

Revelation 12 (Luke 12) (Conrad Bowman) (June 15, 2008)

Ok. You've got a lot of stuff this morning to pick up. There's a single page over there that looks like this called, "Doing Right." In Paul's ministry. It's on the table, and you can pick it up later. And it's a short one pager that says, to do right is to stay centered on the ministry of the Gospel as you tend to your personal business. You remember 1st Thes. 4:11 where it says,

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life. Tend to your own business, and work with your own hands.

So that's what this little one pager is all about. Does not call the so-called full time service activities that we've come to recognize as ministry. And the purpose of this little one pager is to impress on you again that ministry is not what the professionals, quote, that we send out to do the ministry is what each one of us do with the Gospel on daily basis in our regular activities. That's what ministry is.

Gentleman. Can it be both?

Conrad Bowman. It's absolutely both, because the guys that we send out spend all their time aimed at that; and we don't. We have our attention divided between family and making money and supporting those people that are out there and other things. That's part of what we do. And our calling is to do just that. That's as much a calling as their calling is to go out there and take the Gospel in certain venues on a regular basis. But the purpose should be the same. And content of what we take is what's all important. Now you have Revelation 12, and what I've given you in this handout that's also on the table, is Tim LaHaye's, right out of his book, it's his whole chapter on Revelation 12. And he's got some very good comments in it, and I thought you would benefit from it. And he quotes from J. Vernon McGee, and several other people that – names you ought to be familiar with. So, I copied the whole chapter, and you've got that in a handout. Phil's got it, and it's coming around. And it's labeled, "Satan Verses Israel." And that's what we get in Revelation, chapter 12. Now if you look at Revelation chapter 12 and we start through that, here's what we see.

1. A great sign appears in heaven ...

1. A great sign appeared in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;

You'll notice the first thing about this woman, she wraps herself in with light, and the light is the sun. That's the sign that we see. This is a counterfeit of God who wraps Himself in light as a garment, from Psalm 104 (124?), first four verses. So,

1. A great sign appeared in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;

Now, what is the moon, in typology? We know what the sun is. The sun represents the Lord Jesus. God the Son. He wraps Himself with light as a garment. He's the source of light. So the sun represents Christ. The moon represents the reflected glory of God within creation. That's either Israel in the Old Testament, or the Church in the New Testament. So the moon is under the feet of the woman. That means the woman has the acquired false picture of light as her own *persona*, and the moon is under her feet as the second part. You see. The sign in the image that appears from heaven says that she is the source of all power, and that the Church is under her control and under subjection to her. We know that was true because that's consistent with Babylonian theology, and it was adopted by the Catholic Church by the end of the first century, and just rolled right on out through the Middle Ages and Dark Ages into the late seventeen hundreds and early eighteen hundreds. The thing that broke the back of that was Martin Luther's declaration nailed to the Wittenberg door. He didn't take it any further than just justification by faith, but that's what broke into that picture. So, the

1. great sign which appeared in heaven is a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;

Now, that's the sign from the time of Christ forward. In the Old Testament, we're talking about Israel in the Old Testament. The woman was the source of light in the Old Testament; had the crown of twelve stars which were going to be the twelve apostles out of Israel to whom the Gospel was entrusted. In verse 2 we see,

2. she was with child; she cries out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

3. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon ...

Now what you're seeing in chapter 12 is a comparison between the Old Testament picture, and that's the woman Israel; and the New Testament picture, and that's the woman – the Anti-Christ in false religion.

3. Another sign appears in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon

...

And Satan comes on the scene as a great red dragon. He wasn't there at the beginning. Now he comes on the scene.

... having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.

Where the woman has a crown with twelve stars, the dragon has a diadem, or seven crowns, on his seven heads.

4. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

And that speaks of Satan's attack on the person of Christ to prevent His birth, His coming into the world, as a fulfillment of God's promise to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15. And we've covered that before, but I want to make sure you understand where this battle is waging. Any questions on that so far? Ok. We'll press forward. We'll probably come back to some of that.

5. So she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron;

And you remember "nations" refers specifically to Gentiles. And you will remember that He's going to rule those Gentile nations throughout the Millennial Kingdom by means of the overcomers who are given rods of iron to rule over the nations. Now,

6. The woman flees into the wilderness where she keeps on having a place prepared by God ...

You will notice that continuing presence if you're using a *New American Standard*. So God continually prepares a place for her

... so that there she might be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

7. And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels waged war,

Now if you're looking at your chart, all of that occurs at the extreme left hand side of your chart, right at the moment of creation. And then they're thrown out, and the world goes into chaotic upheaval. And that's what you see at the beginning of your chart before the six days of restoration. Your chart will designate those that way.

8. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

And you see that he drug – back up in verse 4 – his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them down to earth. That's talking about the angels, and that's where the beginning of the one-third of the angels who fell. You know the reference came up about one-third, a few weeks back. Well there's why a third of the angels were fell – it's reference from verse 4 of chapter 12, and then we'll carry that back into the Old Testament a little bit later. And I – his angels were thrown down with him.

10. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

11. "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.

And that's the overcomers. In verse 11, it's talking about the overcomers that we saw a few chapters earlier.

Now if you've noticed, chapter 12 is presented as a panorama of events that are taking place almost all at one time; because it's talking about the war in heaven before the earth was created. It's talking about events of the creation; and then it's talking about events that are happening contemporary with what John was seeing right there in 100 A.D. From 70 A.D. to 100 A.D. So, to use Phil's term, it's "mushed" it all together. And it's looking at that whole story just in panorama style just as if they had that chart on the wall. And they're looking at the whole thing. And they're referring one time to events just before creation, and that time they're referring to the battle that's going on in heaven. The next time it's talking about Israel as the nation giving birth to the promised Messiah. And then it jumps forward and it's talking about events that are concurrent and contemporary with what John is seeing happen in Israel in 70 A.D. and 100 A.D. So you don't want to be confused by that. Chapter 12 is like a panorama of the whole thing, and he's standing there looking at it, and commenting on different events all the way across that spread. So you can't get any chronological order or sense of chronology out of that. It's a look at everything that's happened within the plan of God from the beginning to close to the end. Questions on that?

Evelyn Wamble. Is John just saying, getting away from his story, and give is a whole history of everything that happened?

Conrad Bowman. Well, yeah, John is giving it to us exactly as he gets it. And when he says a great sign appears in heaven, and they see that woman – he sees the woman there, he starts talking about who the woman is. And then the dragon, and the dragon's involvement from the beginning; and the struggle between the woman and the dragon. And all of this is within the context of the Jewish prophecy. The Church is not mentioned here at all. This is all very Jewish in its prophecy. So it's talking about the relationship of the devil and God to Israel, and God's protection of Israel from Satan himself; and, at the same time, the promised Messiah's coming. See. Pardon?

Gentleman. This is how God sees time.

Conrad Bowman. That's right. That's right. He's viewing this thing, He's viewing this thing – Right. And He's revealing to us – He's revealing this age old battle between Satan against Israel who through whom comes the fulfillment of His promise. So there you see the attack of Satan across time and purposes on God's promise and how it affects that little dinky nation sitting over there on that dirt pile by the Mediterranean that keeps the whole world right on edge. Now can you imagine that? Think of Germany and Germany's might. And America and America's economic – the engine we have to crank out stuff. And Israel, who doesn't have the resources that Russia has, or doesn't have the resources that England has. And yet Israel is at the center of world conflict and everybody's attention right now. And it just seems to grow more and more that way, week to week. So we'll keep on watching this thing, and watch it unfold over the pages of recovery of the next month or so. Now, the salvation in verse 10, I heard a loud voice in heaven, the salvation, the power, the kingdom of our God, the authority of His Christ, his anointed One,

10. ... for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

11. "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.

So they were willing to die for what they believed.

12. "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."

13. And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.

And that's the history of Israel.

14. And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time [a year] and times [two years] and half a time, [half a year, so that's three and a half years] from the presence of the serpent.

So the time of persecution has come for Israel. And she is being taken into the wilderness for three and a half years where she will be nourished by God, because He's the one who has kept on preparing a place for her; is what Scripture said earlier.

