

I. Review

Last week we saw in Psalms 39 David making his journey back to his relationship with God. The week before that, we saw in Psalms 38 the great catastrophes of his life based on him being out of fellowship and walking away from God. Last week, **I showed you that the key to getting back to God and staying close to God was simply three things that you want to understand about yourself.**

1. First, you want to look at **the end of man**—how you are going to wind up when you stand before the Lord. I told you that the Christian life is never about how you start. Throughout every Christian life, you are going to have your ups and downs, and you are going to stumble and fall sometimes. The real question is: how do you end? The end of man.
2. The second thing is **the measure of a man**. How do you measure your spiritual relationship with the Lord? Of course, there is a way in the Word of God that you do that.
3. But I think the thing that pulls the other two together is the third one, where it talks about **understanding the frailty of man**—how weak we really are, how frail we really are—and for us as God's people never to think of ourselves more highly than we should. When you do that, and you forsake those three things out of your life which keep you close and keep you balanced, then you have a tendency to develop that self-righteous attitude like David did and like so many of God's people do.

In Matthew 18:3, you will find a great principle. The little children came to Jesus; they wanted to be around Him. The disciples, who by this time had risen into the professionalism of the calling, only wanted certain key people to get to Jesus. They did not want the little children to be around Him, and they tried to keep them away. Jesus made one of the greatest statements:

*Matthew 18:3. And said, Verily I say unto you, **Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.***

That is one of the greatest statements for any child of God today that you are going to find. People today think that we should know everything. Higher education supposedly gives you the edge on the common, ordinary man. But in reality, the key to God is knowing nothing, letting God teach you everything that He wants you to know, and you simply believing everything that He tells you.

II. Psalms 40 – Never Lose Sight of all that God has Done for you

Now we come to one of the greatest passages found in the Bible on all that God did for me the day that He saved me. I have seen this for years and years, and I understand it, but in another sense, I have a hard time understanding it. I never understood how anybody who is truly saved could ever get over their salvation. I just never did.

I see so many of God's people become complacent with their own relationship with the Lord, and I have never really understood that. There is no question about it: salvation is a life-changing event, and the result of salvation is a changed life. But I see so many of God's people today where it seems that nothing changes. To be honest, that bothers me, and it worries me because of what I know the Scripture says a true conversion brings along with it.

When we get to Psalms 40, it is a place in the Word of God that I want to go to when I want to think about all that God has done for me. I really think that is the key of never getting complacent in our Christian life—never getting to the place where the change of salvation is of none effect in our lives. I think it goes back to being thankful to God, never losing sight of what God has done for you.

So I want to read Psalms 40:1-5. We are going to break this Psalm down into three sections: this section this week, next week, and the following week. I want to show you from these three sections the things that God does for you the day God saves you, and how you should never forget it.

Psalms 40:1-5

- 1. I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.*
- 2. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.*
- 3. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.*
- 4. Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.*
- 5. Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.*

III. Inspirationally Psalms 40 is to You and Me

Most of us as God's people will have our favorite verses, our favorite chapters, or maybe a passage that really means something to us, and we will have that in a special place. It was some time in your life when God gave you exactly what you needed. For any Christian, I would think that Psalms 40:1-5 would be, or should be, at the top of that list.

I know historically this is David, and doctrinally it is Israel, dealing with them as a nation. But inspirationally, it is me. It is you and me, who through the blood of Christ have been set free from the bondage of sin. I want to take some time today, and I want to look at the first five verses, and I want you to see eight things that God did for you at the time of your salvation.

➤ Our Three Infirmities

The Bible talks about the three basic infirmities that we all have. Romans 6:19 talks about **the infirmity of our flesh**:

Romans 6:19. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

The second thing is in Romans 8:26, where it talks about **the infirmity that we really don't know how to pray**:

Romans 8:26. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The third one is found in Psalms 77:10, and that is **forgetting all that God has done for us**—forgetting the day that God changed our lives:

Psalms 77:10. And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High.

In this passage, as I said, you will find eight key things that I will never forget that God did for me. For me, this is the reason that I could never get over that day in my life.

➤ The Three Great Days Found in the Bible

One of the great studies you will find in the Bible will be the three days that are found in the Bible, around which the whole Bible is built.

