

Deliverance Movement 2: A Negative Analysis

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Deliverance Movement

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Bible Text: Luke 1:1-4

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In this session, we will spend quite a bit of our time going from passage to passage in the Bible and consequently I will not begin with a Bible text, rather as you can already see from my first heading, the subject is a biblical analysis now of the Deliverance Movement and basically this is going to be, I'm spending more of my time being negative. In a sense, I'll be a little positive but not much and I'll explain why: it's because I would like us when we come back from lunch and our stomachs are full, to go into groups and discuss those same passages of Scripture and come up with our actual understanding of those passages within the context in which they are found, and especially because of this first section where I am dealing with the misapplication of Scripture. The misapplication of Scripture.

Now, first of all, and I'll be a little quicker here and I want your participation. Yes, the Bible teaches the existence of demons and spirits so nobody should doubt that. The Bible teaches that they exist. The Bible also teaches the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit. In other words, people like the Apostle Paul were obviously doing what the Bembas call, ???, things that make you surprised or wonder or be amazed There's no doubt about it and nobody should try and suggest that we have read wrongly into those texts. That's not the issue and therefore you can well understand why the practitioners within the context of the Deliverance Movement keep claiming that they are simply following, rather they are simply being biblical. The argument is, "You know, this is what we read in the Bible so that's all we're trying to do here is what we read in the Bible."

Now, brethren, we all have Bibles, don't we? I hope you have a Bible, eh? Am I talking to people with Bibles. I hope you have Bibles and if you do have Bibles, it's important for you to be honest with your own Bible. If I was to ask the question, "Who in the Bible from Genesis all the way to the book of Revelation, who in the Bible was performing miracles?" I'm about to remove six individuals, six groupings right now and I want to ask you a simple question after I remove those six and I want you to be free, I will repeat from the microphone what your answer will be, to tell me of any others. The first two I will give you are Moses and Joshua, Moses being the main man and Joshua his assistant. So knock them out from your answers. The next I want you to remove are Elijah and Elisha, Elijah being the main man and Elisha his successor. And finally I want you to

remove Jesus and his apostles. Not his disciples, there were many of them, over 500 we are taught, but just his apostles. Jesus being the main man and the apostles being his successors.

Now you have the whole Bible in front of you and you do have your Bibles, start throwing out to me who the other miracle workers are. Come on, you told me you have Bibles and they are very honest. It's such a huge Bible, isn't it? Your Bible probably has as many as 2,000 pages and you read your Bibles every day for your quiet times. Come on. Are you giving me the answer? Oh, I'm too close to the microphone. Alright. Okay, sorry, sorry. The technical team is not too happy with my use. Quickly because I'm about to go to the next point.

Alright now, so here you are, I remove six individuals from you and suddenly I've robbed you of the miracle workers. Just six. The Bible is full of individuals who are examples of the faith. Let's go to the book of Hebrews quickly, Hebrews 11. We all know what Hebrews 11 is about, isn't it? Heroes of? Can you imagine, heroes for that matter. Heroes. Let's take a look at them. The first one is Abel. Do we have any miracles that Abel performed? I would like to be hearing the chorus because the chorus will continue. Have we got any miracles there? Okay, Enoch is the next one. Did he perform any miracles in terms of recorded? The next person in this, 8, is Abraham. Did Abraham perform any miracles? Come on. If he did, please tell us so that we can quickly respond. The next one is after verse 17 is Isaac. Did Isaac perform any miracles? The next one is Jacob in verse 21. Did Jacob perform any miracles? Okay, in verse 23 we find Moses, that one I've already surrendered, remember, so we don't even need to come to him. Then we have verse 32 gives us quite a number of heroes of the faith. Gideon, did he perform any miracles? Barak? Samson? Jephthah? David? David is one of the greatest, isn't he. Did he perform any miracles? I mean, the guy was running away half his life like a fugitive, hiding in cave to cave. In fact, the last Bible reading if you will remember, Saul almost caught up with him if someone didn't shout and say, "Hey, the Philistines are taking over things back here." And he said to his others quickly, "Let's go back." Samuel? And then we are told "and the prophets."

