

“BIBLE!—Believers’ Instructions Before Leaving Earth!”

By Bob Heirztler

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I am *super* excited today about living for God. The Scripture Theme for the month of August:

Titus 1:9 *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

I want to thank God that He called me to this ministry. I want to thank Him that He called me out of the miry clay, out of the sin that I was in, and placed me upon the Rock. The Rock is Jesus Christ. He called me to this ministry long before I was born. There was a baby dedication that my family had for me, and they have told me that they wanted me to be used of God, and that came to pass. I come from a lineage of preachers on my dad’s side of the family (and singers, and actors, and scientists, and history teachers). I thank God for that as I was reflecting over that. Today’s sermon is on B.I.B.L.E—Believers’ Instructions Before Leaving Earth; most people think that stands for Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth, or Basic Information Before leaving Earth, but I’m using Believers, because the true believers are the true worshippers (John 4:23-24), and are Christians!! There’s a false doctrine out there that anybody can be a Christian, but they don’t follow the Word of God to the ‘T’, and to the dotted i’s (Matthew 5:18). A true Christian—they were called Christians at Antioch about a year after they started assembling together.

Acts 11:26 *...And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*

If you read about the early church, they went through a lot of things to be able to worship, to pray, to be able to be called that title. A lot of people just put that title on themselves today, “Yeah, I’m a Christian,” but they say a lot of things that are contrary to the Christian belief in the Bible; their lifestyle doesn’t match up with the word of God. There are a lot of people that are pretending—they’ve heard about it, they know about it, but they don’t know how to obtain it. Thank God that we, as the family of God, we’ve crossed that threshold; we’re believers in Christ. We’re blood-washed in Jesus’ name, baptized in the river. We’ve just had some baptisms recently. When we came up out of that water, all of our sins were remitted. Everything was gone; our past was erased, no longer to be brought up by God. Now it’s a day-by-day thing to walk with God, to seek God’s truth. That was just a little extra of the message. I’d like to share Titus 1:9 again. We’re going to break down this Scripture a little bit.

Titus 1:9 *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught...*

Holding Fast—Did you ever see somebody holding a hot cup of coffee or tea to their desk or to the counter? Their focus is looking right at it. They don’t want to spill that hot liquid on their hand. They’re looking right at it. Their attention is holding that cup, keeping it steady; holding fast. Or, you’re driving down the road and hit an ice patch. What’s the first reaction? Both hands on the steering wheel. Right? and you learn to turn into the curve when you hit that ice

patch. You're holding fast to the steering wheel. What about a newborn baby or infant? you see mom and dad rock the baby, holding that precious jewel that God just gave them; holding fast to it. Then I thought of another one:

- Dan Connolly, offensive lineman, ran a 71 yard kickoff return—12/19/2010—against Packers! He has the record of the longest kickoff return for an offensive lineman. If you watch the video, he is holding onto the ball. He is a big guy, and he's running! He made it to the four yard line. He was like a bowling ball, bouncing off of all of the pins, and they were trying to take him down. Sometimes we're holding onto what God has, and everything is being thrown against us, but we just plow right through it. He got knocked down; the good news is, he got back up, and he kept going on with the game.

Vince Wilfork—defensive lineman, intercepted a ball. He was another big guy, and he ran He ran as far as he could before he got taken down. It just shows me that we all have something that God has for us to do, regardless of our size, our age, our nationality, our background... God has something for us.

Those two guys were New England Patriots players, by the way. I thought I'd throw in a little rooting for the Patriots. They were focusing on what was at hand at the time—that hot coffee, that tea, the newborn baby, the infant, the football, the steering wheel... whatever was at hand, they were focusing on, right?

So, let's take this next section of Scripture: **Holding Fast The Faithful Word**—They were hanging on the Word of God!! How do we hang onto the Word of God?