1. The first one, of course, is the Day of the Lord. We know that to be the second coming of Christ.
2. The second one is the Day of Jesus Christ, sometimes called the Day of Christ. That will be the rapture of the church.
3. And then the third day was the day that God saved me. That was the best day of my life.

We talked about Thursday night in Leviticus 25, how all the feasts come up to the Millennium, which is called in the feast the Year of Jubilee. My Year of Jubilee was the day that God saved me.

IV. The Bible & History are built around the Day of the Lord

If you want to learn your Bible, then you must first understand—and I have talked about this many, many times—that the Bible is built on a premillennial return of Christ. You must understand that the theme of your Bible will be, first, the Day of the Lord; the second coming of Christ. Your whole Bible is built around this day. All history is built around this day—the day that God comes back to earth and establishes His government.

➤ God Called out Two Identities

We have talked about it many, many times. When we put God and history together, we now see the 6,000 years of man's history on this earth. During that time, if you want to get a capsule understanding of God's history and what He is doing, God was calling out two identities. Those two identities are what He is going to use when eternity begins, when He establishes His government, and when Revelation 21 and Revelation 22 finally come into effect.

1. The first one—and this is not new to most of you—is obviously **the nation of Israel**, a nation by which in time all nations of the earth would be blessed:

*Genesis 22:18. And **in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed**; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

This is the kingdom of Israel, called the kingdom of heaven. This is the day when Israel finally gets all that God promised them back in the Old Testament through Abraham, and it all comes to focus and fruition at the Day of the Lord.

2. The second identity is **the church**, the New Testament church, made up of men and women spiritually born again in God's image to establish His spiritual kingdom, the kingdom of God. This is the New Testament times. For us, we understand the theme of the Word of God and the establishment of His government. When you and I understand it, we realize we are part of that because Romans 8:17 says that we are joint-heirs with Jesus Christ when He comes back at the Day of the Lord.

Romans 8:17. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

But the day that we look for will not necessarily be the Day of the Lord—though that is monumental in the whole scheme of things—but **for you and for me who are saved, the day that we look for is the Day of Christ, when Christ comes back for His bride and takes us home to be with Him**, as seen in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15. That day will be the day of Christ:

*2 Thessalonians 2:2. That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that **the day of Christ is at hand.***

And the day of Jesus Christ:

Philippians 1:3-6. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

4. Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

5. For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

*6. Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until **the day of Jesus Christ:***

Those are the days that we are looking for.

But the truth of the matter is, none of it would have any meaning to me without the third day. **The second coming of Christ and the rapture of the church would be meaningless in my life if I did not have that third day—the day that God made me a new creature in Christ Jesus, came into my heart, and saved me: the day of my salvation.** As it says in 2 Corinthians 5:17:

2 Corinthians. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

V. Considering Christ

If you are saved this morning, we all share this in common: we are all on a journey through life. Along with that journey, we are all going to experience trials, temptations, and failures. We know that. In Hebrews 12:1-3, we see that He tells us that when we run the race that God has set before us, we can become weary and faint in our minds. Over the last couple of weeks, I showed you that is where sin starts. That is where our getting out of fellowship starts: it starts with the imagination and in our minds.

In Hebrews 12:1-3, when that happens, the Bible says that we need to consider Him:

Hebrews 12:1-3. Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*3. For **consider him** that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

When you look at this passage, you will find it lays out for you and me, so we do not faint in our minds, so we do not get complacent, and so we do not wind up quitting, to **consider Him in three ways**. That is really what Psalms 40 is about, connecting to our salvation.

- First, you want to consider **who He was**. He was very God. He was God manifested in the flesh.
- Second, you want to consider **what He endured**. The Bible says He endured the shame of the cross, so you and I would not have to.
- Third, you want to consider **what He became**.

These are three little things: who He was, what He endured, and what He became. What He became was sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. **Today, Psalms 40:1-5 will make that concept so real that if you see it and understand it, I do not know how you could ever quit.** I do not know how you could ever get complacent, or how you could ever get over the greatest day in your life. For me now, for over 55 years, I have never gotten over it. I never could. How could I?

VI. Eight Key Things God did in the Day of our Salvation

In your Bible, in biblical numerology, the number eight is the number of new beginnings. I told you this Thursday night when we looked at Leviticus 12 and Leviticus 13 about circumcision and how the circumcision took place on the eighth day.

