

I. Review

Last week we were in Psalms 5:8. I showed you, I think, one of the most important, crucial aspects of the Christian life. **There are many things we could consider crucial in your life as a Christian, but none of them mean anything if you don't understand and have the leading of God in your life.** It's knowing God's leading in any given situation where you have to make a decision, something that you are faced with that potentially could change the direction of your life. It has the possibility, if you're wrong, of taking you out of God's plan for your life. There's a real danger in that.

And I hope I made it clear that everybody today likes to drag God into the equation, when He's not in the equation, by saying that God is leading me to do this. We hear it all the time... God is leading me to do this or to go here. And I've seen how people will sometimes make the biggest disasters in their lives because they're thinking that God is leading them when He's simply not.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

There's no greater place where this principle needs to be applied than when there's a decision in life, and we need to make sure that we know how to make the right choice.

❖ Seeing versus Observing

We talked about the importance of learning not to just see something. Many people don't know the difference between seeing something and observing something. **When you observe something, you see beyond just taking something at face value.** And when you learn to observe, you see what's really going on.

I was driving the other day and saw a homeless person, as you do when you drive through the city. This guy was at an intersection, and he was holding a sign which said, "I'm homeless. I'm hungry, and I need help." When you see that, your first feeling is an act of compassion—you want to help. Please don't criticize me for observing—for six or seven years we worked at Restart and fed 500 homeless people a week. But in life, I've learned to not just see things like most people do; I learn to observe.

My first inclination was to give this guy something to help him; however, I put my own theory to work—seeing versus observing. I had some time, so I pulled around and sat in the lot across from where he was and observed for about 20 minutes while I drank a cup of coffee. After about five minutes, he lit up a cigarette. Now I don't care if you smoke or not; this isn't an anti-smoking message, (although I will tell you that the only people by design to have smoke in their lungs were people in hell). Now I'm thinking to myself that he doesn't have money for food, but he has money for cigarettes. Then, about 10 minutes into it, he pulls out a cell phone, and it was a better phone than I've got. Now I'm thinking...when you SEE something, you're moved with compassion, but when you OBSERVE, you see what's really going on. This guy, who's

supposed to be homeless and doesn't have money for food, has money for cigarettes and a nice cell phone. If he's homeless, where does he charge that cell phone every night? Does he have a hotline into a telephone pole someplace? You can see something, but when you observe what you've got, you see something else entirely. Now again, this is not a knock against homeless people. **My point is this, it's vital that you learn not just to see something at face value because face value sometimes can be deceiving.** In life as a Christian, you'd better learn to observe and not just see.

❖ Everything We Buy Today is Very Complicated – Use Your Quick Start Set-Up Book

My dad told me years ago, when I was looking to buy a car, to always get a six-cylinder Chevy because you can tune it up with a screwdriver and a set of plugs. That's all changed. When you buy a new phone or computer, they're terribly complicated. In fact, they have a mind of their own. Overnight the format changes, and then at its own time, it changes back. New cars have cameras everywhere and some can even drive for you. Everything comes with a thick owner's manual, which is also unbelievably complicated, but then they'll give you a quick start set-up booklet. It's got everything in it to get you up and running quickly. It's a little book that will save you time in setting it up and getting it running. It will have key areas in it showing you how to turn it on and off, how to set up your Bluetooth, program your favorite stations, check your battery life, etc. Always keep it handy so that when you must troubleshoot it, it's right there.

❖ Quick Start Ready Reference of Biblical Principles

The Christian life today also seems to be incredibly complicated. It's not, but the world makes it that way, especially when it comes to following the leading of God. **So, as a Christian, we need to have a quick start ready reference of biblical principles—something that you keep in your Bible or that you have with you, for the ones you encounter most often.** Things like a ready reference on relationships—the dangers of them and the principles that go along with them or your involvement with either a saved or lost person. Keep these principles on hand, so that when you're faced with something, you can pull out your little quick card and see what it is. Older folks could have principles on observing a ministry. I explained to the kids in Alpha Bravo the difference between seeing a ministry and observing it. When you see a ministry, it may look good on the outside, but when you observe it, the central question is what do they build? Do they build buildings or do they build people?