Titus 1:9 *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught...*

1 Timothy 4:11–16 *...Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers...*

It doesn't matter who we are, how old we are in the faith or in the flesh, we can't allow anybody to stop us from doing what God wants us to do. It doesn't matter young or old, they'll despise our youth. Timothy was a young man at the time. It said to be an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity. If you're holding onto the faithful Word of God, you're going to an example in your words, your conversations, your charity, your spirit, in faith, in purity. They're going to see something in your life that stands out. They're going to see something that, "There's something different about him or her. They're always happy. They are the happiest person on Monday and the rest of us are mad. What happened this weekend?" They might find out what happened this weekend.

As brother Greg shared, fellowship is important. We have to share our needs one to another, about prayers, about things, about, "How do you deal with this?" It's more than just sharing recipes and who won what game. "When this came at you, how did you deal with that?" We have so many examples here of so many people going through so many different things. I already know who to turn to, who to talk to if I'm going through the same thing. I'm going to ask them how they dealt with it. I can ask a faithful brother or a faithful sister, "How did you deal with that?"

That Scripture ("...the laying on of the hands of the presbytery...") always reminds me of a baby dedication; I don't know why. I've seen a lot of families bring their young people to the altar, over the years that I've been here, dedicating their son or daughter to God. God continues to bless them—I was talking to a sister yesterday, and what she does, she and her vice-principal,

they anoint the door of every classroom in their school, and they pray over it. Every door. They pray for the teacher, and they pray for the students in that class. She shared how that when they did this, it was a great year. God saw that, and God honors that. Nobody at that school probably knows that these two ladies went from door to door and prayed over them. Isn't that amazing how that God just blessed that year?

God has a calling. You have to have been doing something for people to hear you. How do they hear you? through your word, your conversation, your spirit, your charity, your faith, and your purity. They see that. Amen?

Titus 1:9 *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught...*

Been Taught –Study to Show thyself

How? Been taught, by Study to show thyself approved unto God!!

2 Timothy 2:15 *Study to show thyself approved unto God...*

We're instructed to study the Word of God. We all went to school, right? We had to go to history and science and biology classes, math and English. We had to learn all that stuff to do what? to go to the next grade. Bianca just received her diploma for graduating—twelve years of school. You've got that piece of paper that says, "I did it!" That piece of paper will take you to places. We understand that we have to study, to continue. Your daughter just got her bachelor's degree. She had to continue to go to school, to get that piece of paper. If we understand that, why don't we understand how God wants us to learn. How are we going to learn anything new, if we can't handle what he's given to us so far? So, if He teaches us, then we go on to the next lesson. The last lesson will be the trumpet. We're going to learn something all the way up to our last breath, wherever we're at when the trumpet sounds.

Titus 1:9 *...as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort...*

Titus 2:1 *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:*

We'll stop right there. What are we talking about? What are we sharing? Are we sharing the horoscopes? Are we sharing gossip? Are we sharing things that we're not supposed to be sharing about? It says to share sound doctrine. You don't realize, when you say good morning to your co-workers, or your students at school, how much of an impact that God can make that have. Just saying good morning, and know that you mean it. Do you ever see people walk to their desk and they say good morning, and they don't even look? They just walk to their desk and back. I did that one time, and God said, "You didn't look anybody in the eye, when you walked by and said hello." Now, I've learned to look people in the eye. It has a bigger impact than just going about your normal routine. Look them in the eye when you say hello.

Titus 2:2-5 *...The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness...*

Every one of us has had a grandmother that prayed for us. A grandmother's prayer seems like... My grandmother prayed for me. My grandfather prayed for me. They prayed for my mom to be able to raise me the right way. She was taught by the best, her mom. As a family of

God, there's a lot of moms and dads, grandparents in here. We've got a lot of new people, some of whom got baptized, they need our father figure, our mother figure, our grandmother figure, our grandfather figure, to be that example. There's no cousins in here; we're brothers and sisters. There's no brothers-in-law or sisters-in-law; we're brothers and sisters and children of God. I have distant cousins that are preaching a lie, but they're not part of my family, the family of God.