In our text today, based on you and me becoming a new beginning, based on that spiritual circumcision, you are going to find eight key things that God did in our day—the day of our salvation—when we got our new beginning. I want to look at them today in the time that we have. Hopefully, this will be a blessing to you, and something that you can take home with you.

This is nothing doctrinal today. This is nothing about the future, and nothing about history. This is about the greatest day in your life. This is about you never coming to the place where you get tired of being a Christian, or tired of doing things for the Lord.

I know that I hear people say all the time, with all the things going on in the church and all the things happening, "I just do not want to get that involved in everything that is happening." I understand that. But I want to tell you: before you were saved, look at all the stuff you were involved with in the world. We did things with our friends; we played this, we did that. Friday and Saturday nights were big nights out. We just did everything that we wanted to do.

I have found out that we as God's people—human beings—will always find a way to do what we really want to do in our hearts. This is why, with all that is going on, though I know that not everybody can do everything, the key comes down to balancing out your life. The key comes down to looking at your life, the measure of your life, the end of your life, and realizing that there are some things I have to make sure I get done before the end of man. So I want to look at it today.

In Psalms 40:1, he starts out by saying, "*I waited patiently for the LORD.*" I am going to preach to you today, but I am preaching more to myself than I am to you because I have all this in my Bible. This is probably the easiest sermon I ever had to put together, simply because it is where I am at every day of my life or try to be. I am just going to relate to you what God has related to me out of this, and what works for me maybe will work for you.

1. *I waited patiently for the LORD* (Psalms 40:1)

I thought a lot about that. I know without a doubt that patience is one of the great lessons of life that we need to learn in our relationship with God. But I look at that verse, and I think about what most people don't think about with God, and that is the timetable of life with God on planet earth. For sure, one of the things that will always get us into trouble is getting out of God's timing. You can do the right thing at the wrong time, and it will cause you problems.

This brings us back to understanding—not only after you are saved, but before you were saved—the leading of the Holy Spirit of God, bringing the events and the people into your life to prepare you for the day: the day of your salvation. Today in my life, with fifty-plus years of experience looking back at my day, the day of salvation, I can see how the timing of God was in my life. I did not see it at the time. I probably did not see it for ten, maybe fifteen years. But as you get

older in the Lord, God reveals more things to you. You learn more about the way God does things.

I understand today that even before I was saved—I told you how when I was in the army, I looked back at the leadership I learned from people—even before I was saved, God saw something in me. I was worthless. I was on my way to hell. But God searches out our hearts. When God sees, even in the unsaved, a basic desire to know more about God—even when that person may not have been introduced to it yet.

I look at my own life and the timing of God in my life, and how way before I was saved, God began to put events and people in my life that in time would bring me to Him. Now, as always, it is our own free will and our choice. I understand that. But God saw something in me, just like God sees something probably in all of you. That is why you are here today. At the time He saw it in me, I was not even saved, and I certainly did not see it in myself.

I think that is the problem with a lot of God's people when they get impatient and do not patiently wait for the Lord. You do not understand that sometimes God sees things in you that you do not see in yourself. What God does, even before you are saved, is He will begin to put the people in your life, He will put the events in your life, and He will put the basic, fundamental structure that He is going to use down the line. It is an incredible thing.

I realized at some point after I was saved, maybe five or ten years of going through the Word of God, that **there are three plans that God has in the Bible:**

- First, God has a plan for the universe, the second heaven.
- Second, God has a plan for planet earth, because planet earth is in the second heaven.
- Third, God has a plan for your life.

You and I live on planet earth, which exists in the second heaven. Those three plans God sees in us, and He wants to fulfill the greatest day in your life when God saves you. You cannot separate them.

➤ There are no Accidents with God

It is no accident that God had me born in 1950, over half a century ago. I have told you this before: I would have much rather been born in 1600, 1500, or 1400. I know life was a lot rougher back then, but Christianity was a lot better back then. You would not have to put up with a lot of the frivolous, stupid stuff that God's people deal with today. Back then, it was a different world. You only had two fundamental religions you had to deal with: one was Bible-believing, and the other was the Roman Catholic Church—and that one wanted to kill you.

