

Psalms 22 Introduction

Sunday 8/31/2025

I. Review

Last week we were in Psalms 21, and we saw the key to the peace of God. Our rest in the Lord Jesus Christ. Something most of God's people have no clue about. This is why so many of God's people go through all the struggles and failures of life and never get the victory in life.

When we talk about peace in the Bible, you are going to find there are two kinds of peace. Most of God's people are oblivious to this. In Romans 5:1 it says:

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

The **first kind of peace** you will find in the Bible is called **the peace with God**, found in Romans 5:1. **This will be the peace you get at the time of salvation.** When you trust Christ as your personal Savior, you make your peace with God. Through God's grace and salvation, you are no longer God's enemy. You have made peace with God; that is your salvation.

Then you will find another term called **the peace of God**. This is **the peace that God gives us after salvation.** You will find that in 2 Corinthians 13:11, where it says:

11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

This is the peace we talk about so many times in Philippians 4:7:

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

This is also the peace of Isaiah 26:3:

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

You need to understand that many things in the Christian life come in twofold concepts. You see the peace with God that you make the day you get saved, and then as you build your relationship with Christ, you have the peace of God. Last week, we talked about the peace of God and the rest of the believer, resting in Christ. That comes from our fellowship with Him in the midst of the storms of life.

We have talked many times about how the Christian life is filled with trials and tribulations. What will get you through, which will not get the average person in the world through, is that you have made your peace with God. Now, in your life as a Christian, you have the peace of God. God's people today have absolutely no idea of the difference between the two, and it is a shame because they miss out on so much.

➤ Our Source of Peace & Rest, the Spiritual Garden of God

Looking back at last week, I showed you that the source of our peace and rest was the spiritual Garden of God. We used the literal example of how God placed Adam and Eve in a garden in Genesis 1:2, a literal garden. There, they were told to be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth. There, they had their fellowship with God, all in the Garden of God. Most people only look at the Garden of God as we know it, the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve.

The reality is that God's garden plays a key role all the way through the Bible. Before Adam and Eve were ever placed in that garden, before Lucifer fell when he was the anointed cherub that covered the throne of God, the Bible tells us in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 that he himself was in the Garden of God. In Genesis 2 and 3, Adam and Eve are put in that Garden of God. They get kicked out after the fall.

➤ The Agony Christ Goes Through in the Garden

As you go on through the book of Genesis, when God calls out Abraham, the land that He sends Abraham to is that same garden. Before Jesus Christ went to the cross, you can go to the Bible and find out about the agony that He goes through in the garden. The agony is based on the fact that He was a human man, Jesus, but He was also God, Christ, Lord. You see in that agony in the garden, Him going back and forth between the two because He knows what is coming on the cross.

➤ Two Cups: The Cup of Physical Death & The Cup of God's Wrath, Poured out on Jesus Christ on the Cross

The cup He asked His Father to pass from Him. All the commentators tell you that was the cup of death. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The cup He did not want to have to drink of was not the cup of physical death, but rather the cup of God's wrath that was going to be poured out on Him on the cross. Two cups. Many things in the Christian life will break down into two aspects.

➤ Understanding our Spiritual Relationship with Christ

Then we move into the Kingdom of God, the church age. As we saw last week, your fellowship with Christ is based on you understanding the spiritual relationship with Christ through the Song of Solomon, which takes place in a garden. Where Adam and Eve had fellowship in a literal garden, we have fellowship with Christ in a spiritual sense in the spiritual garden. I showed you that when Adam fell, not only did he lose the image of God, but he lost the garden also. Fellowship with God was now broken. He is now enmity to God, and he is expelled from the garden.

Through Adam's fall, man loses any real relationship with God for the next 4,000 years. We now have an Old Testament under the Law of Moses, a temporary system that has no real fellowship with God. It has no restored image. It has no completeness of man. It has no indwelling Holy

Spirit of God. God deals with man in the Old Testament through a temporary, imperfect structure.

➤ The Book of Hebrews Compares the Old Testament Under the Law to what We Now Have Under Grace in Christ

When you go to the book of Hebrews, and again, most people completely miss the understanding of the book of Hebrews, you are going to find that what the writer of Hebrews accomplishes is he compares everything in the Old Testament with what we now have in the New Testament. He compares everything under the Law with what we now have under grace in Christ. The key word in Hebrews is a simple little word: "better."