Titus 2:6-7 *Young men likewise ... In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works...*

So, as young men, we have to show an example, and anybody below a hundred and twenty is young. Those guys back then lived eight or nine hundred years, so we're all young.

Titus 2:8 *Sound speech, that cannot be condemned...*

Your speech is sound. When people accuse you, they will realize that your testimony is so strong that people won't even believe it. I gave the example before, I was checking in products from Germany and some of those words made it sound like I was swearing up a storm. They don't have twenty-six letters like we do in English. People said, "Bob's back there swearing!" My foreman said, "Bob does not swear. He's probably checking in the product from Germany." I had to say everything by word so that the truck driver could check it off. I was having a heyday with that.

Titus 2:9-11 *... For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*

So, everybody. It has appeared to **all**. I've got a story a little later on—some people that give us a hard way to go—we might be surprised to see them again. They have a hard testimony; they found the truth later on in life, you know?

Titus 2:12-13 *... Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God...*

One day, the trumpet's going to sound. We're going to look forward to that day. Don't be on the other side of the dollar where you're scared to death to go to God. Be happy to see God, as Greg Bozarth said, "Let God be happy to see you, and you're going to be happy to see Him." Get things right now, while you're on Earth. As that brother shared in the prayer, earlier, get things right now; get things behind you, get them covered by the blood, whatever it is: Frustration, aggravation, sins, or whatever the case may be.

Titus 2:15 *These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

Don't let anybody stop you from doing what you want to do for God.

Titus 1:9 *... by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

I had to look up these Scriptures. Brother Malcolm, I don't know if you looked at my notes—there are people that argue about everything. "You look nice!" "Oh, I didn't look nice

yesterday?” “Hey, you got a haircut!” “Got it three weeks ago, Bob, where you been?” At least I acknowledged it, but he didn’t care, right?

From G473 and G3004; to *dispute, refuse*:—answer again, contradict, deny, gainsay (-er), speak against.

gain·say

ɡeɪnˌseɪ, ɡeɪnˈseɪ Show Spelled [ɡeɪn-seɪ, ɡeɪn-seɪ] Show IPA

verb (used with object), gain·said, gain·say·ing.

1. to deny, dispute, or contradict.
2. to speak or act against; oppose.

The Word of God says that by sound doctrine, we’re going to be able to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. There are going to be people that just want to give us a hard way to go, but living a testimony—maybe it’s not the words that we say, but the life that we live—will change them. That’s happened in this ministry, over and over and over... There’s one sister, she got baptized; her two sisters gave her a hard way to go about it; now both of them are in church with her. And she taught a Bible study. Praise God on that!

My own family told me that “God is OK with you (speaking to me) but, I don’t need God. Everything is going fine for me.” I have to share with you guys today a nugget of gold: Maybe, because of her lifestyle, she doesn’t see the need of God at this time. That blew me away when you said that, Andy; I went home and I thought about that last night. Maybe God’s just waiting for the right time for her to receive it. I was eighteen when I got saved. People older than I was are getting saved, and people younger; God would meet the need right there on the spot.

People today are putting the Word of God down on the table, or on the book shelf and turning to things that are not sound doctrine... I hear of people reading their horoscopes, how their day would be that day. They’ll go to sooth-sayers, or fortune tellers; it’s amazing how these places are packed. They’ve even got a show coming out, on A&E, I think it is, about a sooth-sayer that helps people out. I’m thinking, that’s not a good job title to have when you go to God, you know? My question is, if these sources are teaching that you don’t need God, who will take care of you? I heard somebody ask this question, “How come the god of Alcohol doesn’t come to your rescue when you’re drunk driving and you strike a tree or another person? Where is the god of Alcohol helping you in that situation? How many people treat alcohol as a god, or a drug as a god, but when they need help, they don’t even show up?