I had a pastor friend of mine whom I loved dearly, and he was good to me and my family. When he retired, they looked for another pastor. He asked me what he should be looking for as they tried to find the right guy to be the pastor. My goal was not to chastise him, but I thought to myself, why haven't you built somebody here and prepared them for the day you knew was obviously going to come in your life? He proceeded to tell me how the church was in such good shape, and it was financially. They had over \$400,000 in the bank. When you SEE it, it looks like a great deal, but when you OBSERVE it, you have to ask yourself—instead of building the church and building the finances (which are important), he should have been building people. They did find a guy, but he went through all that money in less than a year. He got all messed

up, hooked up with some gal, and murdered her husband. You see, just because you see something doesn't mean that when you observe it, it's got everything in its right place.

Observations are important in our lives, and we don't do it to criticize, but to learn for our own edification...so we don't make the same mistakes. I would never criticize anybody for making a mistake in life because I have made my share, but the problem is ... do you learn from them? The bottom line is that you don't learn by just seeing, you learn by observing. We need to have that ready reference. **We need to have and understand the great #1 principle—God never violates His own principles.** The principles are in the Bible for a reason.

I showed you four areas out of verse 8 that are the key to having the sure leading of God in your life, and to know that you're following Him and not yourself, somebody else, or some idea out there. The Bible tells us that we have...

- 2 Peter 1:19 tells us that we have a sure word of prophecy.
- Proverbs 11:18 tells us that we can have a sure reward.
- 2 Peter 1:10 tells us that we have a sure calling.
- Isaiah 28:16 tells us that we have a sure foundation.
- Isaiah 55: 3 tells us that we have God's sure mercies.

None of this means absolutely anything for the child of God if you don't have the sure leading of God in your life. Everything else is pointless. It's God's spiritual GPS system, and we like to turn it off because we always think we know how to get where we need to go better than He does.

Psalms 5:8 Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.

➤ Lead me, O LORD

I showed you where David said, *Lead me, O LORD* which was David's cry for God's leading in his life. We applied it to God's leading in our lives, and I showed you how you see the example of that in two places.

- In the Old Testament, when Israel came out of Egypt (a picture of you and I getting saved), God led them. We're told that he led them by a pillar of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. I took the time to lay each one of those out for you showing you how in the early stages of your Christian life, the leading of God is based around these two objects.
- The second place is found in Joshua 3:1-5. It's 40 years later, and the children of Israel have matured. Now they are ready to cross over (into the promised land). They don't use a pillar of a cloud and a pillar of fire, but now they focus on the ark of the covenant itself which is a picture of Christ. **That is a picture of you maturing and getting to the place in your life (that so many of you have), that now you are focused directly on the Lord Jesus Christ.** You don't need any of the similitudes. You're directly focused on the ark. Now you have matured to the place where you can follow it in your spiritual

maturity. I also showed you how they were to stay 2,000 cubits behind the ark which is a picture of the 2,000 years of church history.

➤ *In thy righteousness*

That's Christ Himself and the word of God He has given us—the ark. **You come to the place in time that you realize God's righteousness is Jesus Christ.** You got that righteousness when you got saved. Now that you have His righteousness, you also have the ability to follow that righteousness.

➤ *Because of mine enemies*

Psalms 119:98 Thou through thy commandments (there are the principles) hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they [are] ever with me.

Your enemies, God's enemies, are always going to be there to stop you...by design, not by accident.

2 Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

We talked about this Thursday night (02/01/2024). I laid it out taking you back in the Old Testament and showing you what those devices actually are.

➤ *Make thy way straight before my face*

He didn't just say make thy way straight, but added before my face... in other words, **He wants you to see the straight way He wants you to go.** It's before your face...you're looking at it. You can see it, and you observe it. And you never make the mistake that so many of God's people make—that I hear all the time, “Well, God led me” ...then you lose your marriage, family, kids, and God wasn't in it at all.

I told you that God's plan will have no side trips. The shortest route will always be the straightest direct route between two points.

I used to do seminars at churches on how to learn the Bible and giving keys on how to put it together. I'd always use the illustration that there are two ways to study your Bible—the easy way and the hard way. The example I'd use is going to St. Louis from Kansas City. There are two ways I can do that. First, I can get in my car and go east and arrive in just under four hours. The second way is to go west. I can go through Kansas, Denver, Nevada, California, get on a cargo boat, drive through India, go across southern Europe, get on another boat, arrive at New York, and arrive at St. Louis that way. Both routes will get you to St. Louis, but one route is ridiculous and would take forever. I would tell them that's what a lot of people do with the Bible. **The Bible is a very straight route for you to learn it. But some of God's people take the long route, and it takes forever and most of them never get it.**

II. Life is About the Choices we Make

I keep telling you this—we are going underneath the surface. We're not looking at Psalms like most of God's people look at it. And it's okay if they do that...just get the face value of it.

