

## I. Review

Last week we finished up Psalms 12 and it is one of the best places in the Bible that begins the process of **our understanding that we have a perfect, pure Bible, found in the King James 1611 Authorized Version**. There is so much in those three verses Psalms 12:6-8. I truly believe the study of God's word and Him giving it down to man is the greatest study you can ever take after salvation. Until God's people understand what you have with your Bible, the fact that it is perfect, pure and the very words of God, **it won't effectually work in you until you believe it!**

*For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received [it] not [as] the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. 1Thessalonians 2:13*

There are **two supernatural events down through the history of the world, one is God's Son and the other is God's word**. You cannot separate the two. John 1:1 says, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" As you might expect, the devil will use the world and higher Christian education to destroy both of them.

In this country there is a culture of deception. The war against the common man. The elite people in the government who think we cannot function in life without some mega government overshadowing everything that we do. The truth is, 95% of you in this service this morning could fix what is wrong with this country. You know in a heartbeat, because you are common people with common sense. There is a war against the common man. There is a spirit and culture of deception to tell you everything is okay, and you are stupid if you don't think that it is.

You see the same thing in Christianity higher education. A culture of deception. The elite Bible scholars think we as common men and woman can't figure out the Bible without them. They think we are so stupid that we can't have a Bible and read it for ourselves. They think they need to tell us what the Bible really means. Thinking that we can't find God without them. The key that they hate and want to stop is the common man with a common Bible who can see right through the deceit of both. Both think we are stupid and need them to get along in life. Of course, we do not! I told you last week that through out my ministry I have seen so many good young men and women have their lives destroyed. Kids who I looked at and thought they had such great potential. Then they go off to some Bible college and in three years' time they come out completely destroyed in believing that there is any such thing as a perfect Bible and a perfect, pure word of God.

In 2006 they developed what is called the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities. Forty-seven colleges in sixteen states. In that list of forty-seven there is not one that believes or teaches that you have a perfect Bible that you can trust for everything in your life, in faith and practice. Every one of them will destroy a young man's faith in the King James 1611 Authorized Version.

You know from last week that **there is only one structure that God has ordained to preserve the word of God and to teach the word of God. It is a New Testament local church just like this one.** Years ago I dedicated my life to holding up and declaring the word of God. You notice that I did not say, to defend it. **The word of God does not need me to defend it. It just needs me and you to declare it.** The proof of that is to look around you today. Look around at the young men and young ladies in this church that are solid in what they believe. They understand the ministry. It is also the middle-aged people and the over sixty people who have spent 30-40 years serving God and that Bible. They are great examples to the younger ones of what a life in Christ can be and what the Bible can do for you.

I have said it many times that my goal from day one in the ministry was to build Philadelphian Christians in a Laodicean church age. Training future generations, building leaders to hold the line and keep proclaiming and declaring the word of God.

I remember when we taught Proverbs 31 and the story of the virtuous woman. We know that the virtuous woman is a picture of the church. She represents what each one of us should be. But in verse 16 God showed me that she represented what I should be. It simply says:

*She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.*  
*Proverbs 31:16*

I saw years ago that according to Matthew 13:38, the field is the world. I also understood that when Jesus came to this earth; “*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son....*” that **He died for the field** (the world). When I saw my part on what God would have me to do, I realized very quickly that **God never intended for me to buy “the field”, the world. But He did intend for me to buy “a field”.** In 1976 I came to Kansas City, a long time ago. When we started this church over twenty years ago, we started with twelve people in my kitchen. For fifty years this has been the work of my hands. Planting fruit bearing trees with seed within itself that will reproduce itself and this church is the vineyard. That is what the job of the church is and of the pastor. We should buy a field with the same intensity that God’s Son bought the field. The word of God.

## II. Psalms 13 Buying a Field

Today we are going to look at Psalms 13.

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

Doctrinally, this is a tribulation Psalm. It is Israel going through their time of trouble. You can see the tremendous struggle and distress as they face what is before them. Notice a reference to “*how long wilt thou hid thy face...*”. Remember what I showed you in Matthew 13 and other places? That is exactly what God does with Israel in the church age and in the tribulation.

Historically, this will be David. David has his time of struggle. David faces in his life many struggles that you can see throughout his writings in the book of Psalms. It is obvious that he is dealing with some things here. So you and I as believers can expect this too in our lives.