Okay, let's go to our table of contents and look at the prophets there. I hope your Bible has a table of contents. I will begin with Isaiah. Isaiah is a good 60 chapters. Jeremiah. Ezekiel. Were they performers of many of these extraordinary feats? Daniel? Okay, his friends found themselves in the fire but even then you could tell they were not saying, "We're about to show you a miracle." In fact, they were as surprised as everybody else because they said, "Well look, if the Lord desires to burn us, rather, for us to die, it's up to him." We can go to Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah. Yeah, he was swallowed by a fish but, again, it wasn't his miracle The Lord in the process got him out. Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah. Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

We've gone through the prophets and a few smaller ones in between so all I'm saying is, brethren, my concern is not so much that some things are in the Bible or not, it is this misapplication of Scripture to say the Bible is full of miracles, full of miracles and so we should be having miracles today is not true. There were three periods only in that entire,

we can even say 2,000 years. At least 1,500 to 2,000 years, there were three periods: the period of Moses and his successor; the period of Elijah and his successor; and the period of Jesus and his successors. So the question we should be asking ourselves is, "What is it that was special about those three periods? What is it?" I won't give you the answer now because it will be part of the discussion in your group or at least in one of the groups, but let me give you a hint: on the Mount of Transfiguration, there were three people talking together. Who were they? Moses, uh-huh. Elijah, uh-huh. And the last one? Jesus. Aha! So that's the only hint I'll give you.

So ask yourself why those three appeared together. Why did the voice from heaven say, "This is my beloved Son," and then this was the phrase, "Listen to him. Listen to him." What was that about? Once you find the answer, it totally explains why you had so many extraordinary feats during the period of Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. In fact, if you go back to Moses and you go back to Elijah, you find that both of them asked the Lord the same question and it's the same question that is now being answered by that statement by the Lord. I leave that as enough for now.

A few passages of Scripture there and all I'm saying there is that they had signs to distinguish them. They had signs to distinguish them and please understand, in the Bible the phrase "sign" was a technical word. It was a technical word in exactly the same way that the word "justification" is a technical word, and therefore we need to understand what it means. For instance, when the Bible says that a virgin will give birth and this will be a sign to you, it was not saying that now virgins would be giving birth to children wherever we're having miracles. There was something that was being said there.

I've touched on this a little bit but just for the sake of it, so we're not being expected to either walk on water or feed thousands with a few loaves of bread and fish or to rebuke winds and waves that they might obey us or to raise the dead. It's not being expected of us and it certainly often, and I honestly respect sincere young believers who when they are taught some of these things attempt it. I remember when I was in National Service many years ago in 1979, my fellow recruits in National Service went to one of the homes of the instructors where there was a funeral and insisted that they were going to raise the dead person and they were very sincere and it was on the actual day of the funeral so they had done the body viewing and these brethren began to pray and they were sincere. They commanded the dead man to rise, and they commanded him, and they commanded him, and they commanded him until slowly one by one they started disappearing. Now, you know, usually guys have their eyes closed when they're commanding but the voices are getting fewer. The last guy was almost beaten by the relatives. My point is he was sincere. He was taking the logical implication of his belief.

Another gentleman who, again, was very sincere, went into in this case it was the main hospital, to go to raise the sick out of their beds so that they walk out of that hospital. And he prayed and prayed and went ward after ward after ward. Nothing was happening until finally he just escaped and said there was lack of faith in that entire situation. Again, my point is there is sincerity. The fault is with those of us who are teachers that we are not teaching the truth. We are misapplying Scripture and consequently people like this

begin to think that that's the application. How many people, for instance, have died because they've been told not to take medicine, you've been cured? If you don't have a relative who has died that way, I'm saying blessed are you because I've had my fair share of them.

But let's quickly go on. Another area of misapplication of Scripture which you will be looking at during break time is that of spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare when you look at it in passages such as Ephesians 6, is certainly very clear. It is the evil one tempting you to sin against God and so you need the sword of the Spirit; you need the shield of faith, etc. etc.; you need prayer; you need the breastplate of righteousness; you need the belt of truth and so on. Those are things you need in order to answer the evil one's temptations so that he doesn't destroy you by you yielding to temptation and sin. That's what is there but, of course, it's been taken and put into that contest I was talking about is to do with breakthrough; that's what spiritual warfare is. So when people say, "Come for this prayer meeting, we will be engaged in spiritual warfare," I can tell you what's happening there. Is there some kind of prayers that are meant to break through so you are binding and you are loosing, and you are binding and you are loosing, and you are binding to break through? Is that what Paul had in mind?