15. And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away from the flood.

Isn't it interesting that Satan gets ready to persecute, he uses the very images, the very image of things, that God has already declared to be, His own personal blessing. He told Israel, if anybody comes to me, out of His belly will flood, will flow rivers of living water. That was His promise. That was Christ's promise to Jews who would come to Him when He was there specifically to establish the Kingdom of His Father. And Satan is using the same image, but the purpose is completely different. And this is what I want to focus on for just a moment. When you look around you, and you look for the work of Satan, he's not out there producing things that are contrary to the images and purposes that God has given His Church. Satan is in there doing exactly the same thing. Exactly the same thing. Torrents of water, is what it says here, that he sends after the woman. Those are deceiving images. Christ promised rivers of living water. Satan is using rivers of destructive water. That should strike us really hard today in light of what we're seeing on television about the whole of Indiana, and Minnesota, and Idaho, and the Midwest today. There we see the destructive force of water. They're absolutely surrounded by it. And you've got to take bottled water in to drink, because everything is contaminated; and it stays that way for so long. It just lasts and lasts. If you've never been through a flooded situation like that, where your sewerage system overruns everything, and bubbles up out of the ground, which is what happens the minute water covers the ground. All that sewerage that's in those pipes under ground, bubbles to the top right up through the manholes; and the whole water is contaminated with biological sewerage. And it settles out on everything, and it stays that way for months and months and months. You know. The damage is really far more widespread than just what we see. It's a terrible thing. Now let that remind us of how Satan works. When he gets into your life, he gets into power into the systems around you and contaminates them by influencing the leaders of the country. By influencing the leaders of churches who do not hold to sound doctrine. If he gets into that power, it's just like raw sewerage flooding in, and it contaminates everything that it touches. And it rises, and it takes so, so long to get rid of it. It contaminates everything that it touches.

15. Now the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away from the flood.

16. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.

17. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God [who keep the commandments of God] and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

So this is his attack in the end on the 144,000 and the faithful who are attempting to keep the testimony of Christ and the keep the commandments of God. That's in verse 17. So we've started out with a great war in heaven, and Satan cast out, and we've ended chapter 12 with verse 16, which is, Satan making war against the 144,000, the remnant of God during the Tribulation Period. So you see that panorama unfold. And chapter 12 is a wonderful unfolding of that. Any questions?

Evelyn Wamble. Is this the latter part?

Conrad Bowman. No, it's the whole period of the ...

Evelyn Wamble. ... of the Tribulation?

Conrad Bowman. ... Tribulation.

Evelyn Wamble. It's not the last three and a half years?

Conrad Bowman. The last three and a half years is where it ends, yes. And he's angry. But the last three and a half years you're dealing with the wrath of God. Let me get to Beth.

Beth Davis. [Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. That's right. Satan is not omniscient.

Beth Davis. [Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. No, Beth I wouldn't take it that way. What – the way I would take it is this. Satan is not omniscient. But, Satan is a spirit being. He knows, he know everything that stimulates me. He knows the human animal. He knows – when I see something that really turns me on, cranks me up, you know, whether it's a good book – you know – a red car; something – he knows what makes my nostrils flare. He knows what causes my heart to tick up. And he knows that about every single human being that has ever lived.

Lady. How does he know it. Only by watching us?

Conrad Bowman. Yes.

Lady. Ok.

Conrad Bowman. Because he's been there, from the beginning.

Lady. Right. Ok.

Conrad Bowman. Now what would you have if you had a spirit being with unlimited capacity to gather information who's been there from the beginning? Now he and his emissaries have dealt with every one of us. What you have is in one evil spot the world's greatest super computer. A raid against God. That's why we cannot win without God. It takes God Himself working on our behalf to defeat that rascal. You know. And we've got to get that in our heads. He is super intelligent. He is super strong. He is not bound by the laws that we are bound by. He's a spirit creature. We need to respect that, because it forces us to turn to God for our resources and our assets to deal with him. And that's the only thing we have, so we have to remember that. Now, when it says he knows that he only has a short time, not only does he know man, he knows God. And he knows what that plan has been from the beginning, because he was told at the outset. This is about him, and doing away with him; and glorifying God. So he knows that the plan of God is drawing to a close, and he only has a short time left.

Evelyn Wamble. His days are numbered.

Conrad Bowman. Yeah, you know. So he sees that. That intensifies his rage. And his rage then is directed toward the people of God that are around there. That's why in verse 17, the dragon was enraged with the woman. He's not going to be mad at God. What good would that do? So he turns his rage to the woman, and he ...

17. ... went off to make war with the rest of her offspring who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Now it's interesting that they turned the name there not from Christ, the anointed one – Jesus [put the Greek in here] – Savior – and the word "Savior" turns up right at the end of that chapter. So it starts out with a battle between the Father and His emissaries – Michael the archangel and the rest. And it ends with the testimony of Jesus. That's a gorgeous panorama. Chapter 12 is just an amazing, amazing panorama of the entire plan of God, and it's one that you want to just study through. And that this chapter that I've given you from LaHaye and use that tool as you begin to check through some of these things. Now – yeah?

