

BibleTalk Radio



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Christ for the Philippines Mission

End Times Bible Study Part 8 Message by Tony Tirse, Missionary March 21, 2017

We've been teaching on the end times. We've been doing an end times Bible study. That is, what does the Bible say about the end of the world? What does the Bible say about the tribulation? What does the Bible say about the rapture? Several weeks ago we started with our first Scripture, I Thessalonians Chapter 4, and we went through some Scripture there. One of the things that I always refer us back to there was how the apostle Paul wrote that under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He said, "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren."

God does not want us to be ignorant. Folks, dear listeners, do you understand the reason God gave us the Bible in the first place? It's because God does not want us to be ignorant. It's amazing how many people are walking around today ignorant of the Word of God when the almighty living God Himself gave us His Word so that we would not be ignorant.

There are many reasons for this ignorance, and I will be honest as I sit here. I have an obligation to be completely honest with you listeners. The number one reason people walk around ignorant of the Word of God is pure and simple laziness, because most people would rather do everything else. So, when it comes to being ignorant of the Word of God, on the Day of Judgment when they face God, many people will say, "Lord, Lord, I didn't know. Lord, didn't I try to do this? Didn't I try to do that?" And Jesus

will look at these people and He'll say, "Depart from me. I never knew you." If you don't believe that, it's because you're ignorant of the Word of God, because Jesus Himself said that in Matthew 7:21-23. "Many, many people will say to Me in that day, the Day of Judgment, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we cast out spirits in Your name? Didn't we do this in Your name? Didn't we do that? Didn't we in Your name do many wonderful works?'" And Jesus will plainly say to them, "I never knew you. Depart from Me."

[Ms. Ypille:] Also, too, Pastor, because we are born of the flesh and born in original sin, that's why there is none that seeketh after God. So, on our own accord without the Holy Spirit, people don't want to. They want to look for other things like earthly things. That's their priority, like wealth or fun versus looking for God. I suppose another factor, Pastor, is they're being blinded by the enemy, by the devil. They don't seek after the things of God. The devil puts many colorful things and events and things to do before them.

Sure, sure, he does, and everything that you've just said is true. However, with what you said, we also have to keep in mind that God will hold each person accountable. No one will be able to stand before God with an excuse. Read Romans Chapter 2. In the very first verse, it says, *Therefore thou art inexcusable, old man.* And he



lists a whole bunch of reasons why in Chapter 1. So we have to be careful. Yes, it's true. But see here's the thing. A lot of people, especially here in the Philippines, there are a lot of people who have opportunity to hear the truth from preachers like me who make an effort to go out and proclaim the truth of God. What happens is they now have a great opportunity to finally hear the truth of God regardless of the shiny things and original sin. Now they're actually hearing someone proclaiming the truth, and they still would rather go and do everything that you said, have fun or go for a career.

It's difficult for many people to sit for an hour and listen to a show like this that broadcasts from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and listen to the teaching of the Bible for one hour, and really and truly, many of them after a while get bored and they switch over to another station. And yet, here, God has given Tacloban City and surrounding areas who are within the broadcast range of this radio station for over a year now an opportunity to hear straight from His Word, at least through this show. I'm not talking about myself or saying I'm some great teacher or anything, but we quote the Scripture over a 100,000-watt transmitter every single week.

What is happening there is God Himself is manifesting through His own Word and is using the radio station that has that kind of transmitting power. And, of course, some people will cast that aside and they'll stand before God one day if they never receive Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. If they never get born again and saved, they'll stand before God and try to say that they didn't know, and then God will say, "No, no, no, you were listening to Majik FM 98.3, and I remember on this date and this hour you were listening and you reached over and you turned the dial. You

pressed the buttons to go to another station because you didn't want to hear My Word."

That's just one example. But for those that are listening, we have something here for you. It's called Part 8. Today is going to be Part 8 of the end times Bible study, so let's go ahead and jump into our lesson, dear listener. If you've been listening for the last several weeks and if you have been diligent in taking some kind of notes, you know what verse we're going to start in, what chapter and what book. We're going to be in Matthew Chapter 24, and we're going to begin where we left off last week which was verse 21.

Please open your Bibles to Matthew 24:21, and if you don't have a Bible, please text us, 0999-862-7223, and we will be glad to send you one free of charge. Absolutely no obligation.