He shows us in the book of Hebrews that Christ is better than the angels. He shows us that the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, Christ's priesthood, the one that we are part of, is better than the Levitical priesthood. He shows us that the blood of bulls and goats could never pay for sin, and he shows us that Christ's death on the cross is a better sacrifice than the one in the Old Testament. Basically, he comes to the conclusion for us that the New Testament Christian life is better than the Old Testament life under the Law.

I showed you how God sent His Son. Man had lost the image. He had lost the fellowship. Man had been kicked out of the garden. But on the cross, through His death, man could now not only have the image restored, but the fellowship restored. That would be the garden, through a spiritual new birth that puts us into the Kingdom of God.

II. The Kingdom of God vs. The Kingdom of Heaven

We talk a lot about the Kingdom of God versus the Kingdom of Heaven. Most people, most pastors, most Bible teachers, teach you and tell you that they are the same. Of course, they are not the same. One of the first reasons you know they are not the same is they are not spelled the same. They are different. Those two concepts, **the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven, are the key to the Bible.** I do not care what else you know, what else you study, what else you think you know, the whole Bible and everything in it falls down around those two kingdoms. You do not understand those two, you do not understand the Bible. You may know some things about the Bible, but you will never understand the Bible.

We know that the Kingdom of Heaven was the literal, visible kingdom given to Israel. The Kingdom of God is something different. It comes into effect for us, for man, after the death of Christ. There are two key verses in your Bible that you need to get down that define what the Kingdom of God is. The Kingdom of Heaven is literal; it is a piece of land over there in the Middle East with the capital being Jerusalem. But the Kingdom of God is something different.

In Romans 14:17, it tells us:

17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; (not something that is tangible) but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

So there is no peace and joy if you do not understand the Kingdom of God in your life. The second verse is in Luke 17:21. It says:

21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Where the literal Kingdom of Heaven was a literal piece of ground that the Jew was promised and will get, the Kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom that the moment you trust Christ as your personal Savior, you are born into this kingdom. Until the Lord comes to take us home, that Kingdom of God is within you.

Our garden of this fellowship and peace will be found in our personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. As we understand that we are born into the Kingdom of God, that kingdom is inside me. As I gave you last week, two key books on the Kingdom of God and the Christian life: We looked at them last week, and they are two incredible books.

1. The book of Ephesians, in the New Testament, lays out the structure of the church.
2. The book of Song of Solomon, in the Old Testament, gives a picture of the relationship of the church with Christ.

III. Psalms 22 Introduction

Moving into today, because last week and today are going to go hand in hand. Today we are going to look at Psalms 22. When we started Psalms, I told you that each one will be a reference to one of three things, and that is how the book of Psalms breaks down. You will have tribulation Psalms. You will have Psalms that clearly show you a tribulation context. You will have Psalms that will clearly show you the Second Coming of Christ, and then you will have Psalms that will show you the Millennial Reign of Christ.

➤ Christ's Crucifixion on the Cross

But there is a fourth reference, and I did not give it to you when we started because I knew I was going to come into Psalms 22 at some point, and I wanted to wait until then. That reference will be dealing with Christ's crucifixion on the cross. Most of God's people will go through their whole lives and never see these passages for what they really are, much like they go through their whole life and never understand Song of Solomon for what it really is.

In life, we all have different relationships with people we know.

1.) Strangers

Some people will be perfect strangers. You never really get to know them. You may see them at work. When I go to the gym, there are faces that I know. I see them every day. I do not know anything about them. I do not even know their name. I do not even talk to them or say hi unless I run into them head-on. You have people in your life that you have absolutely no relationship with.

2.) Passing Acquaintances

Then you are going to have some people that are just passing acquaintances. You basically know them, and you say hi to them. You will talk to them. Sometimes you can remember their names.

3.) Casual Acquaintances

Then you will have some who are casual acquaintances. You know them. You maybe work with them in a cubicle next to you. You talk to them. You may eat lunch with them. You may discuss certain things about life and family and all those things and look at their little pictures of their kids there or whatever.

4.) Good Friends

Then you are going to have some who are your really good friends. You are going to spend time with them. You are going to develop a good, lasting relationship with them.

5.) Best Friends

Then the fifth one will be some that will become your best friends in life. When you get down to the end of your life, I think as you look back, you will find that number five, your very best friends, will be very few.

I have found that in our Christian life, most of God's people are the exact same way in their relationship with Christ. From one, where they are saved, but all of their life, Christ is a perfect stranger to them. You could not give me the names of Christ in the Bible or God in the Bible if your life depended on it. You know about Him, but you have absolutely no relationship with Him. Then you have some that come all the way up to number four, and you are really good friends with the Lord Jesus Christ. But very few ever get to number five.