Lady. [Something about, I always thought prayer was the most powerful weapon, and prayer is not reflected in the verse. Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. Ok. So the question is, why is not prayer mentioned in verse 17? Because the characteristic of the Israelite who has been designated as a witness to the salvation of God, their characteristic, one, is: That they return to the Law, which means morally the Ten Commandments become their code, because the Ten Commandments were the moral code of Israel. Ok. So they return to the moral code of Israel. Now, at the same time they hold to the testimony of Jesus who came as the fulfillment of that whole moral code. So that's the identifying characteristic of those people, not their prayer. Can you imagine how many people are praying? Most of whom do not even know to whom they are praying? But they are praying fervently. Now what that says to you right there is, prayer is not a marker. When you start looking around for people who believe the Gospel, even today, prayer is not one of the markers. Even the devil, even the devil and his emissaries, the fallen angels, would pray. The unbeliever prayers, but they don't know to whom they pray. When Paul stood up and he said, you men of – on Mars Hill, his Mars Hill address, let me explain to you people who this God us you're giving allegiance to. You don't even know who you're praying to, is what Paul said in his Mars' Hill address, when Christ had been crucified, Paul's Mars Hill address is a good illustration of that very principle. Yes ma'am?

Mary Ann Jacobsen. I had thought that unless you're praying as a believer to the true God, that those other prayers aren't even heard by anyone.

Conrad Bowman. No. They don't go anywhere.

Mary Ann Jacobsen. No, they don't go anywhere.

Conrad Bowman. There's no where for them to go.

Mary Ann Jacobsen. The prayers of the Christian are the most powerful weapon against any adversary.

Conrad Bowman. Right. Right. And that's true. But we're talking about visible characteristics of a – visible marks of identification. Ok. What did Francis Schaeffer – you know Francis Schaeffer – what did Francis Schaeffer say was the mark of the Christian at the end of the twentieth century? He wrote a whole book on it. Love for one another. He said the one thing that cannot be faked. Love for one another. He said love for one another – love the brethren – is the mark of the Christian at the end of the twentieth century. That was the nineteen hundreds, remember, so we're in the next century. But Francis Schaeffer said that was the mark of the Christian – was love; and that's true. If you can't look at those in the Church that are struggling to get ahead, struggling to get hold of the Gospel, it ought to break your heart. It ought to break your heart. How many times have I heard Martin stand in front of this group – or just when he comes back from one of his trips – try to tell us what he's just experienced; and it comes right up here and grabs him right in the throat; he can hardly finish. Why? Because your heart goes out to those people who so desperately want to know the truth. Ok. And have so few opportunities to get it. And we're overrun with opportunities to get the truth, and take it so lightly. You know. Yes ma'am?

Lady. It just seems in the 17th verse where it says , to keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. Wouldn't that include pray and love and all that, because that's what was taught, it was ...

Conrad Bowman. No ma'am. You don't have a commandment to pray.

Lady. No, I mean, the testimony of Jesus.

Conrad Bowman. Right. No. We don't want to try to push that into anything other than exactly what it was. When it's talking about the commandments of God, it's talking about the Ten Commandments, because we're going back under the Mosaic Law at that period. The Church is out of there. There's no Church. Ok You have Israel operating under the Ten Commandments and governed by Law in the Tribulation Period. That's all they have. Ok. So there's nothing but that.

Now, if they could rebuild the Temple and have temple worship and the sacrificial system and the ceremonial law that dealt with – here's how you treat your neighbor; here's how you treat your servant; here's how you treat your employer; then you would see all that kind of begin to emerge. But prayer, remember, was a matter of incense. You took your incense offering; and you brought it to the priest; and you gave it to Aaron; and Aaron turned and gave it to one of his sons; and his son took it, and took that incense and went into the tabernacle of the Temple and he put it on the Altar of Incense. And the sweet aroma and smoke that rose from the Altar of Incense was the prayer of Israel. That was it. That was the prayer of Israel. That smoke that rose, but it was offered by a priest. It wasn't offered by the individual. You see what happened when Christ died and the veil was ripped, each one of us then became the offeror on our own behalf. We had access to God's inter sanctum, so we begin to make our own prayer offerings. And when you pray to God, what you do essentially is you take that sweet smelling savor, that incense, which is your prayer, and just like the priest put it on the Altar of Incense, you offer it on the Altar of Incense which is within you and it rises to God. And you're functioning as your own priest. See. There's the priesthood of the believer. And not only can we offer prayers on our own behalf, we offer prayers on behalf of our family; on behalf of one another. But what we've done is, we've taken the whole practice that the Israelite had to go through priesthoods in order to accomplish. We've taken that whole practice and internalized it; which is exactly what God wanted to do. That's what Christ accomplished for us. He allowed us to internalize that whole system, and fold it within, and watch it blossom exactly as it was intended to do.