Again just to remind everyone, we've been in Matthew Chapter 24 for the last several weeks. This is the main text that we have started in for a couple of reasons. First of all, obviously, this particular chapter has been very clear on the things of the end of the world and what is coming. Secondly, and one of the reasons the Lord laid it on my heart to approach this Bible study from this angle is this. Over the years I've listened to a lot of teaching of different Bible teachers and pastors on the end times, and this is just my personal opinion, but I feel that many times they approach this teaching from an angle of people who kind of already know this. What they call preaching to the choir. I'm trying to be aware that I'm teaching probably to many people out there in the radio listening area who have never heard this stuff before at all, so they're not familiar with some of the common Christian phrases and sayings that you hear in church. So I've approached this



beginning in Matthew Chapter 24 because these are the words of Jesus Christ Himself. The listeners, especially if there are listeners out there who have never heard this kind of stuff before, I imagine that they would be interested in hearing what Jesus Himself has to say first than what anybody else has to say. So that's why we're approaching it from this angle.

We've been here in Matthew Chapter 24 for several weeks and Jesus has been talking about some interesting things regarding the end times, the end of the world, and He talked about some different things, and we have identified in this particular chapter the exact audience that Jesus was and is particularly speaking to.

Going to verse 15, if we back up just a moment, at the very end of the verse, we find a parenthetical statement, a parentheses, where He says, *Whoso readeth...* That means whoever is reading this... *let him understand*. We're reading this, so God wants us to understand what's going on here, but as far as who He is speaking to in this chapter 2,000 years ago, he was speaking to a group of people there and by extension He's speaking to that same group of people today, and He's also speaking to that same group of people a few years from now when all these things will come to culmination. They'll come to a head.

So who is it He's speaking to? We discussed that last week. He is speaking to the Jews, those Jewish people that are in Israel right now. The prime minister of Israel is Benjamin Netanyahu. And all those people that are there right now, the military that are defending themselves from Hezbollah and the terrorists surrounding them, those people right now, Jesus is speaking to right here, what you're looking at in Matthew Chapter 24. He identifies

them in verse 16, *Let them which be in Judaea....* Judea is the time that Jesus is sitting here speaking. This is the area which is what is known today as Israel. The word "Jew" comes from the word "Judea," or if you read it in Filipino, *Judeo*. So that's who He's speaking to, the Jews. But by extension, He says, *Whoso readeth, let him understand*, He's talking to us. So we're trying to understand this today here and now.

Last week we finished up with verse 21. When you see all of these things happen, we talked about something called the abomination of desolation which really only the Jews will understand. It will touch them deep inside their heart the way rice touches a Filipino deep inside that many of us foreigners don't understand. I hear so many Filipinos that cannot eat a single meal without rice. I don't understand that. I can eat any meal without rice. I'm American. But only Filipinos can understand that with each other. You have to have rice.

Think about rice and how special rice is. I came here after Yolanda and I saw the destruction and devastation, and I saw the spray paint where many were painting on the sides of buildings and on the ships that were in the middle of the street, and even on the street, they were making signs that can be read by the airplanes as the rescuers were coming here. Some signs said, "Please help us. Send food and rice," as if rice was a special kind of category in itself. Americans would say something like, "Send food and meat," or something. But Filipinos, rice.

So the way you Filipinos understand rice and how special that is to you, that seems like nobody else can understand the importance of



rice like a Filipino can, the abomination of desolation is something like that, like rice, to a Jew. The same way only you can understand rice, only the Jew can understand the significance of the abomination of desolation. We can kind of understand it, but they will feel it in their bones the way you feel three meals without rice. You feel it in your bones. I know because I've been married to a Filipina for more than sixteen years, and I can assure you, no matter where we are, there has to be rice.

Here in verse 21 He's talking about all of these things that are happening. He says, *For then...* after the things that you have seen or the one thing is that abomination of desolation and all these other things involved. He says, *For then...* at that point... *shall be great tribulation.* Again, we haven't gotten to this part yet, and we're going to get to this part, Lord willing, soon, but there is coming a time an event is going to happen all over the world, an event called the rapture, which I will explain to you in detail but in a few weeks when we get to that part of the lesson.

At that point, from the point of the rapture, there's going to be a period of time... we don't know how much time. It could be a few days. It could be a few hours. It could be a few years. I doubt it would be very many years, maybe one year, but there's going to be a point after this rapture. What is the rapture? I explained it a little bit last week. Basically, it is all of the saved, born-again people being taken off the face of the Earth by the Lord Himself at the same time.