You now have the aspect of the Christian life and the leading of God defined for you, and as the Bible tells us, once we have the truth in hand (Romans 1:20), no matter what it may be, we are without excuse. There will never be another excuse now for us not following the principles and the leadership, and you now have all you need to face, to deal with, and to make correctly every decision in life because, as I have told you many times, life will be about the choices we make. It's just that simple. Without a doubt, without our learning to recognize the true leading of God in our lives, nothing else really matters. It just comes down to the fact that we either neglect it or we like to pick and choose out of the Bible what we really want to believe and hold to.

I've seen some of the most spiritual (and I'm using that word loosely) Pharisaical people that I've ever met in my life who would stand up and talk about how spiritual they are, but when it comes to areas in their life, they'll pick and choose what verses they want to apply. That's not spirituality.

Proverbs 27:7 The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

You have to take it all. But that's where we're at today, and that's the important part for you—to not just see something but to observe it. **Some things appear to be spiritually led, but when you observe them, they're not.** You don't just want to see the homeless man and think he's homeless; you want to observe the homeless man.

III. Psalms 5:9-10

❖ Defining the Enemy

We've talked a lot about the enemy, and today we're going to define the enemy. I think Psalms 5:9-10 does an incredible job of this—something we all need to know and understand. Here we see our enemy defined. We see his inner workings as he or she will try to stop us.

Now I've told you before that this is a tribulation Psalm. Keep that context in mind. Historically, it is David going through his tribulation and tough times. Doctrinally, it is the Jew going through their tribulation, and the antichrist and the enemies of God trying to stop them. **Inspirationally, it's for you and for me—how to follow the leading of God to stay away from those who will try to stop you. Because as a Christian, the Bible already told you that you're going to have enemies, and they're going to be forever with you.**

Now let's look at our two verses today.

Psalms 5:9-10 For [there is] no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part [is] very wickedness; their throat [is] an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue. 10. Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.

➤ *For [there is] no faithfulness in their mouth*

He says here that there is no faithfulness in their mouth for this group of people. In life, you're going to find some folks who you can't believe anything they say. A famous preacher once asked me how I could know if a particular guy was lying. When I asked how, he said his mouth moves. There are a lot of people like that. **You see, faithfulness is a character quality of God that we should all have—us being faithful to God as He is to us.**

Last week I talked about being in God's house and being part of it. Look how faithful God is to your house and how unfaithful so many of God's people are to His house. We talked about not allowing those who are not faithful to hurt us by observing and using the principles. **We stay with the leading of the Lord and keep away from those things that can hurt us and ultimately want to try to stop us.**

❖ Understanding Your Enemies

Now, I want to talk about understanding your enemies. Psalms, with anything in life, when it comes to the enemies of God or the enemies that you're going to face as Christians, you will find that **some enemies are clearly seen and in the open while some are behind the scenes and will work against you.** These are two important aspects.

When you look at our own country, you have two organizations that fight the terrorism and crime:

- The FBI—they do the field work for what happens in America. They'll put out the 10 most wanted list, and they'll work with the things out there that we all see. They have television programs, movies, and many things from which you can learn about the FBI.
- The CIA—you don't see a lot of publication about what they do. They work with the international side of things. You hardly find anything about the CIA because they work with enemies that are behind the scenes.

In your Christian life, you are going to have enemies that are very open to you and some that are not as open but are behind the scenes. Today we have Russia, North Korea, the Middle East, the Muslim groups...these are openly our enemies, and everybody knows it. We see it on the news and read about it.

Then you will have the groups, I personally think, which are much more dangerous. This will be groups like the Roman Catholic Church, Jehovah's Witnesses, Church of Christ, Mormons, Neo-evangelicals, the religious groups who behind the scenes look on the outside like they do good. I mean every movie you ever saw, from *Angels with Dirty Faces* to *The Exorcist*, the hero is always the Roman Catholic priest, but when you observe it in history, it's quite something else.