Your style of living may be GOOD to live by, BUT is it GOOD to die by? You’re taking a gamble with your soul that you are right!!

That was just the introduction; I’m starting the sermon now.

This leads me to my 3 points that I what to share.....

I. Our Foundation

We have to check our foundation. The Sears Tower, also known as the Willis Tower: the skyscraper’s frame also extends deep into the ground to bear the weight of the massive structure. The Sears Tower in Chicago, Illinois, is one of the world’s tallest skyscrapers. It is 1,454 feet tall, 110 stories high, and its foundation is 100 feet deep. It opened in 1973, and it took three years to build. More than 12,000 people worked on this incredible project. BUT, it has an

average of six inches sway back and forth. Even though it's deep into the ground, the building *still sways!*

GOD doesn't sway; God doesn't move (God's a stubborn God!); He's a Rock; He doesn't budge!! We sang the song about the Rock this morning (I Will Call Upon the Lord).

Matthew 16:18 ...*That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church...*

He's talking about a rock that *does not move*, and that Rock is Jesus. He doesn't sway (not even six inches). He's solid.

Matthew 7:21–25 ...*I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock...*

I've heard people pray about things, "God, I need the money, let me win the Lotto," "Let me get that car." "Let me get this..." But they never ask for a closer walk with God. They're saying Jesus, they're saying, Lord, but God doesn't even know who they are. Make sense? God may allow things to happen, to cause them to draw near to God, but they still need to come to God. They have a form of godliness, but they deny the power of God in their lives (2 Timothy 3:5).

That Rock (mentioned in the parable) is God. We're going to go through daily trials. We're going to be like those linebackers running the race like bowling balls. Satan's going to throw everything at us. We're going to keep focus on the touchdown line, which is Heaven's gates. We're going to make it there. It's not going to be an easy journey. We can't just sit and say, "Okay, God, I'm ready." There's got to be some work with it. There's things that we've got to do.

Romans 8:35–39 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?...*

Some days you feel like you're in the midst of Hell, walking in the fire, and everybody's taking shots at us. Satan's got his best forces out there against us. There's nothing that can separate us from God. If we're committed to Him, He's going to protect us. He's going to be there for every curve in the road, every bump in the road, every way that we have, He's going to be there with us. It might not feel like that at times, but those might be the growing times in our lives. Times when He wants us to just step out by faith. Peter was on the water, "Okay, God, if that's You, let me walk out there!" "Okay, come one." Okay, Peter took the first step, now he's on the water. "Wow!" Then what happened? he sunk because he took his eyes off of Jesus, and when he cried out to Jesus, then Jesus was like, "Hmmm. I'll wait until the second or third bubble. Eh, I'll wait until he gets to the bottom." No, He was there immediately, and pulled him up. So, we know that if we cry out to God, God's going to hear us. He's watching us, he's just waiting for us to say His name!

The second part of that story... about the Foolish Man

Matthew 7:26–28 ...*shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand...*

In New England, on the coastline, they have a sandcastle contest, and they make phenomenal sculptures out of sand. Anything you can think of: The Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty, big whale, fish—very detailed. After a couple of days pass, that sandcastle is gone, because the tide came in and washed it away. Some people's might be good for a few days, but it's going to crumble down.

This next scripture talks about who built bigger barns. Some people share how "I Got This, God! I don't need you any more. I'm settled. I've done my twenty years in the ministry, my thirty years in the ministry... I'm just going to sit and ride the tide. I'm going to stock things up, so that I can wait until the trumpet sounds, and I can step right on in."