When this happens, at some point after this, again, it may be a few days; it may be a few months or even a year or two, there is going to be a super treaty, a covenant, that is going to be

signed between the nation of Israel and the surrounding nations and probably an extension of nations such as the European Union, maybe China or Russia, many other nations. It's going to be headed up by a one-world leader, which the Bible identifies as the Antichrist and we'll get to that later, but at the moment that the ink hits that paper by the last signing party, at that moment will begin a time period of seven years called the tribulation.

In the middle of seven years, at three and a half years, the middle point of that seven-year agreement, that agreement will be broken, not by Israel but by the one-world leader. There's going to be an event at that time, which will be the catalyst of that. It's called the abomination of desolation. From that point forward, which is what we see in verse 15, from that three-and-a-half-year mark for the remainder three and a half years is what Jesus is calling in verse 21 the great tribulation. What does He say about the great tribulation? Well, it's *such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

What is going to be so great, so bad that it's never happened since the beginning of the world and will never happen like that again? In the book of Revelation, which we haven't touched but we'll get in there at some point, the book of Revelation talks about seven trumpets, seven seals, seven vials, and a bunch of crazy stuff happens that all pretty much happens in that last three and a half years, which includes the annihilation, the death and destruction of at least, as we know it today, three and a half billion people. So it's going to be really bad. We're not going to study that part tonight, but here's what Jesus says about that in verse 22 because it's so bad. Imagine, three and a half billion people gone in that three and a half



years, and except those days should be shortened, and here's the mercy of God. Who's the one responsible for making sure it doesn't go past three and half years? It's Christ Himself. God Himself. ²²*And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.* Imagine, three and a half billion people in three and a half years, what's going to happen if that were allowed to go another three and a half years? Well, the rest of the world's population. So God Himself shortens it. *But for the elect's sake...* for the sake of the saved... *those days shall be shortened.* There's a reason for that. It's called the millennium. There are going to be people that are going into the millennium to populate the Earth, but in order for that to happen, there have to be survivors. So that's what He's talking about, but that's another thing we're going to get into.

So let's see some continuation of the warnings that He gives in verse 23. He says, ²³*Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo [or look or hey], here is Christ, [here's the Messiah], or there, [He's here; He's there]; believe it not.* If somebody says to you, "Jesus has returned, the Messiah, the One from God, that One that we've been waiting for for thousands of years and He's finally going to lead us," if somebody says that, "Look, He's on TV. Look, He's on the Internet," He's saying don't believe it.

Verse 24: *For there shall arise false Christs,* That is, false Messiahs, not false Jesuses, false Messiahs, those who claim to be directly from God that are going to lead the world. It's interesting. You know, the Christians are waiting for somebody called the Antichrist because he's going to be the one-world leader, but we're not going to be here. We'll be gone in the rapture.

The Muslims are waiting for someone called the twelfth imam. He's some kind of mahdi that's going to lead them. Interesting. The Jews are still waiting for their Messiah. They didn't accept Jesus. They rejected Jesus. How interesting that both the Jews today, the Jews there in Israel, and the Muslims are both waiting for their chosen one leader that they're going to follow, but we know that that's the Antichrist.

See, today, nobody can get the Jews and Muslims to agree on anything. They want to kill each other. But really, the Muslims want to destroy the Jews. The Jews just want to be left in peace. But the Jews aren't going to follow anything Muslim, and the Muslims aren't going to follow anything Jewish, but they are both waiting for a coming anointed one, a coming messiah.

Now, remember, Jesus is talking here to the Jews. This is where a lot of people get this confused. A lot of Christians say, "I'm a believer in Jesus Christ. Of course, I'm not going to follow anybody who says, 'Jesus is here or Jesus is there.'" He's not speaking to you, Christian. He's speaking to the Jews who are waiting for their Messiah right now. They rejected Christ. ²⁴*For there shall arise false Christs [false Messiahs] and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders...* Now listen to this... *insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

Unfortunately, dear listener, a lot of people, even a lot of Christians today, are waiting for or want to see signs. If you look a lot of times in the New Testament with regard to signs, if you do a study on that, other than the signs that Jesus Himself did and the disciples themselves did, usually it's in a negative context like here.



[Ms. Ypille:] Yes, it is, because it shows a lack of faith.