This is not a criticism; I'm an observer. I can observe something and make a statement on it and not have an axe to grind. But you take the Shriners. Now, they're an organization that does a lot of good. You see the little blurbs about them on the television helping the little kids with no arms and legs and taking care of them. Now that's a good thing, and I'm not fighting that. When you look at that, your first impression is that it's a great organization that you may want to support. Whether you do or you don't is immaterial. The bottom line is with what they teach those little kids who they help, and I'm all for helping them, but those little kids wind up dying and going to hell if somebody doesn't get the gospel to them.

I think of the Masons. They're in the parades, and they drive the little go-karts around and wear the little goofy hats. You'll see a bumper sticker that says, *I'm a Mason (or a Shriner). Stop me. I'll help.* They give the impression that they're a great organization, but I'm telling you right now—with what they teach... **those things exist for one reason and that is to replace the church of Jesus Christ in your life.** That's because guys that get into those things think that those organizations are just as good as the church because of the good things they do. And those people die and go to hell.

When Christ came at the first coming, it was the same way. It's the pattern. You had Rome who was the pagan government that everybody knew was against Christianity, and then you had the scribes, the Sadducees, and the Pharisees who were under the radar but were just as wicked if not more wicked.

The enemy will always come to you in two formats, which is the only point I'm trying to get across here. I'm not being critical of anything or anybody; I'm an observer. One enemy will be outwardly, the other one will be inwardly. You never want to forget that. And so it will be with us as Christians today—in both cases. Rome is still at work, and the scribes, Sadducees, and Pharisees are still around. This leads to the importance of God leading us, the importance of knowing your enemy, and the importance of learning to observe. Some will be our enemy openly. We see it in our own government with the liberals, the woke people, and the people in schools who want to take your child when they're five or six years old and have them question if they should really be a boy or a girl. That's the system outwardly.

Then you have the system inwardly that goes on around us—changing this country to destroy it. And then on the other hand, you have those that hide behind the cloak of doing good. Those loving God, but in truth, will work behind the scenes to stop you and to hurt you.

I've shown you many times Proverbs 6:16—the six things that God hates and the seventh being an abomination.

1. A proud look
2. A lying tongue
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations
5. Feet that be swift in running to mischief
6. A false witness that speaketh lies
7. He that soweth discord among brethren

I've shown you before how every one of those seven will fit into a time slot within the Bible.

I've also told you many times that this is the Bible's definition of the sins of lost men and women, but at the same time, don't think for a moment that these aren't the sins of the saints because every child of God, when he gets out of the leading of God, gets in the flesh, gets into the world, gets out of the Bible—he'll do these same things. You think a proud look doesn't get into a Christian's life? Really? You don't get out much. You think a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a false witness, and the greatest one... sowing discord among the brethren, don't get into a Christian's life? Are you kidding me? These are the sins of unsaved people outwardly, but these are the sins of the saints behind the scenes.

And of course, last week, **when you understand the leading of God in your life, you realize that through a life of principles, or I should say a principled life, you get wisdom and understanding.**

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

You see through the principles of the word of God, when you don't pick and choose, when you don't take the ones you want, or you don't forsake all of them... **through the principles you get wisdom and that wisdom in time will lead you to understanding.**

We can all relate to this example. In every school you had a principal, and he was the final authority on anything that the school did. Everything ran through him. Teachers couldn't do anything without the principal saying, "Yeah, you can do that." And for us, the word of God is our "principal", and it should have the final say in all things in life.

➤ *their inward part [is] very wickedness; their throat [is] an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.*

Here are four key areas to understanding your enemy. Proverbs 5:9 says the four things wrong with your enemy are:

1. Their mouth
2. Their inward parts
3. Their throat
4. Their tongue

The companion passage to break this down will be found in Romans 3, and we'll get there in just a little bit. Hopefully you remember the outline of the book of Romans. In chapter one, it shows you why and how the Gentiles are in the mess they're in. Chapter two shows you how the Jew is in the same exact mess as the Gentile just for a different reason. And chapter three shows us what the real issue is—the fact that there is nothing good in either the Jews or the Gentiles. There's nothing good in anybody. The Jews, who tried to follow the law but couldn't do it because they threw out the principles, or the Gentiles, who tried to follow their conscience, who got the word of God from the Jew but did the same thing with it.