I once asked a few friends of mine to provide biblical proof for this layer of terrible spirits and we are fighting them through prayer until we go through and I was given Daniel 10. I won't give you the answer but one of you, one of the groups who study it in context and tell me where that Daniel was engaged in spiritual warfare trying to break through so that the blessing can come. And the point, again, I'm saying is it's this misapplication, very easy. You know, Daniel. Look at Daniel. The angel was coming and was caught up with this evil spirit and there was a fight and consequently his answer was delayed. This is it! Amen! Are you sure this is what you are going through? A Bible study should be able to help us this afternoon.

Another area that is very obvious is that of spirit husbands and wives or spiritual husbands and wives. It's a very common teaching. I did a blog post on the internet once on it. It still remained one of the most popular, maybe famous is a better term than popular, and up to now I still receive messages on it. I must have written it about eight years ago but up to now I still receive message on it where people are very upset with me. "Look, you know nothing. Just shut up." And the passage that keeps coming up again and again as proof of spiritual husbands and wives is Genesis 6:1-2. Again, I don't need to be the one to tell you what it's teaching. One of you as a group will get together and study it in its context. The teaching is that if you're having problems in your marriage, whatever kind of problem it might be, it is a spirit husband or a spirit wife who is doing it. So for instance, if your wife is the one who is showing all kinds of awkward attitudes toward you, it's because there is a spirit husband in her life who is causing all that so that finally you break up and he can keep the wife to himself. Similarly, if you're having problems with your husband, he is misbehaving, he's in various ways in which husbands misbehave, again, there's a spirit wife in his life. It's a spirit so you can't see it that is doing all that so you can break up and that spirit can keep your husband. And it's amazing how many people leave on this. They actually go for deliverance sessions so that they

remove this spirit except that the greatest difficulty is to convince your spouse who's the problem maker, that, you know, "You have a spirit so let's go to my pastor so that he removes the spirit from you," because the guy just gets upset with you in the first place.

So that's where the difficulty often is and you remember I was talking about those radio programs I listen to? The prophet will be saying something like, "So, this Friday, come with your husband and we'll make sure that he will be delivered," and the poor wife would say, "Ah, I don't think he'll agree." "Okay, you just come alone. Don't worry, just come alone. We'll deal with the matter." Is that what Genesis 6 is teaching? Is that what it's teaching?

Here's another one: binding and loosing from Matthew 16 and Matthew 18. Again, I won't give you the answer. I want you people to study the passage in Scripture yourselves and in the context in Scripture you will notice that both Matthew 16 and 18 are saying exactly the same thing and I will be very shocked if you come back and say what it was teaching is this, that when you are praying you can be shouting, "Bind you, devil! Bind you, Satan! Bind this spirit! And bind the other spirit!" You tell me where that is that you find there. And yet let's face it, that's the popular teaching. It has completely changed the teaching of the Bible.

The last one I want to point out very quickly is something I have mentioned already and it is the misuse of the blood of Jesus through a superficial application of Exodus 12. And the reason why I have given you the entire text, verse 7 through verse 13, is because I want you to study it whichever group will have that passage. And I want you to be able to say whether that should be the New Testament application of that passage because the passage itself says: on the Passover kill a lamb and when you have killed a lamb, sprinkle its blood on the door posts and window posts or whatever you call it, window frames, and then when the angel of death comes, he will pass over your home and instead will visit the homes of the Egyptians, and the firstborn in those homes will perish. Not only the homes, but also in the cattle shed where the sheep are, wherever the animals are, the firstborn will be gone. Again, I'm simply asking you to learn to look at Scripture.

Now, friends, what worries me before we go on in the service, what worries me is this, when a movement is, and I want to use the word deliberately because most of the teachers when I have been engaged in discussion with them and said, "Okay, let's look at this passage," for instance when we did the Daniel 10 passage, you can see how the passage itself brings out those truths. The passage itself, you can see how the person just immediately goes, "No, no, no." And off he goes. But you and me, we have the same Bible so if you will not allow a Bible which you yourself, you read yourself, you read it, if you will not allow yourself to study the Bible in the way in which you are honestly bringing out its truths and giving it to God's people, surely you're not serving God anymore, you are serving yourself. At least, you are serving yourself. That's one thing that worries me.