The sign that we have today is the Word of God. That's the only sign that we need. It's complete. So there's that word "deceive" again. See, what Christ is concerned about is exactly what's going on today. There are a lot of people being deceived. Who's the deceiver? Satan himself. They're all ministers of Satan. So a lot of people are being deceived and Christ knows that and He is trying to warn us about it, especially the Jews because they're waiting for their Messiah.

Now He continues in verse 25 when He says, *Behold...* He says, "Look, I've told you before. I'm telling you before it happens." It's like a parent. Kids don't listen to their parents and the parent says, "If you go out and if you go with your friends and if you start drinking alcohol something bad could happen. You can get into an accident. I'm telling you now before it happens." Why? Because they have experience. They know. So our God is trying to do that here. He's trying to warn us. *Behold, I have told you before.*

So He goes on with it again in verse 26. He says, *Wherefore* [or because of this], *if they shall say unto you, Behold, [look,] he is in the desert...* It's interesting. Why is He talking about a desert? We don't have a desert here in the Philippines.

[Ms. Ypille:] Because it's in the Middle East.

It's in the Middle East, exactly. In the context of everything, He's talking to the Jews. He's saying, if they say, "Behold, look, there in the desert," He says, *Go not forth...* [Don't go there]. If they say... *behold, he is in the secret chambers...* A lot of people like secret, esoteric stuff; it makes them feel special, secret

societies, secret groups, secret knowledge. He says... *believe it not.*

Now He tells us why. Don't believe it if somebody says, "He's there, go over there," or, "He's in a secret place." You know, like the Da Vinci codes? That's a big thing in the movies. That's a whole series now, the Da Vinci codes and the secret codes of the Bible. Why? Oh, everybody likes it. "I understand the secrets. I saw a thing about the secrets. Therefore, I'm special because I have knowledge that you don't." That's the same exact trap that the serpent set for Adam and Eve back in the Garden of Eden. It's been happening to man ever since then.

But here in verse 27, He says why. *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.* Verse 27 is interesting. He's explaining something to them. He says, when there's a lightning bolt that strikes on the east side, that lightning bolt is so bright....

You know, scientists say that the lightning bolt itself is as bright as the surface of the sun and stuff like that, but I can tell you this. I like to weld, and the arc of the weld is like a lightning bolt, basically an arc of electricity. You can't look at it. You have to wear special goggles. Every once in a while I accidentally look at my contact before I have a chance to lower my goggles, and I take a look just for a split second at a spark and it's so bright that I get that spot of blindness for a few minutes. But a bolt of lightning is so bright that, if it strikes on the east side, the light from that lightning bolt will shine all the way out to the west.

Have you ever seen a picture that someone took at the moment that lightning strikes? Like



over a city or something like that? The sky is lit up like daytime. That's how bright. So Jesus is saying here in verse 27, "When I come, it's not going to be a secret. Even if you're not looking in the direction of where I come from, you'll see the light when I come." So He's saying, "Don't believe when someone says, 'Look, He's here. Look, He's there.'" He says, "When I come you'll know it because everything's going to be lit up."

Verse 28: *For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.* That's an interesting statement. What does that mean? Well, what's a carcass? It's a dead body. *For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.* That's a strange statement in the middle of all this. What in the world? Why is He talking about a dead cow or something like that? When an animal dies, usually the vultures are circling around it, or when an animal is about to die. Have you ever seen one of those, maybe out in the woods or even on TV when there's an animal that's going to die, like a sick cow or one of those animals? The vultures start flying. They're circling overhead because they know the animal's about to die and then they're going to swoop down and they're going to start devouring it. That's a strange statement. Why is He saying that in verse 28 in the middle of this entire chapter, in the middle of what He's saying here?

He's talking about Him coming back in great glory. He's saying, when the lightning strikes in the east, you'll see it in the west. It won't be a secret. And then all of a sudden, He's talking about a carcass, a dead or dying animal, and then the eagles will be gathered together. He said the vultures will be nearby. They'll be circling overhead. What does that mean?

Again, Matthew Chapter 24 is an excellent place to start because Jesus Himself is proclaiming the end from the beginning here, but the details of this we actually find in other places in the prophets, particularly we find this scene in the book of Revelation. What He says in verse 28 is referring to a specific event called.... From this point of view we can call it World War III. The Bible calls it Armageddon, the Battle of Armageddon. This is a time that's coming in history where Israel is about to be attacked. All of the world's armies will be gathered around a valley called the Valley of Megiddo, which is a valley that all the militaries will be able to access for a one-world government unified attack against Israel, called Armageddon.