Inspirationally, this will be where many of God’s people find themselves today. So many of God’s people are overwhelmed with the issues of life. They have become swallowed up by the bad choices they have made. They feel like God has abandoned them and they are alone in their trouble. God’s people today are defeated and broken. Many times people are after them, they lie about them and to them. They will use and deceive them. Sometimes it is because of their stand for God. Sometimes it is because of the bad relationships that they have put themselves in. It doesn’t really matter; **God has the answers for both.** I understand what people go through. The feelings that come with times like these. You don’t work with people on the intimate level that we do and not bear their burdens and share the burden of what they are going through. I understand how God’s people can get to the place where they say, God, how long will you forget me? How long will you hide your face from me? No blessings, I take counsel of my soul and there is no relief in anything. Sorrow is daily in my own heart and I see those that are against me. It seems like they are exalted over you. When you get like this as they are in Psalms 13, then we lose sight of the great promises and principles that God has provided for us through that perfect word of God.

You all know that a major part of our ministry here is our counseling ministry. Helping people, help themselves. Helping people who find themselves in these same circumstances just like you find here in Psalms 13. The Bible is so clear that we as human beings are so fragile and prone to make mistakes that will carry severe consequences for many years to come. Job 5:7 is a great verse that lays out the state of man.

*Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward. Job 5:7*

Most of the issues that God’s people have many times stem from making bad choices. We have to be able to help them with their issues. Our compassion for them. I never blame them for making bad choices. Many times they got into these situations because there was nobody there to help them. They had no church, no Bible, no pastor or Christian friends. We already know that we are prone for the sparks to fly upward and get into trouble. When God sends people to us, we never judge them. You have compassion for them, you accept them, you try to get them on track. Because in their lives they are going through a flood of emotions. Those emotions will overwhelm them. Just as it did David and will do Israel. Psalms 13 tells us people today will go through the same issues and we need to help them sort it out and try to get them on some solid foundation.

Basically, this is man’s problem 101. **Man will have problems and issues for two basic reasons.** The unsaved man has problems because he has no God. He has no power over

anything in his life. He is like a volleyball that gets bounced back and forth over the net of life. The Bible cannot do anything for him. Not until he comes to that point where he trusts Christ as his own personal savior. So, he feels incomplete, because he is, and he makes the mistake of putting the things of this world into his life and thinking that will make him happy. Of course it doesn't. After ten, fifteen, twenty years he has a garage full, spiritually speaking, of all kinds of junk that now is complicating everything in his life. He still is not happy or fulfilled because he is trusting in all the wrong things. What happens is by the time he gets 40-50 years old they go through what the medical world calls a mid-life crisis. A mid-life crisis is nothing more than a guy or a woman getting to the middle part of their life and realizing there is nothing there. Then they get depressed and then the problems come in. Then they start drinking and doing this or that. This is why they have problems

**The saved person** has problems. When you get saved you have everything you need to never have another issue dominate you in your life. You also have everything you need to get back on track. But here is what happens with them. They are saved, they have the Holy Spirit of God, but they never get the things of God in their life. They go the way of the world. They get the wrong relationships, they don't ever come to church, or they don't get involved when they do come to church. After 10-20 years of that, they realize how empty they are. They have never put the things of God in their life.

Several years ago, I trained probably a hundred or more of you in what we called the People Ministry. Simply helping people. Man, who was created by God (Genesis 2), is a spiritual being. He was not a product of evolution. He was created in Genesis 1-2 with a body, soul and spirit and he is a spiritual creation. So, his issues are going to be spiritual and the answer to his issues will have to be dealt with in a spiritual form which we know as the word of God.

I have a lot of couples that come in with marital problems. Many of you have heard this line that I tell them. They come in with all kinds of issues and problems, and I try to give them some kind of understanding of a plan of where we can go from here. But they have to understand what the problem is first. So, I tell them, your issues between you two remind me of the day that I went home and Barb told me that the dishwasher was broken. She wants to call the Maytag man. But I tell her before we do that, let's get the owner's manual because maybe there is a reset button or something. So, I look through every manual. Every manual is there except the dishwasher manual. So I took the washing machine manual and told Barb I am going to fix the dishwasher with the manual from the washing machine. She says, what? I say they both use water, they both use soap and they both get things clean. What are my chances of fixing the dishwasher with the manual from the washing machine? They are two different designs and two different handbooks. I tell them this is what is wrong with your marriage. You got married which is ordained by God and you tried to run your marriage outside the guidebook for marriage that God gave you. This is why you are having the problems you are having. We are carbon 14 units. We are made out of the dust of the ground. **I am telling you the owner's manual for all of us carbon 14 units is the word of God.** It will define why we have problems. It will show you how to keep from getting into problems, and it will show you how to fix it when you do get into problems.