The second is the emptying of salvation. The emptying of salvation. You see, in the Bible, salvation wins deliverance. It's not something else or something different from it.

It means deliverance. Colossians 1:13 very quickly, it says that, "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin." This is done. It has happened. God's people have been delivered. I don't need to go to anybody else to deliver me. Jesus has delivered me from being bound to the evil one to being a subject of his kingdom and it happened at the point of my salvation when I received the forgiveness of sins. Let me put it another way: you don't need to come to me for deliverance because your Savior has already delivered you.

When we separate the two, what we end up doing is emptying salvation of its meaning so now instead of asking the question, "So then tell me what exactly has happened in salvation, what is it?" And whatever it is, you're going to discover that it is not the full teaching of the Bible. Secondly, demons cannot indwell believers because they are already occupied by the Almighty Holy Spirit. They are already occupied by the Almighty Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is all powerful and he has come to take residence in the hearts of believers. There is no evil spirit there for you to be wrestling with.

Now, the question still arises and this is the answer I am putting before you here: then why do Christians struggle with all kinds of issues? Why? Here is the biblical answer, the biblical answer is this: that Christian failure is due to the flesh. The flesh. It's not demons, it is the flesh. Or let me put it this way to explain what the flesh is: according to the Bible, when we become Christians, the power of sin is broken of our lives. Utterly broken. It's rule over our lives is shattered. We are delivered, however, and this is the point: sin still dwells in us in the members of our bodies. Its power is broken, its presence is still there. And all we need to do therefore is read passages like this, read Romans 6, 7, and many other passages of Scripture and you will find the apostles constantly bringing to our attention the fact that we still carry with us a fallen nature and therefore it matters the way in which we relate to it. We must starve it, hence the phrase take off what belongs to that life, put on what belongs to the new life. You starve it while you are feeding your renewed humanity.

That's the reason why when Christians are spending their time watching these Nigerian movies, all they are doing is setting themselves up for a fall because they are feeding the sin flesh, the sinful nature. They are feeding it and before they know it, it will bring them down and when that happens, please don't blame demons. For lack of a better phrase, they are innocent. Even on the judgment day they will be saying to God, "Please, please, please!" Hence the apostles counseled that we are to repent of our sin and seek Christ in sanctification. That's in your New Testament and I will be dealing with it a lot more this afternoon when we deal with the positive from 1 Corinthians.

That's the biblical approach. In other words, let's assume I'm having a major marital conflict, marriage conflict, and so here I am, or let's do it the other way around and I'm the pastor, so here's a couple who is having serious marriage conflicts. They come to me. The biblical approach would be that I am up against the flesh and if the devil is involved whatsoever, he is taking advantage of the flesh so what I need to address is how these two

individuals are dealing with the flesh, the sinful nature. So I turn to the husband and ask the question, "Do you love your wife? Do you? Can your wife honestly say this man loves me? Tender loving care, can she say that?" Of course, you see the man beginning to go, "Um, well, you know, this thing is a little too difficult. You know, maybe if my wife was just a little bit..." It's the flesh that's giving him those excuses. When Jesus loved the church, he did not love a perfect people. You know that. He gave himself for a fallen people but he gave his life for us.

You turn to the wife, "Do you submit to your husband?" "Maybe if he was loving." No. Again, it's the flesh, the pride of the flesh wanting to hit back. It's the flesh. So finally you say to both husband and wife, "Repent. Repent." Or if they are not theologically knowledgeable you say, "Stop it." Simple, "Stop it and start doing what you're supposed to and Christ will give you the strength; he will give you the power." Cry to him as you are in your daily devotions. Cry to him that he may give you the ability to live the way he has lived. Well, friends, that's not what's happening. I've already told, "I'm having marriage problems." "Come and I will pray for you and I break the spirit of marriage problems. I break this." Come on. The apostles counseled and we will look at this this afternoon. Very quickly, the Movement instead of blaming it on the flesh which is blaming the actual individual with his fallen nature, puts the blame on demons and then calls the people to come and be prayed for.