They will think that Israel is a carcass. They are about to pounce on Israel. Israel during the tribulation time has gone through some terrible times. That's why earlier in the previous verses He tells them to flee to the mountains. He says pray that it's not during the winter or during a sabbath. Woe to them that are with child or give suck in those days. He says, wherever you are, don't go home to pick up whatever you have. When you see the abomination of desolation, you run.

The agenda of Satan has been to destroy God's people, Israel, the chosen people. At this point in history, we're talking about the future at the point that Jesus is talking about in verse 28, all of the world's armies will be gathered together as the vultures all around Israel, about to pounce on Israel. That's what He's referring to, because that's when Jesus is going to come back to destroy the enemies of Israel. We'll read about that in Revelation and also in some of the other prophets that mention this. This is mentioned in the book of Ezekiel and other places, but I'm just



kind of giving you some teaser about that because everywhere we will study about the Valley of Megiddo and Armageddon, the final battle, this is what Jesus is talking about in verse 28 of Matthew Chapter 24.

We've had a couple of wonderful texts come in. One of them was from a dear brother named Raymond who's a dear brother in Christ. Hello, Raymond, I'm glad you're listening, and Lord willing, we'll be with you again pretty soon.

There's another question that came in that I want Sister Ypille to read into the microphone for the listening audience. She read it to me and I think it's one of the most excellent questions that we have received here on the BibleTalk Radio Show. Ms. Ypille, would you go ahead and read that?

[Ms. Ypille:] Sure, gladly. The question's very interesting indeed that came in about eight minutes ago. It says: "Good evening, how can we determine a true prophet from a false prophet if all the teachings are completely similar to the teachings in the Bible?"

Amen, praise the Lord. That is a very, very insightful question. First of all, it happens to be one of the things that I've been teaching in our church over the last couple of weeks. I'm doing a series in Sunday school about that, because it's very true. You have Seventh Day Adventist, Iglesia Ni Cristo, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons; you have UCCP; you have non-denominational; you have Baptists; you have Lutherans; you have Catholics; you have all of these different kinds of religions. Who's right? Who's wrong? Does it make a difference? Well, absolutely, it sure does.

That's a very insightful question. Let me answer by saying this. I'm just saying this to be absolutely clear so there's no misunderstanding. First of all, we here at the BibleTalk Radio Show are not making prophecy. I'm not a prophet. There are no prophets today, so there's no prophecy being made. What we're studying here with regard to the end times events is simply what the Bible says about the end times. Okay, so we get that out of the way.

Is there a name on that text?

[Ms. Ypille:] No, but he's a repeat texter.

Well, dear listener, I want to refer you, and I hope you have a Bible. It sounds like you probably do with a kind of question like that. I want to refer you to a very important passage that has everything to do with the question you just asked. It is found in the book of John, Chapter 7 beginning in verse 14. This is some of the Jews that were making questions like this. Of course, they weren't doing it with a sincere heart. Jesus was trying to teach, and they were rejecting Christ.

But here's what it says in verse 14: *¹⁴Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. ¹⁵And the Jews marveled... And this is not in a good way, by the way, but they were... saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?*

These Jews were very proud that they were so well versed in the Jewish law and the Law of Moses and the prophets. They looked down on Jesus. How does He even know how to read? He's just a dumb carpenter. Having never learned, meaning He's never been to Synagogue College and the University of Jews. This is an attitude that many men of God who



call themselves men of God, many pastors today, and I will call them out on it.

Baptist pastors who with my own eyes and with my own ears I've seen and heard them say things against other men of God who are answering their call by God to preach and teach the Word of God. They speak against them saying they've never been to Bible college and they don't know anything because they've never been to Bible college. And that infuriates me to the tip of my hair. But these guys here are doing the same thing, these Jews. So it's nothing new.

¹⁶*Jesus answered them...* Dear listener, this is Jesus' answer to you, dear listener. You have asked how do you tell the difference between the prophets if all the teachings are the same or many of the teachings are very similar to what the Bible teaches. Dear listener, you have not asked this question in a bad way. By the grace of God, you have asked this in a sincere way, but Jesus is also answering you here. What's wonderful about Jesus is that He's able to answer the mockers, but at the same time, it's a good answer for those of us who ask sincerely.