Last week I gave you two great things. I gave you a supernatural God, who gave you a supernatural Book. Today I am going to give you the third one. **We have a supernatural God, and we have a supernatural Book, but what we ought to have, is a supernatural life.** A life that is different from everybody else in this world. A life that is different and shines in the darkness so that people that are lost can look at our lives and say I want to be like that. I want to be happy like her. I want to be happy like him. What stops this supernatural life that God has given us is that we allow strongholds in our lives. Because we are fragile, because we struggle, because we make bad choices; we allow those strongholds in our lives to take us off track.

In the Bible you will find two main types of strongholds:

- 1.) Satanic Strongholds
- 2.) Fleshly Strongholds

In 2 Samuel 5, the Bible lays out the greatest study on how to break those strongholds. You get a step by step process. The Bible will have the answer to every issue man has, because it is the owner manual that God has given us as God's creation.

Two key words missing today in Christianity:

- 1.) Overcome
- 2.) Victory

*1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God **overcometh** the world: and this is the **victory** that **overcometh** the world, [even] our faith.*

These two are the key to a solid Christian life that gets the job done. In 1 John 5:4 it says "...even our faith" and in Romans 10:17 it says:

*So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

It all goes back to the Bible. God's people today, for the most part, live a defeated life, overwhelmed and broken, just like Psalms 13. It doesn't have to be that way. There is no overcoming in their life, no victory in their life. Yet, there is an answer to all this and something you can do. What is the answer to overcoming and getting the victory? Doing what you need to do. **God intended us to live a victorious life.** We fall into Psalms 13, but God can get you to fall out of it, if you just do what you need to do.

Look at verse 3 of Psalms 13 "**Consider** [and] *hear me, O LORD...*" To me the word consider is a key word in this verse. When you look at the word consider, it means to think carefully about something before you make a decision. To consider something is to look at it and to be drawn to a choice or a decision. Most of God's people find themselves in Psalms 13. They want God to stop and consider them just like it says in verse 3. But the truth of the matter is that they never stop and consider Him. **For our Christian life, the word consider will be the key.** Like the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31:16. She considers a field and then she bought it.

### III. Hebrews 12:1-2

1. *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.*

I want you to see that **Hebrews 12:1-3 goes along with Psalms 13 because directly this is written to the nation of Israel** in the book of Hebrews. **It is us inspirationally**, but this ties right into what the Jew was going through. There are some things I want you to see that is true for Israel, but is also true for us in a practical way.

First, I need to make sure you understand that the great cloud of witnesses is not the Jehovah Witnesses. It is not all the people that went to heaven before us and are up there cheering us on. The great cloud of witnesses is in the previous chapter 11. You will find there are sixteen saints of God that go through the same things that we go through. Those are the cloud of witnesses that it is talking about.

Then you are told lay aside every weight and the sin that doeth so easily beset us. The word beset means to surround or to harass on every side. To be completely overrun or overtaken by something or someone. This is the context of the Jew in Psalms 13. The nation of Israel in the Old Testament had a race to run. They had something that God wanted them to accomplish. But they allowed things to come in and they are not considering Jesus anymore; they have completely written Him out of everything. But they are in this horrible time whining and looking up and saying, *where are you God, why don't you consider us?* **But the real question is why don't we consider Him?** Verse 2 says, *looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith*. The author for Israel, that is Genesis 12-15 with Abraham. That is where it started. Salvation for you and me is of the Jew, John 4:22. The finisher is the cross which Israel rejected in Matthew 12-13 and they are told that in Hebrews 12:3 to consider Him. If you don't learn to do that then we like Israel, it says (verse 3) will get wearied and faint in your minds. We find ourselves asking God to consider our affliction. To consider our sorrow of heart in our adversity, because it is all about us and what we are going through. In Christianity as a whole, most of God's people are so selfish and self-centered, that they will never stop and consider Him first when they get into a jam. They don't understand why they got into it in the first place. They don't figure anything out. It is like they are lost in this great void. So, the self-pity comes in, the victimizing comes in, and you look up and you say, oh God, why me? Oh God help me through this. Will you consider my affliction? I guarantee you, people who find themselves in Psalms 13 have never considered Him like Hebrews 12 lays it out. The witness, the weights, the sin, the race. They have never one time considered Him in life like Hebrews 12. Yet, they considered

buying a house, they considered buying a car, they considered who they are going to marry. But they never stopped and considered Him. I will tell you something else; I have never found one in over fifty years that was in all of that mess, never stopped to consider a field, and then bought that field. It is all about them and what they want.