And obviously we know that Romans Chapter three, if you're a soul winner, is one of the key places that you go to show somebody their need for Christ—that they are a sinner. **The Bible holds nothing back on the depravity of man. When the Bible says there is none that doeth good, no not one (Romans 3: 10-12), that's an understatement.** Man's depravity is laid out all through the Bible. And every one of us here is in the same boat with the total depravity of man, but **the thing that changed you from heading to hell (now you're going to heaven) was the day that you trusted Christ as your own personal Savior and then God made a difference in your life.**

The depravity of man is clearly laid out in the Bible.

- Jeremiah 17:9 says that man's heart is no good
- Romans 3:18 says that man's eyes are no good
- Romans 3:15 says that man's feet are no good
- Proverbs 24:9 says that man's thoughts are no good
- Genesis 6:5 says that man's imaginations are no good
- Isaiah 59:3 says that man's hands are no good

That's total depravity. That is man at his best, and Psalms 39:5 says *man at his best state [is] altogether vanity.* You and I will find these six things in people all your life. This is the base depravity of mankind because your enemies are ever with you. A saved man may have his eternal soul redeemed, but he is not redeemed from his flesh. We know from Colossians 2 what takes place. Where **an unsaved man is stuck TO his flesh**, and here comes the important part... **a saved man, even though he is separated from his flesh, is stuck WITH his flesh. We've got to deal with it every day, and this is where the principles of the word of God come in.** You and I have the same problems that any unsaved man or woman will have; however, we have the blood of Christ, and the salvation God gave us and the sealing of the Holy Spirit of God that now gives us the ability to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit of God even though we're still part of a fallen race.

IV. Romans 3:10-18 –The Companion Passage

In Psalms 5:9, we will find four areas that define a man as to what he says and why he says it, and the key will be found in Romans Chapter 3. This is where you get it defined out for you.

Romans 3:10-18 (And we're going to see the depravity of man here) As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

The liberal churches will tell you that in every man and woman is a divine spark and that divine spark is the little bit of light of God that is inside every man or woman. All you have to do is fan

that little spark, and it will lead you to Christ. There could be nothing further from the truth. We've already seen that if there's a fire in you, a little spark, it's going to turn into a blazing inferno in the lake of fire. It's not going to lead you to Christ because as you see here—there's none that understandeth, there's none that doeth good, and none that seeketh after God. **That's why God came to seek and to save that which was lost, because if he didn't, you and I would be in a world of hurt.** But we weren't going to seek after Him. He reached out to you.

13. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps (that's a poisonous snake in the Middle East) [is] under their lips: 14. Whose mouth [is] full of cursing and bitterness: 15. Their feet [are] swift to shed blood: 16. Destruction and misery [are] in their ways: 17. And the way of peace have they not known: 18. There is no fear of God before their eyes. Now that is exactly what we're reading in Psalms chapter 5.

*Mark 7:20-23 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21. For from within (there it is), out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22. Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23. All these evil things **come from within**, and defile the man.*

You see, it all starts inside of man just like it says in Psalms 5:9. It all starts in the inward part of man in his attitude of heart toward God and the things of God. And once it starts there, we see it all put together. **Now the tongue will express them through the mouth, out of a throat that is an open sepulchre** (which is a graveyard or a tomb full of dead men), and this is the principle of Matthew 12:34.

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? (you can't) for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Remember, and this is very important, the only thing a saved man cannot do that an unsaved man can do is to go to hell. Believe me, when you look at 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and compare that with Galatians 5:19-21, you'll see one of the greatest doctrinal teachings anywhere in the Bible that shows you that a saved person can do the exact same things that an unsaved person can do. **The only difference is that an unsaved person will BE those things. A saved person can never be those things, but in the flesh, they'll DO those things.**

And if you think in life that God's people will not to try to stop you, not hate you for the Bible you believe, not hate you for the ministry and the people you reach, if you think for a moment that all your enemies are going to be the outward enemies or the government, let me tell you something...**the biggest enemies you'll have will be God's people who claim to be saved (probably are), say they love God, go to church, and will spend their whole life trying to stop you from doing what you're doing.** They hate the Book and the principles. Wiser than your enemies, folks...for they are ever with you.

V. Going Underneath the Surface - Psalms 5:10

Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.

➤ *Destroy thou them, O God;*

You probably don't know this, but **this is called an imprecation prayer which is a prayer where somebody asks God to kill somebody.** Well hang on—don't get your hopes up just yet. Now you see this quite a bit in the book of Psalms—like Psalms 109, Psalms 137, and other places. And this is David praying, under the Old Testament law, to kill his enemies. **Now in the Old Testament, where you're not under grace but you're under law, you could do that.** In fact, under the law, if a man was doing what was right and following the law, he could claim two things and God would have to give them to him.