And here is my final blow: there are no deliverance sessions in the whole Bible. I hope you have noticed that. I hope you have and yet there are a lot of problems in the whole Bible and the bottom line in the end is we are not really helping people. We are not. In the end it's scandals, after scandals, after scandals, and the worst thing is that the chap at the top has scandals as well and there is no accountability structure to remove him. There isn't.

I want to go further. Remember I'm talking about the emptying of salvation. Sadly many people go through these deliverance sessions and they are afterward labeled Christians. It's amazing. I don't know about you if you do evangelistic work, I do and a lot of people that say they are Christians as I'm doing my personal evangelism and when I ask the question to share with me your testimony, "How did you become a Christian?" this is the kind of answer I get, "Oh, I was having serious problems in my marriage, very serious. You know, my husband had even left me to go and start living with another woman. It was terrible. I was totally broken and so on. Then my work mate or my neighbor or whatever invited me to his or her church and while I was there, the man of God said that there is somebody here who has very serious problems in his or her marriage and I'm inviting you as other people come forward that you might receive a deliverance. I went and as he prayed for me, I cried, oh, I cried. I cried and since then I have been going to that church and it is wonderful. Just recently my husband even called. He hasn't called for a very long time. He called." I'm still waiting for salvation. The person has finished and he's also now looking at me thinking, "Haven't you heard? What else do you want to hear?" There is no repentance and yet repentance is an absolute necessity with salvation. There is no faith in a Christ who has died in my place, borne the wrath of God against my

sin, calling upon him to save me from my sin. There's nothing like that and such a person thinks they are now Christians.

As I have said here, such people do not know the Gospel. They have not repented from their sins. They are still lost. They are still lost but they are still being kept because they bring the money. They bring the money and also the numbers. It's amazing how many pastors feel embarrassed when they have to declare that they have a few people in their church. They want to be speaking in terms of a church that is packed to overflowing. Now, granted, the Lord wants people saved. He wants many people saved but he doesn't want us to be sticking wool from sheep onto goats and just fill the place up with goats who are not going to heaven because they don't know biblical salvation. They don't know it. He wants us to bring people to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here is the last, and in a sense I have already dealt with it. The Deliverance Movement makes the man of God indispensable to your spiritual progress. Indispensable. In other words, let's assume it was Kabwata Baptist church, I would be indispensable. Everything around the church would be hanging around. I don't know what I would have given you by now, apostle.

And all I want you to do now is to notice the similarities with the witchdoctor in our African tradition of religious lives and I have just two or three such points. First of all, to them, that is in the Deliverance Movement, to them in the Deliverance Movement, God is impotent to act in your life unless you go for their deliverance sessions. And it's amazing how many people come, usually it's a Sunday morning, they come into my office and they say, "I brought my son, I brought my daughter or somebody and, you know, I was told you were the pastor here," and I would say, "Yes," and then they would say, "So I have brought them for your prayers." I often say, "Okay, get into the church and after the service come and talk." And after they worship with all of us and then when they come into my office afterwards, I say to them, "Okay, I would like to meet with your son or daughter or whatever here because I have a lot of questions to ask them so that I can really arrive at what the problem is." And out of respect, they nod their heads, they go out through the door and I never see them again. The reason is because in their minds, I was simply supposed to somehow pray and what their own prayers could not do, my prayers would have done. They would have broken through. As I hope to show you in the afternoon from the Bible, that's not biblical. That's not the way the apostles dealt with the problems, the many problems that Christians were facing. But, you see, the problem with that approach is it makes me indispensable. It means it doesn't matter what you're going through, you must come to who? To me. To me and that's the witchdoctor issue. Where does everybody go in the midst of their crisis? That well beaten path into the bush, over the small stream, into something and finally you find the witchdoctor there.

One of my major quarrels with this is they don't help us to use our brain to address the obvious causes of disease, poverty, etc., etc. They don't help us. I mean, if here is a person who comes and says, "I have been changing jobs so often. Every time it is six months, my probation, the guy that places six months, another place six months." "There's a spirit there. Come for deliverance." But what if the person is lazy? Eh? Yeah.

You're hardly helping the person to address the problem You say to the person, "Okay, could you give me permission to go and visit at your previous employers and I won't tell you who said what but at least I'll hear from them with your permission as to what really caused you to lose jobs. I want to pick the pattern and then come back to you." And then they come back and say, "Do you know what? All of them, more or less, pointed to one thing which you need to address: you are lazy or you are stubborn or you are arrogant or you are whatever." At least the point is you can now use your brain to work on your problem.