I am no different than anyone else. My feet are clay just like yours. I have struggles in my life just like you. In the ministry, especially pastoring, you are going to find yourself under attack. And many of you who are working in ministry with people, already know what I am talking about. Some folks will love you, some folks will hate you. Some folks will love to hate you. That is the way it is going to be. **When you take your stand for the word of God there will be a price that has to be paid.** You will find people who don't want to consider anything about Him. They certainly don't want to consider a field. They want to consider their kids or their jobs. They want to consider themselves. When they get into some big mess they say, God why won't you consider where I am at? Because you have not considered where He is at.

I have never felt like I am being unfairly persecuted. Not one time. I have never fainted in my heart. I never wanted to quit. When I was trained as a young man 2 Timothy 2:3-5 was drilled into me. I could say it forwards and backwards in my sleep. I was taught to endure a hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 12:1-3 for me has always been a solid principle for me. Because if you look at it you see that it is a warning to the faithful; based on the sixteen characters who are the witnesses in chapter 11. For me to be warned is to be forearmed and understand what you are up against. When I get into the thick of things I don't run and whine for God to consider me and my trouble. When it is on me because I caused my own problems, I own it. I will deal with it and I will get it right. But I already know and expect that the spiritual warfare the believer faces is going to be against anything that we try and do for the Lord.

## IV. Four Ways to Consider Him

I have learned that the greatest value key for me is to consider Him. I consider Him in four ways. I want to give you these four ways today because it has worked for me. I have found that when I do this it puts everything back into perspective and gives me a solid context of my life. Which I need 365 days a year. You will learn to run the emotions of your life, whether you cause them or not, or whether they come because of your stand, through the word of God and instead of around the word of God. Simply by considering Him in four areas.

### 1.) Consider Who He Was

God's supernatural gift to man. That is who He was. He was God's Son called by God and given a mission. God had a plan for Him. He was to take the word of God to the world and declare it to everybody and He paid the price for that. They hated Him, they rejected His message. Some of His followers turned on Him. They betrayed Him, they walked out of His life. They lied about Him, they lied to Him. They conspired behind His back. They equated His work of the Holy Spirit of God with the work of the devil. All three and a half years of His earthly ministry He never had a moment of rest. He took His stand for God and He raised that blood-stained banner of the gospel of Jesus Christ high for everybody to see. He knew who He

was and what He had to do. **When I consider Him, I consider who He was and then who I am.** Because I too am a son of God with my own mission (SO ARE YOU). Just as the world and His own people hated Him, they will hate you just as they will hate me. There is a great example of this and God gives you these through the years as you go through things. In Luke 23, there is a great story where Christ is on the way to be crucified. He is struggling carrying the cross because He has been beaten and He is weak. The cross probably weights a couple hundred pounds. The Bible says in Luke 23:26 that they grabbed Simon a Cyrenian and made him help Christ carry the cross to Calvary. As he helped bear the cross, I guarantee you that howling mob that hated truth and everything about God's Son with such as disdain, that they made no distinction between Simon and Christ. He was subject to all the hatred and the things that they threw at him, the things that they did, the beating and the whipping and the mocking. He bore the brunt of it because he was simply carrying the cross with the true Son of God.

**The key to the victorious Christian life is to know who you are in Christ and consider who He is.** When you really understand who you are, **THEN** you are willing to pay the price of bearing His cross too. But you will have to bear the shame and reproach just as He did. Just as Simon did. But I am going to tell you today, it takes a special kind of person to do that. It takes a special kind of man or woman to take a stand and withstand bearing that cross. When you take your stand, you better understand and consider who He was and the stand He took. Then take your stand based on that.

## 2.) Consider What He Endured

The Bible says, "...for the joy that was set before Him He endured the cross despising the shame and then set down on the right hand of God". Most of God's people will never understand this. There is a real joy in enduring His cross. There is a great joy of taking the abuse and the ridicule for your stand, just as He took for you in His stand. It is a real joy knowing that after all He has endured for me, that I can now endure this for Him.

Psalms 13:2 says, "*How long shall I take counsel in my soul?*" In the Old Testament you know that the body and the soul are stuck together. So, he is talking about somebody looking into their own heart as a human being and trying to take counsel of their own human heart. That will always lead to sorrow. **You need supernatural answers for your spiritual problems that can only be found in the word of God.** Seeing what you are going through as the price we must pay.

Luke 14:28 is another verse that most of God's people don't understand. They get saved, but they never counted the cost if they were to take a stand.