1. Kill his enemies
2. Make him rich

And this is why, when you get into the gospels, that Jesus said, *It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.* And the disciples looked at each other and said, "Well, who then can be saved?" You know why? Because under the Old Testament, riches were a proof of your godliness, but that was the Old Testament under the law. That's the difference between being under a terrible, strict law and under the freedom of grace that we have today. **Under grace, there is no imprecation prayer.** Under grace we can't ask God to kill somebody.

In fact, 1 John 5:16 says *If any man see his brother sin a sin [which] is not unto death (your garden variety sin), he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death.* (And then he says this) *There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.* Now there are certain sins between God and that person that God will take a person home for, so there is a sin unto death. We think because a person did us wrong, it just has to be the sin unto death; not necessarily so. If that was a sin unto death, we'd all be dead because every one of us has lied to God, betrayed God, and did something like the person did to you at some point in our life. It could be, however, when you take the Lord's Supper unworthily. That's very clear, but that doesn't mean that God is going to kill everyone who does it. It doesn't mean that He won't, but that is a legitimate place.

But in the Old Testament you could ask God, if you were doing right and you were righteous, to kill enemies like David did, and God would kill them. You could also have great riches because of the fact that you were Godly like Abraham and Job.

There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. **We don't have a right in the New Testament, because we're under grace, to pray that God kill somebody.** I heard a prayer request one time where a guy got up and said his wife was really ill; in fact, she was laying at death's door—and his prayer request was that God pull her through! It doesn't work that way. **God deals with people in His own time and in His own way.**

➤ *let them fall by their own counsels*

The next thing, and I caution you on this one—be careful what you say because it says here let them fall by their own counsels. Now this is a great, unknown principle in the Bible. **God will**

judge a man out of his own mouth or out of the counsel that he takes or gives to hurt somebody. You see this with an unsaved man; he asks God to damn everything, and he tells people to go to hell. So, you know what God is going to do with an unsaved man at the great white throne judgement? He's going to judge him right out of his own mouth, and he'll wind up being damned by God and going to hell. It's just that simple. We know the devil plans to wipe out the Nation of Israel. He's going to get Israel trapped down in the valley of Armageddon. He's going to try to wipe them out, but you know what happens. He gets wiped out in the valley of Armageddon.

You see this in Luke 19:11-22 with the parable of the pounds and the unfaithful steward. God gives each man ten pounds. One guy doubles it, and when God comes back, He gives him twice of what he gave him. Another guy hides it and doesn't do anything with it, and when God comes back, he says he knew he was an austere man, and God judges him out of his own mouth. That's the way it works. It's one of the most incredible unknown principles in the word of God. I always tell people—if you can't say something nice about somebody then just shut your mouth because it's going to come back and bite you.

2 Samuel 12 is a good one—David and Nathan. David had taken Bathsheba, had her husband killed, and tried to cover it all up; God sends Nathan in. He puts it into a little metaphoric story. Well king, there was this great guy (that would be you) who had everything and there was this poor guy down here that had one little lamb (that would be Uriah and Bathsheba). And the rich man (you, David) took that little lamb from that guy who had nothing. David is outraged! He says the man who did that will pay back fourfold, and about that time old Nathan pointed that bony finger in his face and tells David that he is the man. And you know what? God judged David out of his own mouth, and he gave up four of his boys—four lambs for one.

I know there are times that we must deal with things rightly, and you stay with the Biblical principles. Paul laid it out...you got enemies, deal with them; mark those that cause division—I get that; however, this idleness of just destroying somebody because you don't like them and saying things against them to hurt them with somebody else.... Be careful what you say.

Other examples:

- Back in Judges 1:7 you have Adoni-bezek. He says we've got these captive guys here—cut off their thumbs and cut off their big toes... and down the line that's what happened to him.
- In Exodus 1:22, Pharaoh said to drown all the babies and throw them in the river. A little bit later on, Pharaoh and his army drown in the Red Sea.
- Zedekiah said to dump Jeremiah in prison, and a little bit later Zedekiah gets dumped in prison and dies there.
- Haman says to build gallows to hang Mordecai, and Haman later takes his place and gets hung.
- The Jews at the first coming of Christ said "Crucify him, crucify him," and when Titus came down in 70 AD, he crucified a thousand Jews on both sides of the road outside the city of Jerusalem.

