory—Revelation 14, Deuteronomy 32, Revelation 15:3. It's called the song of Moses, but for me, my song of victory is in my heart. **No matter what happens, because of what God has given me and the foundation I have built, I shall not be moved.**

When it gets tough, you'll want to go to Psalms 77:6—Songs in the Night. **They are songs in the nighttime of our Christian life when we're struggling and going through difficult times.**

## IV. Summary

This is what I tried to build into our kids last week, and I'm trying to build it into you today. It's the same principle for all of us folks—not to be moved. It's understanding God provides for all of us in this church a place to believe, a place to belong, and a place to become everything God wants you to be so that in your life, just like Paul, none of these things will move you.

I'll say it one last time. **God has provided for us a place to believe everything that you need to know about God and His word. God provided a place to belong where you can get the help that you need no matter what your struggles are in life. Finally, God has provided a place to become the young man or the young lady, the mom or dad, the parents, the husband or wife...to be everything that God wants you to be.** It all comes down to our theme last week: finding your born again identity. And just like in the movie, everything out in the world is going to try to keep you from finding it, but in this church (the place to believe, the place to belong, the place to become) you can find it.