*For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it]? Luke 14:28*

You are going to lose friends. You are going to lose people that don't want to be part of that intensity of buying a field. But just like Christ in Hebrews 12:2, we know at the end, after the enduring is over, we get to sit down around the throne of God and rejoice with a joy that we endured and paid the price. Somebody asked my father in the Lord Mel Sabaka, "*Are you*

enjoying your salvation or are you enduring your salvation?" He was never without an answer. He said, I am enjoying my enduring. **Knowing that we have overcome, there lies the victory!**

### 3.) Consider What He Became

*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.*

*Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

It was the most contradictive thing in the world to equate my Jesus with sin. Yet that is exactly what God did in paying for your sin and mine. He was the perfect Son of God. The apple of God's eye. He was everything that God had in fellowship with Him. Yet God turned His back on Him. God made Him sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. That was for me and for you! I want to tell you something, when I consider that, when I consider who He was, and what He endured and then what He became. How could I ever not take it for Him? If you really understand that and you really appreciate what He did, then how do we stay so lethargic? How do we stay so non-committed? How do we do that? He never quit, so I will never quit. He never fainted; I am not going to either. I look at these pastors when they reach 65 years of age and they have spent twenty or thirty years in the ministry, and they retire. You should have never got into the ministry in the first place. Ecclesiastes 8:8 says there is no discharge from this war. We stay in it until you can't do it anymore and then you do it some more. You stay in it and never quit because He never quit.

I have learned in life that only one of two things will happen to us. We will either get swallowed up by the world or we will get swallowed up by the things of God. The key to it all is not looking at ourselves, but looking unto Jesus. Considering who He was, seeing what He endured and considering what He became. So, you tell me how do I feel sorry for myself. Some people are not going to like you. Some people will say this or that about you. I get it! I understand. I only know one thing, hold the Book (word of God) high! The Bible says, if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me. But the other side of that verse is you will chase some of them away.

*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all [men] unto me. John 12:32*

How do I faint in my heart? How do I quit? How do I retire and say okay I am going to take it easy because I have done my part. You are never done doing your part until God calls you home.

### 4.) He Considered the World and Bought It

How do I not see my responsibility as a son of God, (like Him) with a mission that God gave me, (like Him). How can I not consider a field, (like Him) and buy it and pay the price for it, then plant a vineyard. Mom and dad, planting a vineyard starts with your family. Training your kids to be a ministry team together. To serve the Lord together, to minister together. That is where you start your vineyard. Then you reach out to others. Through the people in your family that

you bring to Christ it grows into a garden of God bearing fruit bearing trees. Whose seed is in itself, Holy Spirit of God. **Now through considering Him, and not just yourself, you can run the race that is set before you.**

I won't lie to you. Serving the Lord is going to have its days. Any price you pay for anything of value is going to cost you something. I don't know any other way to do it once you get saved and consider Him. After all He has done for me, I am going to do nothing for Him? Then when I get in a jam I am going to look up and say oh God will you consider my affliction? But you never considered His!

I am going to give you a key, a personal thing that I learned. When I was thirteen or fourteen, for Christmas I got my first shotgun. I wanted this more than anything in the whole wide world. I also got two boxes of shells. The next day we went practice shooting with my new shotgun. By the time I got finished practice shooting my little arm was so sore from the recoil of the shotgun, I couldn't lift it. We were supposed to go rabbit hunting the next week and I was not sure I could shoot the gun again. It really hurt! But we went rabbit hunting that next week and I remember I got out of the car and loaded up. Boy, I was excited! All of a sudden, a big rabbit pops up and takes off. Dad says, take him. I missed the first one, but put the second shell in and that rabbit just flipped right over. That was the first rabbit I ever killed. I was so proud of that thing, and I got back to the car after it was all over. I got three or four rabbits that morning. When I put my gun down it suddenly hit me. My arm doesn't hurt at all. I didn't feel any of that. Years later when I got into the ministry and tough times came like they will for you I realized a great truth about that day. You don't feel the kick of something when you are aiming to hit something. It is when you are not aiming at anything, and you are just going through life, that the kicks of the recoil of life really hurt. They don't hurt nearly as bad when you are focused on a target for the Lord Jesus Christ. Learn that lesson!

## V. Summary

This is a great Psalm for all of us. You are the best people on the planet, and I would not trade you guys for anybody. But we all find ourselves in Psalms 13 at some point. It will defeat you because that is what the devil wants. He wants to take away the fact that you are an overcomer and take the victory from you. The only way you can get out of that whining mode mindset of woe is me, is for you to put that aside and consider Him. Consider who He was. Consider what He endured. Consider what He became, then have a target that you shoot at in life. That will absorb the recoil of the world. You consider a field and then you buy it. That is the job of each one of us. That is what this church is all about. Some of you today are the fruit of my hands and you have grown up and look at the people you have brought. The people that you have won to Christ. The people that you are working with. **That is the way a vineyard grows!**