

**The Biggest Loser**  
**Part III**  
**Lighthouse Baptist Church**  
**Dickinson, Tx**

**2Peter 2:20-21**

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

Last week we learned from the scriptures that these verses speak of the lost within the membership of the Lord's Churches. Not only did we see this truth clearly, we could even see the mistakes and errors that caused these victims of deception to remain unsaved.

The Apostle Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit has made this clear and concise; yet this passage and others like it are used continually by false teachers to misrepresent and twist what is for us the most important doctrine of all.

The most common teaching you will find of this passage of scripture is that these are Christians who got entangled and overcome

with their sin and Jesus took away their salvation and now they have an even hotter place in hell than if they had not known him.

This is of course, an utter and absolute lie!

I want you to know something about Lighthouse Baptist Church this morning:

We are absolutely committed to Jesus Christ.

This is easy to say; pastors in most Churches would say the same; but what does it really mean?

You see, Jesus IS the Word of God made flesh; that is who He is.

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 1:14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

To be committed to Jesus is to be committed to the Word of God!

You are in a place this morning where the Word of God is viewed as perfect and inerrant; it is held as absolutely sacred and is handled with the utmost integrity.

Every sentence of every sermon is examined, edited, reexamined, reedited and examined again to make absolutely sure there are no errors, no flaws in doctrine and no statements that would mislead you.

In an earlier life, I was a life insurance salesman; I was well trained and I was good at it. I was good enough at it that they made me a sales manager in charge of training others. I know how to lead people into thinking and acting the way I might want them to; I see preachers use these techniques on their audiences all the time; this is how most of those big numbers are piled up.

I will grant you that Jesus has to offer the best life insurance there ever was; but I am not His life insurance salesman and His salvation is not for sale!

I will not coerce you to pray a certain prayer or guilt you or bribe you into joining this Church nor will I market this Sunday morning experience to the world; these are matters of the heart between you and the Lord and are not genuine unless you know what you are doing and willingly choose it; of which I will happily teach any willing learner.

Our job as leaders here at Lighthouse is to deliver to you each and every week **our**

message from the Lord; clear concise and accurate.

Our message from the Lord will not often be filled with heart tugging stories or film clips or edge of your seat anticipation; it will however be filled with scripture, practical application and, when applied, results that will change and bless your life forever and most importantly, bring glory to our Lord in the process!

Not long ago there was a lady coming to Lighthouse; she came for a good long time. She, like most people, had some problems. As she listened to the preaching and teaching of the Word of God and numerous hours of counsel, she began to see answers. In a Bible class she trusted Jesus to save her. The Lord solved her biggest problem and many of her other problems and issues began to disappear as she applied what she was taught.

But, instead of continuing to grow in the Word and follow the leadership here in the Church the Lord provided for her, she began to listen to various TV preachers and others who thoroughly confused her and now she is not even in Church at all.

She and many men and women like her, even though they are saved; are on a different kind of list of big losers.

The Lord places special gifts of leadership in His real Churches and He tells us what they are for:

### **Ephesians 4:11-16**

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors and teachers**;

12 For the perfecting [maturing] of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect [complete] man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

God wants you on His 'Biggest Winner List' and it is understanding and growing in the Word that will put you there.

You have probably thought in your heart that all these different doctrines from all these different preachers were just well meaning attempts at the truth.

Verse 14 says that these varying opinions come from those lying in wait to deceive you.

Are you going to be naive and believe your heart or are you going to believe God?

### **2Peter 3:13-18**

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

Today we are going to some of the most common wresting of the scriptures; some of which I suppose could be honest mistakes; most however, are blatant attempts to purposefully manipulate the truth.

I will share with you three of which that will help you beware when you recognize them:

First:

## **I. Beware of Those Who Spiritualize the Scriptures.**

*A. The Bible is filled with accounts of actual events, metaphors and parables that are used to illustrate to us various truths.*

1. Most are simple enough to understand.

### **2. Matthew 9:35-38**

35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the laborers *are* few;

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.

3. You are not sheep and you are not wheat; you are like sheep and like wheat.

*B. Beware of those who would use a parable as their proof of some Biblical truth.*

1. Parables are not designed to teach truths or principles.

2. Ex. **Mark 4:2-9**

2 And he taught them many things by *parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,*

3 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some a hundred.



9 And he said unto them, **He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.**

3. Parables are designed to broaden the understanding of those who already know the underlying truth.

#### 4. **Mark 4:10-11**

10 And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

11 And he said unto them, **Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all *these* things are done in parables:**

*C. Beware of those who take liberties in spiritualizing statements and events.*

1. In **Acts Chapter 27**, the Apostle Paul as a prisoner is being taken to Rome by ship.

2. They encounter a great storm and the ship is destroyed but all the lives were saved because God protected those who were protecting His servant, Paul.