A best friend is someone that you will trust with everything you have in life. A best friend is someone that if they did not stay up all night and closed their eyes and fell asleep, you would die. Yet you would go to sleep and feel comfortable that they would not fall asleep. You trust them that much.

➤ The Old Testament Tabernacle Illustrates the Depth of our Christian Life

I think there are many illustrations of this in the Bible. I think the greatest illustration is an unknown one, which deals with the Old Testament tabernacle. You know that the Old Testament tabernacle breaks down into three sections. Those three sections will illustrate the depth of our Christian life.

1.) Outside Section

The outside section had the brazen altar where the sacrifice was made and the laver of water. That is all that was out there. When I look at that, I think to myself, that is so many of God's people. They always stay out in the outer court. They trusted Christ as their personal Savior, the brazen altar. They have the laver of water, the Word of God, but they always stay in that first section.

2.) Second Section

When you walk from the first section into the second section, you would see the table of showbread. You would see the seven-pronged candlestick. You would see the altar of incense. All that is a picture of the next level of your Christian life as you build a workable relationship with Him. The showbread was baked fresh every morning. Many of God's people, many of you, are in your Bible every morning. You bake it fresh every morning. I am not saying if you do not do it in the morning that there is something wrong with you. You can do whatever works for you. But that bread was baked, and there were 12 loaves because you have 12 tribes in the nation of Israel, and that is what it was symbolic of. It was laid out one row of six loaves and underneath that another row of six loaves. That showbread is a picture of the Word of God, and the six and six shows you how many books are in your Bible, 66.

On the other side, you had this **seven-pronged candlestick**. That is a picture of the Holy Spirit of God. That Holy Spirit of God was the only light that was in there. It was completely pitch dark. I always thought that that was a great picture of what the chambers of our mind should be like. The only light that comes into our minds is the light of the Holy Spirit of God in your life. When the priest, a picture of you and me, did the work in that second section, the table of showbread was here, the candlesticks were over here, total darkness except for those lights. When he had to do the work, he had to go around behind the table and do what he was doing, because if he would have gotten in front of the table, he would have blocked the light, and he could not have done his work. That is a picture that when you do the work of God, you have got to get the Holy Spirit of God shining on the Word of God, what you are doing, not getting in front of it and blocking it. Then you had the **altar of incense**, a picture of our prayer life.

So you had the outer court that had **the brazen altar**. It is a picture of many of God's people that get saved, but that is where they stay. Some of God's people build their relationship up to being really good friends with Him. You get into the second section, and you do ministry, you do the work, you learn how to do all that stuff.

3.) Third Section

But then there is a third section, and this will be level five (best friend). This will be Song of Solomon. This will be your fellowship in the garden. That is beyond the veil in the Holy of Holies. Very few people get into that. In the Old Testament, only one man could go in on the other side of that veil: the high priest, one time a year. Anybody else went in, you were dead. That shows you what I already told you, how limited the Old Testament was.

It is like that question in John 5 that we answered for that guy a couple of weeks ago in Bible Study, where the angel came down and moved the waters, and only one person could get in, representing the failure of the Law.

➤ Christ's Death on the Cross, the Veil was Ripped from Top to Bottom

Do you know what happened when Christ died? When Christ died, that veil got ripped from top to bottom. Now, anybody can go in there. It is the start of the New Testament. Christ was the testator. He died on the cross. He brings in the New Testament. The veil of the Old Testament that kept man from God was ripped to the bottom so that anybody now can walk into the Holy of Holies and see that ark.

When the Jews who rejected Christ, who crucified Christ, went into that tabernacle and saw that veil was ripped and could look upon the Holy of Holies and not die, what did they do? When Titus came down in 70 AD and destroyed Jerusalem, they were still having their temple worship and still going through the Old Testament stuff. Do you know what somebody did? Somebody sewed that veil back up so the New Testament could not come into effect in their minds.

That Holy of Holies is a place that every child of God should want to get to. Some people are satisfied to stay in the outer court with just the salvation of the brazen altar. Some people want to build their relationship and get into that secondary area. But they never make it into the third. Like the scribes and the Pharisees that really did not want a relationship with God's Son, so many of God's people in their own mind and their own heart, take a look at the ripped veil and what you could have, and you sew it back up in your mind and do not go through.