There seems to be something special about that fact. It brings something out in a Christian when you know that if you practice your faith and believe what you believe, somebody is most likely going to kill you. It separates the men from the boys. The ones who really are not connected are going to bail on it, and all you have left is the cream of the crop.

I think that is missing today. I think life on planet earth for Christians has gotten so easy, so marshmallow, so lackadaisical, that we just take everything that God does for us for granted, and there is no urgency. I think that leads to the complacency where people forget about that great day.

It is no accident that I was born in 1950. I look at it: that is two years after Israel became a nation in 1948. For what God wanted me to do—what I am doing now—I needed to have the balance of understanding the twentieth century. I saw and lived through a time of great churches with great preachers. Those men I heard back then—guys like Dallas Billington, men like R.G. Lee, Harold Seitler, Roy Thompson, B.R. Lakin, Hugh Pyle, and many, many more—were in their seventies and eighties. They were the last filaments of the Philadelphian church age, the last of the last of the fragments of the Philadelphian church age.

But I got to hear them. I got to see them. I got to hear their viewpoint. The things they preached are totally different than what is preached today. It was good for me to come through that period, and I could not have done that if I was not born the year that I was born. Not only did I see the last filaments and fragments of the great church of Philadelphia with the great preachers, but I saw the Laodicean church come into existence. I saw the ruin of churches and Christians.

I saw, in just the space of ten, fifteen, twenty years, churches and pastors who would stand up with the King James Bible and declare it, who twenty years later would tell their people that they did not have a perfect Bible. I saw the churches ruined through Bob Jones University, Pensacola Christian College, Tennessee Temple, and BBC down in Springfield. I could give you an endless list today. I watched them destroy God's church and make it what it is today, going from the last filaments of the Philadelphian church age into now Revelation 3:20 with the Laodicean church in full bloom, where Jesus Himself talked about a literal door:

*Revelation 3:20. Behold, **I stand at the door, and knock:** if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

The Laodicean church is the church that has put Jesus Christ and His Word on the outside of the church, and He is knocking on the door to get back in.

I did not see it then. I have tried to learn something from everything in my life. I learned the ministry by watching some of the greatest examples of ministry that you could ever see, but I also learned the ministry by watching some of the most terrible examples of ministers you have ever seen. I realized early in my life that life is a learning process. I never got so busy—and you are looking at a guy who enjoys life and likes to do a lot of fun things—but I never got so busy that I did not learn from everything in life. I tried to learn from everybody that God put in my life. Maybe it was not always good, but it was certainly something I needed to learn.

I can look back on those things now, and like the old saying goes, hindsight is 20/20. I look back now, and I see that even when I was waiting for the hand of God, God showed me things that I would need to see later on.

➤ Building a Philadelphian Church in the Laodicean Church Period

I will tell you this, and I have told you this before: I really feel sorry for you young men and young ladies. I love you to death, and you are wonderful people, and you really love God and love the Word of God. But I will tell you how you got shortchanged: you got shortchanged by being born when you were born. You never understood that great period. You read about it in books, but you did not live it. You did not experience it. You did not see the transition from what was of God to what now is not of God. Most of you, before you came here, were bombarded all your life.

This is why in this particular church, you notice we do not get a lot of people from other churches who just come in. When we do, they do not stay, except maybe every once in a while. That is because they have had a whole life of that garbage which has conditioned them to think outside of what a real, Bible-based relationship with Christ is.

The one advantage you have—even though you were born in the wrong time (and by "wrong time," I mean you were born when God wanted you to be born, and I will get to that)—the greatest advantage you have is that you came into this church knowing nothing. We did not have to deprogram you, from being a legalistic Baptist or some idiot-stick out here, to get you to the truth. You came in just as stupid as a stump. That is the best way to be. You did not have to undo a lot of things in your life other than the sin in your life, and you were ready to get rid of that.

I have dealt with people all my life. I watch them when they come in here to check out our church. I can see what is going through their minds because I have dealt with it all my life. They have been conditioned by every church they have been in to think that Christianity is not based on the Bible and a relationship with Christ but is based on certain things that you do or do not do. I understand why they never do anything for God. Their whole life is a journey from church to church to church. Very honestly, they usually got mad at the last church they were at, and now they are looking for another church that they can get mad at. It just does not work.