The same thing with disease and one of the reasons why our compounds who hardly ever go forward is because a lot of the churches in the compounds are of this mindset. Someone is saying, "Look, this time it was my husband who was sick and then it was me and then it was my child." And they're saying, "There's a spirit in your home." No, it's most likely a communicable disease that's going from one person to the other. Do proper diagnosis and you may find that it's just the rubbish pit in the back yard that's a source of whatever these things are, that the flies are bringing in and consequently you're going through all this. The problem with this approach is a failure to deal with the root issues.

I did a recent blog post when we were being asked to pray for the economy and some pastors got together to pray for the economy and this is the way they were praying for the economy, one of the pastors got a basket and said to the other pastors, "Put in your kwacha notes," and they all put in their kwacha notes and then they put the kwacha in front of what they called an altar. Front, and then they started praying for those kwachas. Now, you are laughing because obviously you are thinking but they are sincere men of God failing to realize that the problem is not those pieces of paper in the basket, it's the economic policy and what you need is to bring together your best minds, economic minds, to deal with this matter and then also praying that the Lord will give them wisdom and ability to come up with a solution that will then kickstart the economy. Those pieces of paper are innocent.

The problem is although you are educating your citizens, you are not using your citizens. There are people who have hardly known anything about economics and business running a nation. It's simple logic. God has given us the brains and that's not helping because we're not helping our people to develop. It's not. It's not helping us to deal with issues of disease and illness. It's not. It's not helping us to deal with issues of unemployment. It's not. We somehow think that because I have gone to a pastor, he has laid his hands on me, abracadabra, I've got a job. Or look, in the meantime your friends are studying in school. They are improving themselves in terms of their status. They are going forward and then it's not happening and all you need is to change churches, go to another church, "Maybe that pastor there has more power to break through so that I can get a job." Here's the answer: enroll in night school and do ????. That's my point. So people are not concerned about education and some are hoping that with the man of God they will be improving themselves.

Very quickly and I must wrap up. They leave us in constant fear of the devil instead of a consciousness of a sovereign God. Exactly what the witchdoctor was doing. Exactly, and

by the way, coming back to the previous question, that's exactly what the witchdoctors have done in the villages, isn't it? Because here, you know, the firstborn has died, the second born has died, the third born has died, so what's the problem? It's your uncle. Are you sure you're going to deal with the disease in the family? Will you? No you won't deal with the real issues because it's your uncle and now your uncle is in trouble from your remaining children and the poor guy's innocent. But how does he prove his innocence? And in the process, our rural areas don't go forward. They don't. Have you tried going to the villages, brethren, to the rural areas and sat down with your relatives? You know, you are missing out especially when now you are sitting around the fire and they're not just talking about the problems. It's like they open their skull, remove the brain, put it by the fire also and then close it, and it's this traditional religion that has robbed them of the capacity to think.

Then I mentioned the fear of the devil; the constant preoccupation with the devil instead of recognizing that even the devil is under the control of a sovereign God. The devil cannot do to me anything unless the Lord permits it. In the end, it is the Lord I am under. And hence this is what makes it popular because this Deliverance Movement fits into the African psyche. It easily fits in because that's what we've been brought up thinking. The spirits of our dead ancestors that are a major blockade between us and God and we need the witchdoctor to break through for us so that the divine blessings can flow in our lives. Now we have this clean power from this man of God, but exactly the same thing, hence the numbers. The blame is never on us. The blame is always on some spirits, some spirits, some spirits. That's very comfortable. It's never on us. It's spirits. Who wouldn't mind being in such a place? Who?

Well, brethren, there it is, three areas of major concern. Major concern. It robs us of our Bible because it uses verses in here but uses them terribly wrongly and you will prove it yourselves straight after lunch. 2. It robs us of salvation. It empties salvation of its biblical meaning. Then 3, it simply takes us right back to where Christianity took us from, back to the dark ages, back to enslavement to mere human beings. Back there. And then as I shall show you in the afternoon, my job as your pastor is to work myself out of a job. In other words, those in the ministry should find Jesus Christ to be all that they need. That's it. That's what the Apostle Paul did and I hope to show you this afternoon. Amen.