IV. Building Our Relationship with Christ as a Wise Master Builder

In building our relationship with Christ, in 1 Corinthians 3, you find a simple formula or layout of how you build your relationship with Christ in the proper biblical manner. In 1 Corinthians 3:10-16 it says:

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (that is the kingdom of God)

This is how you get to level five. In our Discipleship One lesson, we have a lesson on this, dealing with the judgment seat of Christ. The path for a solid Christian life will be summed up in this passage. Very simple. First off, in verse 16, you are told that you are building the temple of God, your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says:

19 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? 20 For ye are bought with a price.....

The first thing you need to realize is what you are building is your temple, your body. But before you can do that, you need look at 1 Corinthians 3 verses 10 and 11, where it says that "*I have laid the foundation.*" That foundation is the day you get saved. The day you got saved is when you entered into the Kingdom of God, and now you have the wherewithal to do everything God wants you to do, but more importantly, be everything that God wants you to be.

He also tells us that we are to build on that foundation, but He tells us very carefully that we are to take heed how we build. Because for the rest of your life, one way or the other, you are going to build on that foundation. You are going to either build gold, silver, or precious stones, or you are going to build wood, hay, and stubble. All this is dealing with the judgment seat of Christ, but it shows you the process from the point you got saved up to when He comes back for you. In verse 10, we are told to be a wise master builder and to take heed on how we build. I cannot overemphasize this. Us understanding the foundation, what we are to build on it, and the danger of building the wrong things and not taking heed how we build on it.

These six areas that we build on our foundation will represent our Christian life after salvation, three are good and three are bad. Obviously, the wood, hay, and stubble will represent the wrong investments in our lives and will get burned up at the judgment seat of Christ. Three things that are dead: wood is a dead tree, hay is dead grass, stubble is dead wheat. Dead things for dead Christians. The gold, silver, and precious stones will represent the right investment in our lives. It will show us the progression of building our relationship with Christ from when you first get saved, the laying of the foundation, until you get into beyond the veil of the Holy of Holies.

Gold: The Deity of Christ

He says gold. Gold will always represent the deity of Christ and represent for us when you lay it on that foundation. This will be the Song of Solomon. This will be you understanding who God is, which most people are oblivious to. When you start to build the gold on the foundation, that is going to show you the two aspects that I gave you last week of Song of Solomon.

1. The first aspect in that book, Christ is going to show you how much He loves you, how much He cares for you, and how much you are the only thing on His mind.
2. The second aspect of that book will show you how much we should love Him and want to be with Him, and He is the only thing on our mind.

In life, gold represents the deity of Christ. All through the Bible, everything that was done that represents Christ's deity was overlaid with gold. In this life, gold is the standard of living. We look at it as the gold standard. The gold standard is for everything, the highest value of everything. I do not know what it is an ounce now, but it is probably up to \$3,000 an ounce. But in life, as in the spiritual world, our Christian life, there are two kinds of gold: there is the real gold, and then there is what they call fool's gold. Fool's gold looks and glitters like the real thing, but it is phony and fake. I have found that most of God's people invest their whole life putting fool's gold on the foundation instead of the real thing. **Christ should be our gold standard for life.**

Silver: The Price of Redemption

Then you have on this foundation silver. Where gold will show us who Christ is in our lives, silver will show us what He did for us in our lives. Where gold will be the deity of Christ, silver will be the price of redemption. Christ was sold for 30 pieces of silver. Joseph was sold for 20 pieces of silver. In Exodus 30:16, silver is called the atonement money.

16 And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.

It is the redemption money. It is what they used in the Old Testament to redeem something. So when you look upon this foundation and you have gold, that shows you who Christ is. What you put on that foundation next, you build silver, it shows you what Christ has done for you.

Here is the main reason why God's people today only have a passing relationship with Christ. This will be the reason they never grow spiritually, and they never have any real biblical relationship. They invest in fool's gold. After 5, 10, 15, 20 years, I give you the first 5, 6, 7, 8 years. It takes you 5, 6, 7 years just to figure it all out, even in a good church. But even in that, you should be building on those foundations. In time, **the problem that God's people have today, where they have no victory, no peace, no rest, is because one, they do not really know who He is. Two, they do not really know the price that He paid for our salvation**. They just have a passing relationship with Him. The joke today in Christianity, even though it is a tragedy, will be a child of God in their Christian life without really knowing who He is and without building on their foundation gold and silver.