Whether you agree with this or not, it is okay. You know, opinions are like armpits: you have two of them, and both of them stink. But anyway, I really believe that God put me where He put me to show me what He showed me, so that for generations of you young men and young ladies who never had a chance to experience it, through my abilities, my preaching, my teaching, and the things that I will invest in you, you can see it that way. You can understand it.

This is why I never get off of it. I have known preachers who, in a whole ministry of thirty or forty years, never once mentioned the importance of the King James Bible, even though they preach out of it. They never mentioned the importance of the junk that went on out there which destroys so many people. I want you to be better than that.

I have said it many, many times. When I started this church, my goal and plan was to build a Philadelphian church in a Laodicean church period. You have to have some ingredients that are different to be able to do that. You must have some experience of seeing what was wrong to give the contrast so you can see what is right. I look back at God's hand in my life teaching me, showing me, and giving me all those things for your generation to show you God's hand in

history, in Christianity, and in your own life. So, the first verse says, "*I waited patiently for the LORD.*" I understand that now.

2. *He inclined unto me* (Psalms 40:1)

To me, this is so incredibly special. In my unsaved state, I could never get to God. The Bible says in Romans 3:11:

*Romans 3:11. There is none that understandeth, **there is none that seeketh after God.***

I was God's enemy by birth, alienated from God. John 8:44 says I was in the wrong family because I had the wrong father:

*John 8:44. **Ye are of your father the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

I had nothing to offer God. All my righteousness, as Isaiah 64:6 says, was as filthy rags:

*Isaiah 64:6. But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;** and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

And the wages of my sin was death, as seen in Romans 6:23:

*Romans 6:23. **For the wages of sin is death;** but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

If you would have looked up the word "depravity" in the dictionary, you would have found my picture there. As I told you last week, everything in my life was vanity. **The gulf, the gap between where I was and where God was, was so far and wide that I had no chance to ever get to God. So God came to me. He inclined unto me.** When in God's timing all was ready, He came to me with a message of His love for me. ♪ *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!* ♪

When I understand that, and when I believe that, you tell me: how could I ever get over that? The day Jesus Christ got off the throne, walked out the door, and the angels said, "Where are you going?" His answer was, "Oh, I have to go down and incline Myself to Bob Alexander." Little old nothing. The lint in God's navel. You tell me, when you understand that in your framework, your mind, and your life, how do you ever get over it? How do you come to the place where you don't care anymore? How do you come to the place where it is not as exciting for you as it was the day you got saved. I don't care if you've been saved seventy-five years.

3. *And heard my cry* (Psalms 40:1)

When He inclined unto me, when He came to me, the Bible says that He heard my cry. Much like the book of Exodus—and we talked about this when we went through the first eleven chapters—Israel was under the bondage of Egypt (a picture of the world) and Pharaoh (the

devil), enslaved by them, never to be free. In Exodus 2:24-25, it says that the nation of Israel cried out to God:

*Exodus 2:24-25. And **God heard their groaning**, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25. And **God looked upon the children of Israel**, and God had respect unto them.*

God heard them and sent them a deliverer, Moses, who is one of the greatest types of Christ in the Bible. All of that is a picture of where I was in bondage, bound in the shackles of sin by Pharaoh and the world system. The day I cried out by reason of my affliction, just like Israel, I too was sent a Deliverer, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, today I am set free. I am saved.

Most people don't understand much about their own salvation. Most people couldn't explain what really transpired the split second, the micro-millisecond, that they got saved. Even the concept of salvation—and I am always careful when I say what I am about to say, because you get God's people who are only half-listening today, and then they go out of here not hearing what I am saying or misunderstanding what I mean, and it messes them up. But that is okay, because you would have gotten messed up sooner or later anyhow, so it might as well be today.