¹⁶*Jesus answered them, and said, **My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.*** Meaning Jesus the man, Jesus is God, but Jesus the man standing in front of them right now, these guys were accusing Jesus of just being an ordinary man, so Jesus is basically saying, "If I'm just a man, fine, if that's what you want to believe, but my doctrine, my teaching, is not mine as a man but His that sent me."

Who sent Jesus? God the Father, John 3:16:
For God so loved the world that he sent His only begotten Son....

Verse 17, and here's absolutely your answer, dear listener, and anybody for that matter: ¹⁷*If any man will do his will... that is, do the will of God... he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself... in other words, or whether it's a doctrine of man.*

Dear listener, find out what the Bible says, not what I'm saying, not what another pastor or religious leader or a Website is saying. Dear listener, you pray to God and you ask the Holy Spirit to give you enlightenment, and you find out what the will of God is.

I will tell you what the very first will of God is for you. *God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.* The first will of God for your life is that you receive and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone for your salvation. *Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.*** That's John 14:6. You have to trust in Jesus Christ your own, and then you become what's called born again. Jesus said in John 3:3: *Verily, verily, I say unto thee: unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.* So you have to be saved, born again. ***If any man will do his will,*** [if you become born again,] ***he shall know of the doctrine.*** You'll know whether it be of God or whether it be of man.

[Ms. Ypille:] Because the Holy Spirit will dwell in him or her.

Absolutely. I'll give you my own testimony and Sister Ypille's, as well. We were saved years ago going on seventeen years. The thing is, we had a hunger for learning these things and we were listening to everything, different radio stations that were broadcasting different teachings, and



I was reading on the Internet, reading articles, trying to absorb everything. I'll tell you we read and heard some false teaching.

But what's the difference? How was it that we were not fooled? First of all, I think there's a part of humility there that both Sister Ypille and I, by the grace of God in our marriage, we were both saved. I was saved just before we were married and she was saved just after we were married, but we both had an agreement that Jesus would be the glue that would hold us together and we both had a like spirit in that, no matter how many times we failed in other areas, we wanted to remain humble in the teaching of God's Word, in the receiving of God's Word. We were humble enough to say we both wanted to understand that wherever our understanding disagreed with the Word of God, we were wrong and God was right.

Also, as we found out from the Bible what the will of God was for our life, we did it. We abstained from the things that God wanted us to abstain from. We gravitated toward the things that God wanted us to gravitate towards. As we performed His will, as it says here in verse 17, *If any man will do his will*, we began to know of the doctrine, which ones were of God and which ones were of man.

There was a radio station that we both listened to that we enjoyed because there was a man who would have a show similar to this. He would answer questions from listeners and he would teach the Bible and so forth, and we listened to that radio station for a couple of years until we began to realize that some of his teachings were contrary to what the Bible actually taught. Why? Because we were not trying to follow a man. We were not hung up on just what one man said. We went to the Bible

and we begged God. We begged the Holy Spirit to teach us only what the Bible says.

I think Sister Ypille and I, we've never really talked about this, but I bet I'm about to find out something else we have in common because this is me. I was deathly afraid of being wrong when it came to the Word of God. I don't mean wrong in teaching it. I was afraid of being wrong in following the Word of God, so my prayer in trembling and fear was always to the Lord, to the Holy Spirit, "Please teach me only the right way and please help me to avoid the wrong way."

[Ms. Ypille:] I also think, because it's really true, you have to humble yourself, because the moment you think to yourself, "Oh, what I'm learning is the correct way just because I'm the one that's learning it." Because they really stop looking at other people in terms of the way people learn. Like, they will have their own stance: "I am very good with the Bible already. I can memorize left and right. I'm the one that's correct." But it's not so.

Even with some of the Bible teachers that we look up to and listen to, to this day, I always still retain a small bit of healthy skepticism. I have a library. By the grace of God, I have a nice library. I think it's a nice library in my office at home, and I have about five or six different sets of commentaries, complete commentaries on the whole Bible. One is Matthew Henry's. Another one is Barnes. Another one is... I forget, all these commentaries... and I have them there for reference and I use them to help sometimes.

I have a very healthy amount of skepticism for every single one of them. Meaning, for example, the Barnes commentary I have is



seventy volumes. It's seventy books that are an exposition of the Bible. I look at all those seventy books and I never look at that as, "Wow, this is the one commentary that I believe every word out of every one of those books. I believe everything it says because look at this guy how he wrote seventy books on the Bible and it's commentary."