Luke 12:16–21 ...*thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat,...*

If he had more than he needed, he should have given it away. This is teaching us that you can't out-give God. The more we share with people, the more blessings that God gives us. We can't just stop: "Okay, I'm full of the Holy Ghost, I can stop now. It's 11:25 and I'm good for the rest of the day." Oh, no; we need God all the time. We can't see what's around the bend; God does. We don't know what's ahead. When I'm going to work in the morning, I stop thinking about crossing the threshold of my office door; I think about where I am in the moment. Anything could come out and hit my car; a deer, a coyote... I've got to think about I am *now*. Don't worry about where you're going to be; I need to focus on now. Right?

II. How do we get the POWER and SOUND DOCTRINE in our lives?

John 14:25–26 ...*He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance...*

So here's the core: we need to study, pray, have fellowship—so that we have a memory bank of what to do.

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...*

This power is going to cause us to be a witness. How do we get this power?

Acts 2:37–41 ...*ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost...*

Peter did not say, "Go down to the Sears Tower and wave your hand off..." or he didn't say go to Kellogg, or listen to Doctor Phil's speeches... He said right what God told him to say: He said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." It doesn't say should, it says shall. The Holy Ghost will bring back to our remembrance the things that God taught us. This Holy Ghost is promised to us, right after we give our heart to Him. "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call." So it wasn't just that day, in 33 A.D., it's 2031 today—the same message still applies today to receive that power. So, we have to get baptized, to have that power, to have the Holy Ghost in our lives, to bring back the remembrance of things.

III. NOW WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS SOUND DOCTRINE?

2 Timothy 4:1-9 *I charge thee ...Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season...*

What's a charge? orders or instructions... It says preach the Word, in season and out of season. What does it mean by being in season and out of season? Two weeks ago it was forty degrees in July. That's like fall-type weather, or spring-type weather (it might be a winter-type weather). God wants us to be ready at all times. You might be at work, and you might walk to the lunchroom, you're in season at work, but somebody walks up and asks you, "Tell me about your God." That would be out of season, wouldn't it? but you have to be ready to receive that, ready to hear those... If we're not even seeking God that day—God's already has people that are going to cross our path; He's already planned that all out already. we just have to be ready to receive it.

We know a lot of people that hear the truth and run away, because they're afraid of it. You've got to keep in mind that God is still continuing to deal with them. If there is breath, there is hope. If they're still breathing, there's hope. Keep praying for them. Keep seeking in their behalf.

We all have a ministry in this ministry. Your ministry is wherever God takes you every day, Monday through Sunday. That's your ministry; make full proof of it. Do whatever you can do for God fully that day. It might be saying, "Good morning," it might be a co-worker that's coughing and you give them a cough drop or a glass of water, it might be that you saw something fall, and you went and retrieved it and helped them out. It's the little things that minister to people. It's the little ingredients that you put in stews and chilies that make a big difference in the taste. The little things that we do make a big difference.

So, in verse six, Paul is singing the song, "Inside the gate" He knows his time is over. He had confidence that he was going across that line. It's not just for him, it's for all of us.

2 Timothy 4:14-16 *...At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me...*

In verse 14, Paul shared that Alexander the coppersmith did him much evil, but he said, the Lord reward him according to his works. There's going to be people that give us a hard way to go. You've got to let it go and let God take care of it. I had a man tell me yesterday, "You know, I was angry at God for four years, and I had to let it go. I didn't want God to judge me, because I was judging other people. I don't want that relationship with God. I want God to be happy, and if I hold something against somebody, then God's going to hold something against me." It was amazing how he just opened up and talked. I wasn't expecting it; he just shared.

2 Timothy 4:17-18 *... the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me...*

God going to deliver us. You're going to get accused; God will make a door for you to walk out of. Satan's mad that you're taking his people and you're sharing with them; they're getting baptized in Jesus' name. Satan's mad at us, because we're doing that. I'm glad he's mad. I don't want him to be happy with us.

A friend of mine posted this poem, and I thought, "It's really powerful." It's about how we judge people.

BEST POEM IN THE WORLD

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp--
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet,
So somber—give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said,
'they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

JUDGE NOT!!

Amen, thank you.