V. Song of Solomon—Christ's Love for Us & How We Should Love Him Back

I can tell you, and this is nothing spiritual, because I am not very spiritual, but I can tell you in 60 seconds or less what your relationship with Christ really is all about. I do not have to ask you any questions. I do not have to give you the spiritual test. I do not have to read your brain and interpret your actions. I can tell in 60 seconds or less where a child of God's relationship with Christ is really at by just one thing: just open your Bible to the book of Song of Solomon and look at the notes you have in it. That book should be worn out more than any other book in your

Bible. It ought to be filled with notes. That book ought to be broken down into Him loving you and you loving Him with all the key things that He says to find in there so you can apply them to your life. Those pages ought to be tear-stained as we weep over how much He loves us and then weep over how we struggle to love Him back. The pages out of the book of Song of Solomon ought to be falling out of your Bible when all the other pages are still glued together.

I do not believe this is true, at least I hope it is not. But at the judgment seat of Christ, I heard somebody say one time that the judgment seat of Christ could go on for a million years. You stop and think about all of God's people that have to show up there. I heard a guy one time say, "The judgment seat of Christ could go on for a million years because there is no time now, so it does not matter." I do not know how exactly it is going to go, but Lord, if you want to really take a shortcut so we can get on to Heaven, all we would have to do is call into your King James Bible and open it up from Genesis to Revelation and see how many notes you put into your Bible. Because that tells me and tells Him what that Bible really means to you. You are saved 30, 40 years, you ought to have 200,000 notes in that Bible. If you turn your Bible upside down by the flaps and shake it up and down, and Song of Solomon ought to fall out of it.

Yet, in 99% of God's people's lives today, their relationship with God will be as empty and blank as the pages in Song of Solomon. It is a shame, it is a tragedy. You get saved, you lay a foundation, the rest of your life. He says, "*take heed how you build thereupon*" as a wise, from the book of Proverbs, master builder. Gold, learning who He is. Silver, the price that He paid for my salvation. God's people today, bless their hearts, they are good people, they are not bad people. They just never really see who He is and what it cost Him for our salvation.

The closest most Christians ever get to understanding His death on the cross will be the four Gospels. In each Gospel—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—you have an account of the crucifixion. That is as deep as they ever get, and that is a shame. Just as God gave us a book, Song of Solomon, which allows us to go into God's heart, God's mind. When the Bible talks about the Bible being the mind of Christ, this is what He is talking about. You can go back to the book of Song of Solomon and you can step into that book and you can actually read God's mind of what He thinks when He sees you and me. God help us when He reads our mind to see what we think of Him.

You may have showed up at the wrong place today. There are a couple of places down the street that will tell you everything you want to hear. I will tell you what you need to hear. Just as God gave us a book, Song of Solomon, with the intimate details of His love for me and for you, God, my dear friend, in the Old Testament, has recorded for us the very thoughts of Christ when He hung on that cross for you and for me. When you read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and that is all the crucifixion you ever get, you are just getting a passing acquaintance with His death on the cross.

On that cross, on the sixth and the ninth hour, was the most terrible, horrendous time in the history of the world. It is when God turned His back on His Son and turned His body and His soul over to the devil. When God turned His back on His Son, He did it for one reason: because somebody needed to pay the price for your sin and for my sin. The Old Testament could not get it

done. That is why Hebrews says, Christ is better than the angels. His sacrifice is better than the Old Testament sacrifices. When God turned His back on His Son, the price for our salvation was paid during this time. The price that was paid, the silver, to redeem fallen man—to redeem you and me.

VI. Seven Key Passages on Christ's Thoughts on the Cross

There are seven places in the Old Testament where He takes you behind the veil and shows you everything that He is thinking. It is these thoughts of Christ on the cross and what was on His mind when you understand it. Just as the Holy Spirit of God recorded God's attitude and love for us in the Song of Solomon, He recorded the very thoughts of Christ as He hung on that cross from the sixth and the ninth hour and paid the price. Gold, who He is; silver, what He paid for you and for me. Seven key places.

- 1.) Isaiah 53
- 2.) Job 30
- 3.) Job 16
- 4.) Isaiah 52
- 5.) Psalms 16
- 6.) Psalms 50
- 7.) Psalms 22

If you wanted to see where a person's real relationship is with God, of who God is in their life, you can look at the notes in the Song of Solomon. If you want to find out how many of God's people really understand the price He paid, just see what they have written down by these seven verses. **These verses are places that when we as God's people see them and understand them, you will never be the same again.**

➤ Tragedy can Change the Course of Our Lives & How we Think & Look at Things

Have you ever noticed how tragedies that come into our lives change the course of our lives, change the way we think, change the way we look at things? A number of years ago, Karlene and Gary lost their little baby, three years old, tragically killed. I preached the funeral. That little guy is in Heaven this morning, swinging on the clouds and playing with the rainbows and waiting for mom and dad to get home. But that tragedy changed their life because it was at that point that both of them started coming to church, getting involved in the Word of God. The tragedy of that little guy's death changed their life.