I never look at it that way. I go there and I go in prayer and I say, "Lord, I'm just looking for another point of view on this passage that I'm looking for. I want to see what another man of God, another student of the Bible, what he thought this said. But I believe what You say. And, Lord, if what I'm about to read is not correct, Lord, I want You to block it. I want You to put something in my mind that completely says, no, this isn't right."

[Ms. Ypille:] And you know, by the grace of God, Pastor, just on that track, really, truly, I believe, I mean, as inadequate as I am or as we are, as people are, when it comes to, because like you said there is a humble heart in approaching how to learn the Word of God. He Himself guides, doesn't He. I think He Himself is the One that really lights the path, so to speak, when we come to him with a sincere heart.

And that right there in itself is a fulfillment of Jesus' own promise because He said in John 14, talking about the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, He will guide us into all truth, but there's only one way for the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth and that is if we humble ourselves. So, dear listener, I hope this has answered your questions, but in fact, I also want to take a look at verse 18, just because it actually finishes the thought.

18He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him. Of course, again, Jesus is referring to Himself, but He's talking in general here. You have to pay attention also to the teaching that you're receiving, listener. When you're listening to a Bible teacher, myself included, I hope you're listening to me with a healthy bit of skepticism. I hope you're not just taking every word that I say.

You find in the Bible yourself who is the Bible teacher really pushing for you to know? Who or what? There are many Bible teachers who are pushing for you to know them. There are Bible teachers who try to push you to a religion so you know that religion. There are Bible teachers who are pushing you to a certain agenda, whatever that agenda may be. A Bible teacher who really, I believe... this is just me. You find out what the Bible says yourself, dear listener, but I believe a Bible teacher that is correct in his approach anyway is a Bible teacher who's only ever pointing to two things, two, not just one, but two things. A Bible teacher who is pushing and pointing to the absolute authority and belief in the Word of God and the Bible teacher who is pointing only to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those are two things to really look for in a good Bible teacher.

But in your own relationship with the Lord, dear listener, in your own relationship, Jesus gives you the answer in John 7, specifically verse 17. If you do His will, you'll know the doctrine whether it be of God or whether it be of man. And let me tell you this, the exciting part and the hopeful part, dear listener, is that God wants you to know. But what God gives you is a treasure unlike any other treasure.



Dear listener, if I told you that in a certain barangay in the geographical middle of that barangay, if you get a map and if you can do the mathematics and if you can hire a surveyor and in the geographic middle of that barangay, there is a box buried exactly five meters underground that contains gold that's worth a hundred million pesos, what would you do? Would you say, "Oh, that's really nice. I hope somebody finds it. Let me know if you find it." The problem is you would try to hire somebody and spend all of your life savings and go there and try to dig that box out, or go and seek it in the middle of the night, whatever. The point is there's going to be some work done to excavate a five-meter hole to try to find the little box because of the treasure. Dear listener, God wants you to dig for that treasure in His Word.

Now here's what's interesting about that, dear listener, and I'm talking to any listener out there who sincerely wants to follow what God says. The treasure, if you work for it by studying the Word of God by sweating, and fighting your urges to watch TV and listen to music and have fun so that you can spend the hours looking for the things in the Word of God.

What God has for you, that treasure that I'm talking about that God has for you, is for you. It's not for me. You might be able to teach me. But here's the thing. God might reveal something from His Word that's absolutely true. I'm not talking about extra vision and extra revelation. I'm talking about something that came out of His Word. God might bless you with a little piece of information, a little treasure that He has not blessed me with, because it's yours. And then you can turn around and you can teach me that. You can teach me because it's your treasure.

[Ms. Ypille:] Another nugget, right? Another angle. Let's say, the same passage, same Bible verse, but then another nugget within this that's also true and coming from God that another reader, another student of the Bible, did not see necessarily and then both of you brainstorming like that putting it together, it's a tremendous find.

Absolutely. And that's something that any truly sincere child of God... Now, you have to be a child of God, because if you're not saved, don't even bother. But a child of God who really puts their heart to God, they seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, knowing that God will add everything else that they need, God will have something for you. God has something for you. So, me sitting here in the radio station teaching you what I know, I'm only teaching you what God has given me, but what about what God wants to give you? Wow!

And with that thought, we've come to the end of our show. By the grace of God we've gotten down to a few more verses. I think we got down to verse 29, and we will pick up on verse 29 next week.