➤ The Day the Lord Jesus Christ comes back we get our New Glorified Body

When it comes to your salvation, do you know you are only half-saved? What new doctrine is this? Oh, it is called the Bible: Romans 8. If you are here this morning and you are born again and saved, I want you to know you are only half-saved. In Romans 8, it talks about two adoptions. **The first adoption was the greatest day in your life, the day you trusted Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior, and on that day your soul was saved.** But your body is not saved yet. **The second adoption in Romans 8 is the day that the Lord Jesus Christ comes back and we get our new glorified body.**

You see, the Bible says right now you are complete in Him, even though you are not. But that is the Bible; that is God for you. When God says that, **He is seeing you in a finished form because you are already seated in heavenly places.** Yet, God's people know nothing about that, so therefore there is no excitement.

I remember one time I had a package coming through FedEx—something that I had waited for and wanted. I tracked it on my phone, where you get the texts of where it's at and when it's shipped, because I couldn't wait to get this. I will never forget it—I am not even going to tell you what it was. I was following it along, and then one morning on my phone it popped up: "The package will be delivered today." I could not wait. I went on the website, and there it was: a map that shows you where the truck is with your package in relation to your home. Now, for me, that means if I see where he is at, I will just go find him.

The most disappointing thing to me, however, was that the map didn't work. So, do you know what I was doing? I left the garage door open. I was looking out the window. I would get distracted for a minute, and then I would hear a big truck stop or go up the road. I thought for sure it was the FedEx guy. No, it was not. I mean, it got to be twelve o'clock, one o'clock, two

o'clock, three o'clock. Where is my package? I was looking out the window, looking out the door. The good thing about both of my dogs is that when a delivery man pulls up front, they tell me. They bark and go crazy. I was listening for the dogs and looking out the window for my package to show up. I was so excited for that package, and when it came, it made my day. I got exactly what I wanted, the way I wanted it, and I was happy.

What has that got to do with anything I am preaching today? My package is coming: my new body. I am looking out the window every day of my life. I am waiting for that cloudy day to show up, thinking this may be the day that my delivery is coming and my package is going to be delivered—my new body. Yet, most of God's people don't care about that, if they know anything about it at all.

4. *He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay (Ps. 40:2)*

When God saved me, the pit that He brought me up out of was the pit of hell that I was destined for and rightly deserved. There was nothing I could do to keep from ending up in that pit. I had a personal sin debt to God that I could not pay. So, God sent His Son to pay my sin debt.

We talked about this Thursday night in Leviticus 16: the scapegoat. Jesus Christ was my scapegoat. He died in my place, so I could be set free. Matthew 20:28 says:

Matthew 20:28. Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister; and to give his life a ransom for many.

And 2 Corinthians 5:21 says:

2 Corinthians 5:21. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

He became sin for me, who knew no sin. Not only did He save me from the pit of hell, but it says He pulled me up out of the miry clay. When I got saved, I was delivered not only from the horrible pit, but also from the miry clay.

In the Bible, like in Daniel 2 and other places, clay is always a picture of human man, of human beings. When I got saved, He pulled me out of the horrible pit, and He delivered me from the world system of bondage and human depravity that was all around me. I was set free from the shackles of Egypt through the blood of the Lamb. Now, I still may be in this world, but I am most certainly not of this world.

5. *He set my feet upon a rock (Psalms 40:2)*

1 Corinthians 10:3-4 tells me that that Rock is Christ:

1 Corinthians 10:3-4. And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

4. And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

In my own life—and I cannot speak for you, but in my own life—for the first time, I stood on something solid. I had something now that I stood on that would never change, something that was unmovable and steadfast: the Word of God. Where my feet were once always running to mischief, as seen in Proverbs 6:18—

*Proverbs 6:18. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, **feet that be swift in running to mischief.***

Now I am standing on the Rock of Ages. I finally have a solid footing in my life because I have an absolute standard in my life. I came out of a world of uncertainty and deception into a new life. ♪ *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.* ♪

6. He established my goings (Psalms 40:2)

When I got saved, not only did God save me from the pit of hell, but He saved me from myself. I was headed in the wrong direction in life. I was on the road many of God's people get onto: a life of bad choices, a life of terrible decisions. I was on my way to a life without any purpose, without any direction, that was filled with dead ends, heartache, disappointment, and uncertainty.

But the day God saved me, He changed all that and He established my goings. He gave me purpose. He gave me direction. He gave me a vision of His purpose and a plan for me. He showed me His incredible work down through history. **He showed me the past, He showed me the present, He showed me the future, and He showed me how I fit into all of that.** I saw when that day came—the day of my salvation—that my life went from a “hopeless end” to an “endless hope”. God established my goings.