Gentleman. [Comment – inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. Yes, because we are now priests. Now turn to Luke, chapter 12.

Martin Mosvold. Conrad, can I ask you a question?

Conrad Bowman. Absolutely.

Martin Mosvold. I understood you were talking about the major powers. Germany, the United States, Russia and England. And it consider that to be major powers, but I consider the major power is Israel. Now why would I say that? Because if you look at atomic power and so forth, all our top people in atomic power came from – Germans killed the Jews. They went to Russia; and the Russians have gone to Israel. The English atomic guys are in Israel. So I

mean, what I'm looking at really and saying, it's not the countries, and it's not money, it's individuals really. And why is God giving this gift to the Jewish people, really? And they sit with more power than anyone understands today.

Conrad Bowman. That's right.

Martin Mosvold. It's a poor country, in a way. But they sit with more power. So I'm just looking at it really from the viewpoint of God is really bringing together

...

Conrad Bowman. That's right.

Martin Mosvold. ... His people at the right place.

Conrad Bowman. That's right. When that woman, when that woman ...

Martin Mosvold. [Comment. Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. That's right. And when that woman is driven back into her homeland, all that brainpower comes with her. All that brainpower of Israel will be concentrated within the country again.

Martin Mosvold. I've been talking with someone involved with this, and they say, these scientific guys that are working with it, they want to work together really.

Conrad Bowman. Yes.

Martin Mosvold. They don't want to work separately from each other really.

Conrad Bowman. They want to pull it all together. Alright.

Don Fruin. We were talking about Satan not necessarily knowing all the plan of God.

Conrad Bowman. Yes.

Don Fruin. He knows – what he does know of that plan, he's arrogant enough to know that – to think, that he can break it up.

Conrad Bowman. Sure.

Don Fruin. And that's why, even though he knows the end result, he ... [inaudible]. That's what's causing all the personal ...

Conrad Bowman. Sure. I think, I think the reason we don't see that is because we don't know enough of the plan of God ourselves. The more we study God's Plan of the Ages, the more we study this, the more we see what Satan knows. Ok. Because he knows this thing intimately. He read the Book. We haven't. The Church is getting farther and farther away from studying it. And we're studying – how to develop our character. Ok. And how to protect our money. Ok. And how to raise good, sociable kids. The Church is off it's message. We've got to study what God has laid down for us from the very beginning, and get it in here [Conrad pointing to head], so we know what the enemy's about. He knows it, backwards and forwards. And he knows exactly how to corrupt it.

Now, let's look at Luke 12 for just a minute. We don't have long, but I want to take a look at this. This is the first small foray into the Gospels, and you have – you've got a paper on this one called – it's Luke 12. You can just use your text. We'll pass it out. But you don't need this. You'll need it as a reminder, but that's all.

Phil Richman. ... inaudible.

Conrad Bowman. No, those didn't get passed out, Phil, they were just – they were just – John messed up. John messed up. That's John Young, attorney at law [Laughter].

John Young. Thanks.

Conrad Bowman. You welcome, sir. If you can't do a friend, who can you do?

Alright. Luke chapter 12. Now here's what – here's what – this is what I'm going to do, beginning today, and proceeding on through our next phase of our study of Revelation; is I want you to begin to look at the messages found in the Gospels, and see how they should lead us right forward to the end where John's Revelation unfolds the whole thing. In Luke 12, God knows and cares. What I did was I went right to Bible Gateway, dot com. I use that altogether when I'm doing a Scripture search. Biblegateway.com, and that's where this comes from; and you can get any version you want. Betjean can get the *King James*, the original; and I can get the *New American Standard*. And we're all happy. Here's the *New American Standard* version. God knows and cares.

1. Under these circumstances,

Evelyn Wamble. What verse?

Conrad Bowman. Pardon?

Evelyn Wamble. What verse?

Conrad Bowman. First verse. Luke 12:1.

1. Under these circumstances, after so many thousands of people had gathered together that they were stepping on one another, He began saying to His disciples first of all ...