I lost my dad when I was just 20 years old. He died tragically of lung cancer. It changed my life. It changed the course of my life. It was that death of my dad that turned me from where I was, that brought me where I am today. Everybody out here, the death of somebody close to you will change your life. Then why will not the death of Christ on the cross change your life? Why is that?

There are things in life that I do not understand, and that is one of them. The only answer is God's people have no clue of the price that was paid. We just have that passing acquaintance. When it comes to ministry, we do not see the value and importance of ministry. We are famous for always missing an opportunity where there is an opportunity because we are not focused on what we ought to be focused on. When you see people that you associate with, you do not see them through the blood of Christ. You see them for whatever you can get out of them, what deal you can get. God's people today do not look at the whole world through the thoughts of Him on the cross because we have not built on that foundation gold, and we have not built silver.

Over the next couple of weeks, probably months is more like it, we will lay out this chapter completely, and I will show you what He is thinking and feeling, and we will add and bring in all the other seven together.

➤ Salvation a Life Changing Event—But Only if You Build on that Foundation the Right Things

In Matthew 27:51 was the day the veil was rent.

51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Some of God's people have sewed it back up so you do not have to think about it. We are going to rip it open again. For just a moment today, just allow me for a moment to take you for just a glimpse behind that veil of the incredible price that was paid for our salvation. Now let me show you what happened, and how it happened, and what is going through His mind as it happens.

We hear all the time that salvation is a life-changing event. From my experience in 50 plus years in the ministry, that is not necessarily true. It should be. It could be. But there are thousands and thousands of Christians out there that claim to be saved, and I believe they are. Yet nothing in their life changed. They have been saved 20, 30, 40 years, never won a soul to Christ. You take their Bible and dump out Song of Solomon, or these seven places, blank. Yet they are good people. They are not bad people. They are good people that just never grew. **Salvation should be a life-changing event only if you build on that foundation gold and silver, and you get in your mindset that you are to be a wise master builder, and you take heed how you build.**

VII. Laying a Foundation for Psalms 22

I am just going to show you just the tip of an iceberg here. Turn over in your Bible to Isaiah 50. I want you to see this. I want to lay a foundation today before we get into Psalms 22, even though we are in Psalms 22, but I want you to get a baseline. I was reading that book on J. Frank Norris this morning in Daniel, and he is getting ready to lecture all these guys. He says to them, "Let me tell you guys something. Before you ever teach something to somebody, you need to lay out an outline and a baseline so they can follow you." I am thinking to myself, that is exactly what I do. He never told me that. I never heard that before. I am telling you, there is an unbroken line of Bible-believing preachers from back then that bring it right through to where we are at today, if you stay with the book.

Isaiah 50:7-8. How many times have God's people read this? Sooner or later in your life, hopefully somebody is going to read through the book of Isaiah. I wonder how many times God's people have read verses 7 and 8. Let us read it.

7 For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

8 He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.

I wonder how many times God's people must have read this and scratched their heads and said, "Wonder what this is all about?" Do you know what you have here? When Jesus Christ hung on the cross, there was much more going on than a bunch of demon-crazed scribes and Pharisees and Sadducees taking the life of a poor prophet named Jesus. This was the devil's final chance. There in the early morning light, around 6 a.m., two spiritual beings came face to face. This was the devil's final chance to kill Christ and take the crown. He had worked at it for 4,000 years to destroy God's people, and now he wants to destroy the God of those people. He tried it in Matthew 4. He tried to tempt Him and give Him everything if He would just bow down, abdicate the throne, and look at the devil as God. It failed. What an excellent study for us that we need to do. Now the devil knows that he holds the keys to death and hell, Hebrews 2:14.

14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

He knows that as long as he holds the keys of death and hell, nobody can come back from the dead. So on the cross in that early morning light, two spiritual beings come face to face. This is Isaiah 50 verses 7 and 8, without a doubt, the greatest moment in human history. When the Lord Jesus Christ looks into the face of that devil spirit world and says, "*He is near that justifieth me,*" that will be God, "*who will contend with me? Let us stand together. Whom is my adversary? Let him come unto me.*" Brother, he came unto Him!