3. There is a statement within this story that whole sermons and even series' of sermons have been built on.

#### 4. **Acts 27:30-31**

30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat

into the sea, under color as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,  
31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

5. Some have preached; 'The ship is the Church and except ye abide in the Church, ye cannot be saved'.

6. Others; 'The ship is Jesus and except ye abide in Him, ye cannot be saved'.

7. Others, 'The ship is our faith and except we abide in faith we cannot be saved'.

8. I'm sorry, the ship is the ship and the crew was necessary to get it to the island or they would have all drowned; nothing more!

9. The statements of scripture mean what the scriptures themselves say they mean.

Next:

## **II. Beware of Those Who Misapply the Scriptures.**

*A. Basic truths of the Bible are often abandoned over single verses and passages misapplied.*

1. **Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

2. Millions of tracts and books have been published and sermons preached telling you to do this in order to get to heaven.

3. One verse says call on the Lord to be saved; a hundred verses say believe on the Lord to be saved; just maybe you ought to read at least the whole chapter and figure out which is right?  
*B. Scriptures are often applied to the wrong people.*

1. There are two kinds of people in the Bible: those who are saved and thus have a relationship with God and those who are not saved and do not have a relationship with God.

2. What God says to one does not usually apply to the other.

3. Ex. **1John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

4. 1st John is written exclusively to saved people; it clearly says so; and is about fellowship, not relationship.

5. The next time you hear a preacher use this verse to tell a lost person how to be saved, you ought to just get up and walk out or turn it off.

*C. The most commonly used passage to preach repentance is a complete misapplication.*

### 1. **Luke 13:1-5**

1 There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

2 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?

3 I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

5 I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

2. When you back up and read the context, you find that Jesus is teaching his already saved disciples about being faithful servants; NOT teaching lost people what to do to be saved from their sins.

### 3. **Luke 12:41-43**

41 Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?

42 And the Lord said, **Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* lord shall make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of meat in due season?**

43 Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

4. Then when you go forward, Jesus explains why some believers perish in physical death because they bear no fruit.

### Luke 13:6-9

6 He spake also this parable; A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why encumbereth it the ground?

8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung *it*.

9 And if it bear fruit, *well*: and if not, *then* after that thou shalt cut it down.

Next:

### III. Beware of 'Preacherisms.' (My word).

*A. This is terminology that is so commonly used by preachers that it is accepted as truth even though it is not scripture.*

1. Dear friends, 'Just ask Jesus into your heart.'

2. How many times can you find this terminology in the Bible?

3. How about 0?

4. How many times in the Bible do you find someone telling or teaching someone else to do this?

5. Oops, another 0.

*B. Most of these 'preacherisms' don't even make sense.*

1. 'Give your heart to Jesus.'

2. Is that like surgery or what?

3. OK, so you get it; it likely means to love the Lord; to turn your life over to Him.

4. Ask yourself this: Does the Bible tell us to do this?

5. If it does, is this commanded to lost people to get them saved or to saved people to love and follow the Lord?

6. **Romans 5:6** For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7. **Ephesians 2:12** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the

commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

8. How does someone without hope, without God, and who has no spiritual strength give their heart to love and follow Jesus?

9. What is more discouraging than being asked by a preacher to do the impossible?

*C. Then there are the assumptions.*

*Slide with picture of donkey = U and me 'assume.'*

1. On Christian TV. 'The Body of Christ this...' 'The Body of Christ that...'

2. On Christian radio. 'The Body of Christ this...' 'The Body of Christ that...'

3. When have you ever heard anyone on TV or the radio teach from the Bible what the Body of Christ actually is?

4. Unless it was here in our Bible class, you likely have never heard it.

5. The Body of Christ is the Church and the Church is a local Body; nothing bigger; nothing universal.

6. Yet, the terminology is thrown around as though everyone automatically knows that is means whatever they are implying it does.

6. How many times do you suppose the Bible mention the Baptism of the Holy Ghost?

7. How about 0?

**In Conclusion:**

**Do you love the Word of God this morning?**

**If not, why not?**

**If you don't love God's Word, don't pretend that you love Jesus; it's the same thing.**

**We are commanded to learn:**

**Matthew 11:28-30**

28 **Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

29 **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

30 **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

**What does it take?**

**1. Make sure you are saved.**

**2. Get in Church; as an actual member, a part of the Body.**



- 3. Attend every class, every sermon, every discussion you can get a hold of.**
- 4. Read substantial systematic portions of God's Word every day.**
- 5. Respond to and apply what God teaches you.**

**Don't be the biggest loser; don't be a loser at all!**