And I bold faced that so you would understand. [to His disciples]. Christ is saying these things, first of all, to that group that was gather around Him.

"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

So hypocrisy is the thing that begins to weaken the text in the Gospel first of all.

2. "But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

It's all going to be uncovered in due time, is what He is saying.

3. "Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops.

So whatever statement you have made in the past, you're going to have to live by those things.

4. "I say to you, My friends ...

Now remember, in Luke – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – you'll see statements made by Christ that seem to have a broader application than just these guys gathered on top of a hill in the middle of a big crowd, and they're having a conversation. And that's because this generation includes those – well, Christ said it in one place. He said, this generation will not pass away until they see the

Son of Man coming in His glory. And what it's talking about is right here. He says, right here,

2. There's nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

Now He's talking to a generation that has the power or ability to say things in secret and not have them discovered – so they think. But the truth is, everything they say eventually is going to be brought to light. Now I want to caution you about something, because there are many people who say, because of statements like this – everything you have ever said in error, or in anger, you're going to have to deal with eventually, as a believer. Well, that's not true. Ok. That's not true, in terms of punishment; because this statement is talking about those who are to be overcomers and given authority in the Millennial Kingdom. And you remember what we just got through studying in Revelation 12, it says that the life of those overcomers is going to be marked by their keeping the commandments and their testimony of Jesus; and that Satan will have pursued them all the way into the mountains of Israel, in order to catch them and slay them because of their testimony. And that's what these statements have reference to.

2. There's nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

3. "Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops.

That refers to people gathered in inner rooms to worship God in secret, not wanting to proclaim it outside because to do so would get them killed. And it's looking at the upcoming 70 A.D. Roman persecution; and it's looking forward two thousand years, or ten thousand years, whatever it is, to the coming of Anti-Christ in the end of the Tribulation Period. It's talking about exactly the same thing. Be very careful. Because what you say you believe, you're going to have to stand face to face with the results of that when it's brought out; and you will have your testimonies in private; but you're going to be put in a position where you have to own up to it publicly. Now Daniel is very clear on that. Ok. But we're not going to get there, because I only have three minutes; and I'm not going to take you to Daniel with three minutes. Ok. That's going to take us longer than three minutes, but we'll be there next week. I promise you.

So, we're seeing these things said, but they have implications in another time frame altogether. And I want you to understand that. Verse 4.

4. I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do.

5. "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast you into hell; yes, I tell you, fear that one!

6. "Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God.

So He says, after saying, that Satan has the authority to send you to hell, He also tells you, remember, not one of you is forgotten; even a sparrow, worth a fraction of a cent, is remembered by God.

7. "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

8. "And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God;

9. but he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

Now this has to be compared with 2nd Timothy 2; 12 – 14. There are three conditional clauses that are in 2nd Timothy. If we endure, we will also reign with Him. If we deny Him, and we do, but the word is in the middle voice – which means to deny Him to ourselves. In other words, if I deny Christ to you, and I say to you, Christ is not wholly who He says He is, but He is thus and so. That's one thing. But if I deny Him to myself, that's me sitting in the corner, saying to me. Conrad, Christ is not thoroughly who you have believed Him to be. Now I want you to know how powerful this is. Because you look at what that says. If we deny Him, He will deny us to Himself. But if we are faithless and have no trust at all, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. Now I want you to notice that. Pay careful attention to that. Ok. Because the standard for the believer in 2nd Timothy – our eternal security depends on this. We can deny Him, and have Him deny us blessing in life. But we cannot, on the basis of holding on to our faith, we cannot lose our faith in Him, and cause Him to lose His faith in our salvation. It will not happen. Even if we're faithless, yet He remains faithful;

for He cannot deny Himself. Now the reason I'm telling you that, is because – I got two letters this week from people who are disturbed by members of their family who had enjoyed a walk with the Lord, and enjoyed a closeness with the Lord and a fellowship, and then they're fallen away, is the report; and their life does not exhibit anything at all of Christ's love. And the family members are just ripped apart by it, and just torn apart by it. This is where they need to go for comfort. [Conrad pointing to the Book]. They need to go right there. If that family member ever once found that relationship with Christ, and found that love of God, and knew it, and became one of His own, they are there by His authority and power – not by their own. And it's past time for us to be out of here. We've got to go.

Father, we thank You for the time. Just grant us the wisdom to use it wisely. And we thank You, in Christ's name. Amen.