The greatest moment in history lost to everybody. You think the greatest moment in history for you was when Elvis Presley died. Some of you think the greatest moment for you was when the Chiefs won the Super Bowl. Some of you think the greatest moment in history is when your baby was born, or when you got married, or you found the love of your life and all of those things. I want to tell you something, I am not taking away from that. This was the greatest moment in the history of mankind on planet Earth. The day that God looked into the spirit world and into the face of the devil and took him on, and the devil unleashed everything he had to get Him to quit. Our souls hung in the balance. Your eternal destiny was pinned right there. If the devil could just get Him to quit. But He didn't quit.

So you know what the devil does now? He will put you through the trials and temptations of life and all the heartaches. You will not get the peace of God because you do not know Him, and you do not rest in Him. So he could not get Christ to quit, but he will get us to quit. The Bible says

that your adversary goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. That is what was happening on that day. Here he comes with all the fury and power and force of hell.

VIII. The Agony of the Cross

I have heard a lot over the years, some guys, they do not know how to deal with this passage. So, they know that Christ had to pay for our sin, but they do not even know how it happened. They talk about the fact that Christ went to hell at some point. Sometimes they say it was during those three days, and that is where He burned and paid the price for our salvation. That is just not true. I do not know what they know about the Bible, or do not know in the Bible, but those seven verses in the Old Testament show you clearly that is not how it happened. Rather, the devil brings hell to Him on the cross.

In your Bible, from the sixth to the ninth hour, for those of you, that is 12 p.m. to 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The devil in three hours' time unleashes all hell on Him. It is during this time in your Bible, if you can get this out of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, but the Bible says that the sun refused to shine. The sun is a type of God. The sun refused to shine because God turned His back on His Son. The Bible says that the earth quaked. The Bible says that darkness was over all the earth. All of the earth was plunged into the darkness because the light of God was not shining on earth for those three hours.

Can you imagine? Get everything out of your brain for just a second. **Can you imagine God Almighty turning His back on His Son for you and for me?** This is not in the Bible, but there are some things you learn if you spend quite a bit of time behind the veil, and you build on that foundation gold and silver. I can only imagine what God the Father was thinking as He looked down and turned His back on His own Son and heard Him cry out and scream. That is recorded for us in the Bible. Christ says, "*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*" That is what a man in hell says. He says, "*I thirst.*" That is Luke 16. That is what a man in hell says. Job 30:30 says on the cross that His bones were burnt black with heat in three hours' time.

<i>30 My skin is black upon me, and my bones are burned with heat.</i>
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I can only imagine what was going through God the Father's mind, the apple of His eye. I get a glimpse of it when I look at Abraham and Isaac when he was going to offer him on the altar. He told Abraham to get Isaac and bring him there. They take him to Moriah. Abraham offered Isaac on the exact same spot that Christ was crucified on. He takes that boy, binds him up, puts him on the altar, the wood is there, they are ready to burn him and kill him. He takes that knife and he is going to plunge it into his heart. As he did, God stopped him. But He did not stop when the devil came after His Son.

Does not that change you? Does not that do anything for you? Are you so cold and dead and indifferent? I do not know what kind of relationship you have. I do not know how personal it is, but I am telling you, God looked over and He looked and saw His Son look up at Him and He said, "*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*" "Why have you turned your back?" And the devil just came and he came and he came. I believe with all my heart that God had it, that He could not take it anymore. I believe that God's hand was raised up to send down a million angels

to wipe man off the face of this planet. As He raised that hand, His Son said, "*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*" "Do not send them. Bob Alexander needs My blood. Everybody needs My blood. If you take Me off this cross, if I do not pay the price, they will be lost for all of eternity."

What in life? What pleasure? What fun? What in life is worth trading that for? I do not understand how in three hours' time my Savior could pay the sin debt for every man and woman that lived on planet Earth in 6,000 years. Can you imagine if He paid for each one of us and what we would spend in eternity, and you multiply that by the people on planet Earth in 6,000 years, what that must have been poured on Him for those three hours. In Psalms 22, and the events that take place in this chapter, they take place from the sixth to the ninth hour, as do all seven of them. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John give me the order of events. But it leaves us with just a passing acquaintance. But in the Old Testament, you get the very thoughts as He died for you and for me. When you understand it, your life will never be the same again.