7. He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God. (Ps. 40:3)

The song of my mouth came from the Word of God in my heart. Now we see in Colossians 3:16:

*Colossians 3:16. Let the word of Christ **dwelt in you richly** in all wisdom; **teaching and admonishing** one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.***

What I want you to see is that you teach and admonish other Christians by that song in your heart. That song in your heart starts with the Word of Christ dwelling in you richly.

You will notice here that the singing of hymns in our church is out of a book where all the songs were written maybe before 1600, but certainly not many after 1900. They were based on songs that were written in the hearts of men during the great Philadelphian church age. Most of the music that you hear in churches today is what people like these days. One of the reasons why this will never be a megachurch is because of the old hymns that we sing. One of the questions I get all the time is, "Do you have a contemporary service?" Yeah, it is contemporary: you are a mess, and we will help you get out of it. That is contemporary!

No, this new song that we have is not the song of fools found in Ecclesiastes 7:5:

*Ecclesiastes 7:5. It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear **the song of fools.***

It has nothing to do with Christian rock or contemporary Christian music. A guy asked me one time when he was looking for a church, "What is your feeling on Christian rock music?"

I said, "Oh, I like Christian rock."

He said, "Really? I heard that you were very old school."

I said, "Oh, no, no. I like my rock and roll: my feet are on the Rock, and my name is on the roll! That is my rock and roll. Sorry about yours."

He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God. It is not the song of fools. It has nothing to do with the world's contemporary Christian music. No, no, no.

♪ I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart! Joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart! (Oh, come on now!) Joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart! Where? Down in my heart to stay! ♪

♪ I have a song that Jesus gave me, and it was sent from heaven above; there never was a sweeter melody than the melody of love. ♪ Because of that, ♪ in my heart there rings a melody. ♪ It is based on: ♪ Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow. ♪

♪ It is all because of 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. ♪ It all started on a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame. ♪ Now, on Christ the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand. ♪ Now I am standing on the promises. ♪ Today, because of what God did for me, a mighty fortress is our God. ♪

It is all because of amazing grace: *♪ Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see. ♪ And ♪ When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun. ♪*

The day God saved you; the day God put that song in your heart.

8. Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. (Psalms 40:3)

The eighth thing that God did for me, which is the final capstone of my new beginning, is He gave me a witness—a witness to the song that He gave me. I want you to see that **it says there not that many shall hear it, but many shall SEE it. You see, the song is in your heart and nobody can hear it, but what they see is the result of a changed life because of the song in your heart.** The song in my mouth will translate into a life and a witness where others see the result of what God did.

As Philippians 3:20 says:

*Philippians 3:20. For **our conversation is in heaven**; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

And Ephesians 2:6 says:

*Ephesians 2:6. And hath raised us up together, and made us **sit together in heavenly places** in Christ Jesus:*

The real question today for every one of us is: how many others have come to the Lord and trusted Him through our conversations? What song do they hear out of your life?

VII. Six Questions at the Judgment Seat of Christ

Back in Job 26, I found something one day, and as I poured over it, it became so clear to me. There are six questions asked in Job 26. When I looked at it and studied it, I realized that the only person who could answer these six questions was a New Testament Christian. I firmly believe that these are the six questions that will be asked at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

I have preached this message many, many times in other churches. One time I preached it, and a dear little old lady came up afterward and said, "Oh, brother, I just do not agree that these are going to be the six questions asked at the Judgment Seat of Christ."

I said, "Sweetheart, I hope you are right, but I don't think you are."

When you come down through those questions, number five in Job 26:4 asks this question:

*Job 26:4. **To whom hast thou uttered words?** and whose spirit came from thee?*

Albert Einstein once said, when he was talking about words and speech, that the words we speak—the very words, like this message—leave my mouth, leave this room, continue off this planet, and continue into space. He said that if you could travel fast enough and far enough, you could catch up with the words of Abraham Lincoln at the Gettysburg Address, along with everything else that has been said. Do you know that the astronauts and people in the space station, one of the things they have never been able to figure out is that they hear talking up there? They hear voices—somebody's voice, somebody saying something.