And the principle found in Psalms 7:15... *He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch [which] he made.*—be careful what we say.

➤ *cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.*

A few weeks ago, I gave you Psalms 5:7 where we talked about the multitude of God's mercy. Today we see the other side of it. **Here we see the multitude of somebody's transgressions,** and now we come to the heart of the whole matter of the enemy of God. (Yes, those who will be your enemies, too). It's the word rebellion. **He says they have rebelled against thee. It's not necessarily rebellion against God the person, but rebellion against God's word—rebellion against the principles.**

Remember the war against God with Israel was about getting rid of His word; they kept the concept of God even in their apostasy. And for us today, the war in America against God started in 1888 when they dumped His word, and here we are over 100 years later—no Bible but we still hold the concept of God. We rebelled against His word—and that rebellion can be by unsaved people, like we see it in our country with the unsaved leaders, or saved people who pick and choose or just flat out reject the word of God and a principled life.

In I Samuel 15:23 we see that as far as God is concerned, *rebellion is [as] the sin of witchcraft.* The context will be about Saul rebelling against the principles of God in his disregard for the word of God in making the sacrifice. **Now keep in mind that Saul was a prophet and a king, but he was not a priest, and he could not offer the sacrifice. That was a clear violation of the principle,** so Samuel was late in coming that day, and it was getting close to the time they needed to make the sacrifice. Saul said that he forced himself to do it, and God killed him for that. Saul is a great picture of what I'm trying to get across to you as a child of God, a pastor, or whoever that likes to pick and choose out of what God gave him, and then he rebels against what he doesn't like.

Samuel says in 1 Samuel 15:22 *Behold, to obey (the principles of the word of God) is better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken (to the principles) than the fat of rams.* In other words, what you do that is good is cancelled out when you throw out the principles of the word of God and do it based on the way you want to do it. That's Saul.

VI. Summary

At the heart of defining your enemy, you will always find two things when it comes to them and the word of God:

1. A complete disregard for the word of God and its principles, or
2. A picking and choosing of the principles of the word of God—keeping the ones that they will use to show everybody how spiritual they are though getting rid of the ones that define who they really are.

It's the difference between seeing and observing. In any situation, you don't want to just see it. **You learn to observe it using the principles of the word of God, proving all things, holding fast to that which is good for our own protection....so you don't follow a man who is unprincipled.** Never lose sight of the key principles of the word of God and watch and observe for someone who picks and chooses because those are the ones who are going to get you in trouble.

Always keep your Quick Start Ready Reference of Biblical Principles handy. Keep the key things that you want to observe right there so when you see it, even if you have a memory lapse, it's somewhere in your Bible—the reference points. Reference points of observation; not just seeing. Just like back in our school days, the principal had the final say. And for us today, wisdom is the principal thing, and when you get it, you'll get understanding.

Now defining your enemies isn't so you can go out and ask God to kill your enemy. It's so you can understand that enemies are going to be there both outwardly and inwardly to stop you. You have to use the principles to keep that from happening, and this is how you define who you allow in your life and who you don't. I've seen many a young guy or gal lose everything that God had for them because they got involved with somebody who liked to pick and choose out of the Bible what they wanted to follow, and it wound up being a disaster. And they may have stayed together in a marriage all their life, but I'm going to tell you, no matter what good you do, no matter how good it looks, no matter what your good works are, if you don't have the sure leading of the Holy Spirit of God in your life, you're wasting your time. **And the only way you can be sure is to have the principles of the word of God and you're sure that God is leading you through the principles...**not because you want to follow somebody, do something, or some pipe dream that you're going to go do some great thing that violates every principle in the word of God.

It has to come back in your life and my life to the things that keep us safe—the **safety net of Christianity will be the principles of the word of God.** Learn them, but until that time, get your little startup card. Get the key principles on there and memorize them. **Learn to observe instead of just seeing something because your enemies are ever going to be there to stop you.** There'll never be a day in your life, until Jesus comes back, that somebody or something isn't going to try to get into your world to stop what God is doing. And if you think that isn't true, you're very naïve when it comes to life because to God you are the most precious thing. That's why He died for you. That's why He gave you the word of God. That's why men and women paid the price in blood down through the 2,000 years of church history...so we could have it today. All to keep us from making the wrong choices in life and having the principles that guide us through it.