I am not saying you do not do fun things. I am not saying you do not have a good life. I am saying the focus of your perception and your purpose and your passion changes. Do you know what is wrong with some of God's people? You have got yourself and too many things in front of God. You want to pretend it is of God, but it is not. It is of you. The only way you come to the end of the self is to see how He ended on the cross. We sing the song, "*Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan, Oh, the grace that brought it down to man, Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary.*" Your soul and my soul hung in the balance on that day. He never quit for you, but we will quit on Him. They are good people. They just built the wrong things on the foundation.

IX. Two Concepts to a Work of God

For years as a young Christian, I looked at the indifference of so many of God's people who claimed to be saved. They were good people. They went to church every Sunday, Sunday night, Wednesday night, but nothing ever changed about them. They were more willing to accept Christ's salvation for them, but when it came to them being the sacrifice for Him, Romans 12 verses 1 and 2, they were nowhere to be found.

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

They took everything that Christ had offered but gave nothing back. Unfortunately, churches are filled with people just like that today. As good people as they were, there was an indifference to the real work of Christ that was so obvious.

Here again, I learned there are two concepts to a work of God for all of us.

- 1.) The first work is the work of salvation. Christ finished work on the cross for you and for me. He did that work
- 2.) The second one is my work for Him after salvation.

God's people will take the first one, but they will be indifferent toward the second one. One day I saw the reason for that indifference. I believe that they were saved, I really do, but they never built on that foundation gold or silver. Just like last week, they got the image restored, but the garden was never restored. They never came in their Christian life to the point where they really saw and understood who He was and the reality of the price that He paid. He just never became their best friend. Somebody else did, or something else did.

X. Summary

Now you need to look at this today as an introduction to Psalms 22. Over the next period of whatever, we will look at the mind of Christ as He hung on that cross for you and for me. You will see every hour accounted for. I will take the Old Testament, match it up to the New Testament, and show you the New Testament, every event that happens, and then show those events in the Old Testament in these passages, and show you what He is thinking.

➤ Precious Stones—People & the Ministry

1 Corinthians 3:10-16, the building process of a wise master builder. I gave you two. Obviously, for those that can read, there are three. I focused on the gold and the silver: who He is, the price that was paid. But there is a third one: gold, silver, precious stones. The precious stones will be people. The precious stones will be the ministry and the ministry's people. The precious stones, no matter what activity we have, no matter what we do, whether it is softball, this or that, or it is volleyball, whatever, through all of that, **you are focusing on one thing: "How can I impact somebody's life? God, show me tonight in what we are doing as a church, how I can be used to help somebody in their life."**

To most people, it is just an activity, just a volleyball game, just a softball game. You care more about who wins the game than you do who wins the person to Christ. That is normal. That is just the way Christianity is today. Do you know why? The death of Christ did not change anything. Passing acquaintance.

Precious stones. I saved it for last because here is the process. **When you lay the foundation, the day you get saved you begin to build upon that foundation gold.** You get into the book of Song of Solomon and you really understand who He was. You begin to understand how much He loves you, how much He wants to fellowship with you, how you were the apple of His eye. The Bible says that Solomon had over a thousand songs, but in Song of Solomon, you only get one of them. It is the one for you and for me, because you were and are the love of His life.

Then you build silver. At some place along the line, your life changes. All you young guys and gals that just come into the church in the last six months or a year, you are on your way to

building that foundation. Make sure you build the right things. Make sure the people you are associating with in this church have the right focus. At some point in your life, the course of your life is going to change like it did mine. You will never be the same again. Because you will understand who He was and what He did. When you understand on your foundation who He was and what He did, you cannot know who He was and what He did and not tell somebody about it. There are the precious stones. **The precious stones are automatic based on the first two.**

Gold, silver, precious stones. It simply works like that. When you really know who He is and you understand the price that was paid, you simply cannot be indifferent to the work that He has for you and that will be people.

No longer will you just look at whatever goes on in your life, or what goes on in this church. You will never again just look at it as, what can you get out of it or what is best for you. You are always looking for that person out there. There are some people who never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity. When you really know who He is and the price He paid, you cannot keep your mouth shut. You have got to learn how to control it. I get it. You have got to get tact. You have got to get a process to be able to do it. But it burns within your heart to see people who are building the wrong things on their foundation.

Our next time together we are going to see the price that was paid. We are going to go down deep. You think today was rough. I am going to show you how He was thinking of you. He had your names on His lips. He would have never quit because your soul and my soul hung in the balance.