Now, I know Einstein was a kook, and I know he was a renegade Jew, and he is probably in hell this morning. I get that. But I have learned this in life: I can learn something from anybody. Hey, even a broken clock is right twice a day. I believe what he said. But you have to ask yourself: if that is true—and I believe it is—where are those words headed? If everything we have said in conversation goes out and travels in space, where is it headed?

I love how the world stumbles over the Bible with things they don't even know. They come up with all this stuff, and everybody is in awe of it, and they do not even understand the spiritual ramifications. They will tell you, "I do not understand anything about this." I will tell you the biblical side of it, but the technical side: right now, all your information of everything you are

and everything you do is in a cloud. When Jesus comes back, He comes in a cloud, and He is going to bring everything you ever said or did that is now in that cloud.

What if at the Judgment Seat of Christ, when we get ready to make our defense and our excuses, right when we begin to open our mouths, He says, "Just a minute," and about that time, every word we spoke in our life comes across that throne?

Did you ever notice money? I have never known anywhere in the history of the world where currency or coins did not have somebody's physical face on it. I know because I like to collect pictures of dead presidents. There are Roman coins with Trajan and Julius Caesar. They have their heads on a coin. I know everybody says, "Well, that is just what they did." No, "what if?"

You've got a dollar; Washington is on it. You've got five dollars; Lincoln is on it. You've got twenty dollars; Jackson is on it. You've got a hundred dollars; Ben Franklin is on it. What if, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, every dime, every dollar, everything you have comes rolling down at the feet of Jesus, and that mouth speaks and says what it was spent for?

"*To whom hast thou uttered words?*" What if, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, you and I spent more money on dog food than we did on the work and the ministry of God? I am telling you, you have no idea of the complacency when you fall into it, and what it leads to. It is incredible.

➤ His Thoughts are to Us-Ward

Now look at verses 4 and 5: "*Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward.*" Do you see that? I guarantee you, if you know Song of Solomon 2, all day long, every second, every minute—well, there are no seconds and minutes up there in the third heaven, but you get my point—His thoughts are to us-ward.

One of the greatest tragedies at the Judgment Seat of Christ, if the thoughts came up, will be His thoughts to us-ward, and then our thoughts are somewhere else. There are saved people who go all day long and do not think anything about Him. There are people who go all day long in life and never say a word to Him. What is wrong with them? They got over that day—if they ever had that day.

"Thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered."

♪ *Count your many blessings, see what God hath done; count your many blessings, name them one by one.* ♪ That is how we in our life should be when we end our journey and go home to be with Him.

VIII. Summary

Think of God's wonderful works in your life that you, on a daily basis, go through never thanking Him for, never recognizing, never thinking twice about:

- 1.) The day God saved you.
- 2.) Your family.
- 3.) The health that God has given you, taking care of you.
- 4.) The ministry God has given you—how God has used us, in spite of our vanity, through the Holy Spirit of God, to reach a lost world.

Years ago, a guy said to me—he was my friend, but he did not believe in God; he was pretty much an agnostic or atheist, whatever you want to call it. We would talk back and forth, and I would always witness to him. We had a good relationship, never got angry; we were just prodding each other.

He said to me one time when we were somewhere, "Listen, you read your Bible—I know you do—you preach to me, you witness to me all the time, and you go to church. I do not. Can I ask you a question?" I said, "Sure."

He said, "What are you going to do when you come down to the end of your life and you find out that everything you believed was not true? What are you going to do when you get to the end of your life and you find out all the stuff you invested in, all the stuff you said, and all the stuff you believed was not really true? What are you going to do then, Bob?"

I said, "Well, I do not really think that is going to happen. But I will tell you this: even if you are right and none of it is real, my life was still better than yours. I still have a peace that you do not have. I am not looking for the things you cannot find. So if none of it was really true, my life is still better than yours."

But I want to tell you: it is true. Psalms 40:1-5. Keep track of where we have been: Psalms 38, the chastisement of God in our lives; Psalms 39, we are coming back; Psalms 40:1-5, the blessings of our salvation now realized, never becoming complacent, and never, never leaving God's presence again.

Now, I told you that we were going to break this down into three sections. In the next two weeks, I am going to give you the next two things God gave you, all found right here, and this will kind of be your own chapter of Jubilee.