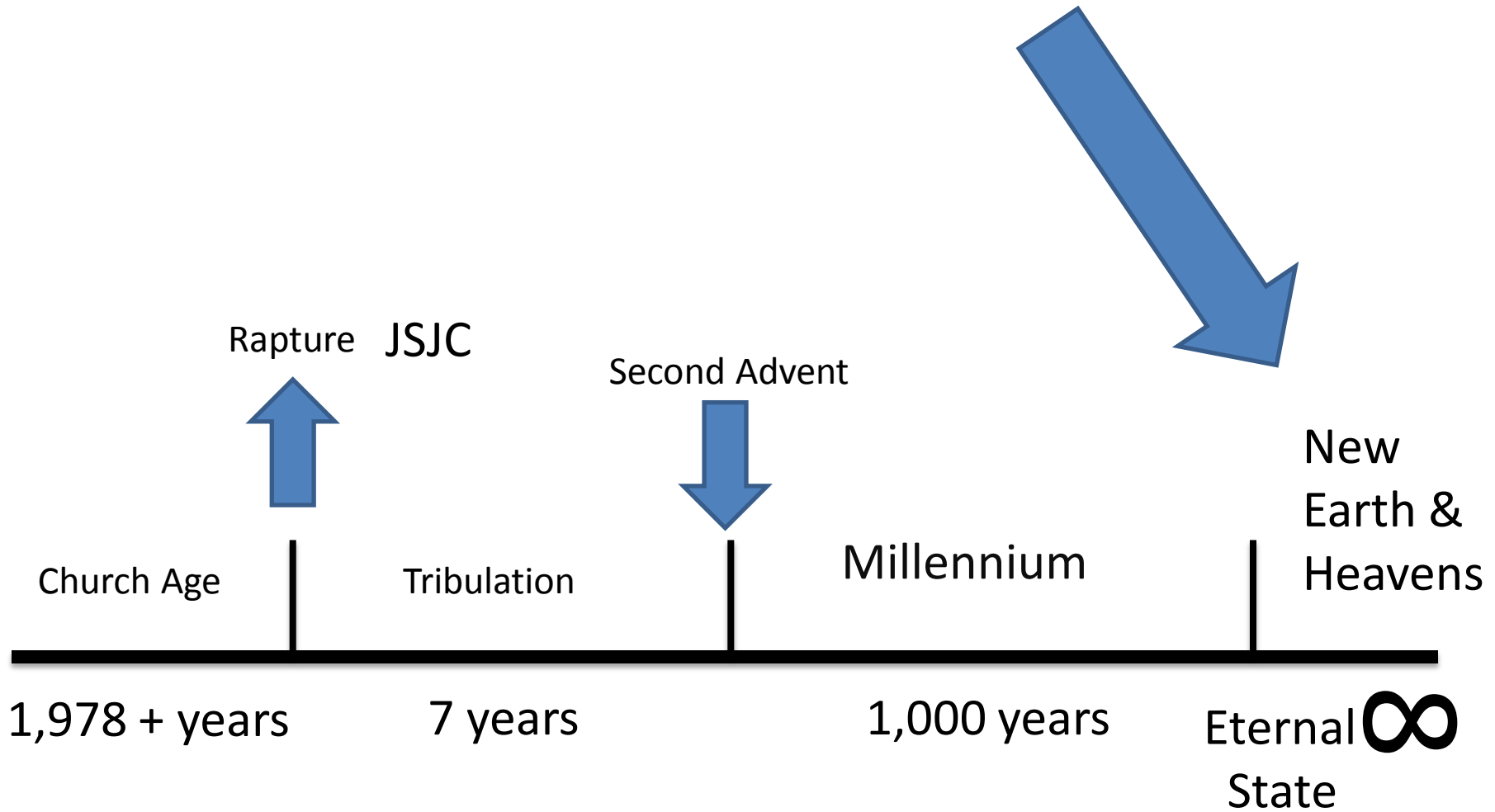


Any questions on our current studies?

These slides are available at
www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html
by Undershepherd Don Hargrove

Theological-Doctrinal Foundations –Overall POG: Eschatology (15)

Life in the Eternal State The New Heavens and the New Earth



New Heavens and New Earth

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements (στοιχεῖα = neutrons & protons of atoms) will be released (λυθήσεται = released, loosened, let loose) with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.
¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new (καινὸν) heaven and a new (καινήν) earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.

Why new earth? Why New Jerusalem? Why resurrected bodies? Why all this if we are just going to be playing harps on clouds? What is the hope of Christianity?

A look at what we will be doing in eternity—in the new heavens and on the new earth:

- ✓ Living in *our* transformed, imperishable, glorious bodies:
 - **Philippians 3:21** who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

- ✓ We will be living in our own heavenly homes (hovels or or mansions) perfectly prepared for each of us.

- **John 14:1** "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

- ✓ We will be engaged in ceaseless activity for God (not slumbering on a cloud or all in the face of Christ).
 - **Rev 22:3** And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve (λατρεύω) Him
- ✓ We will enjoy a grand reunion with loved ones, 1 Thess. 4:13-18.
- ✓ We will enjoy the breathtaking beauty of heaven as a celestial city, Heb. 12:22-23; Rev. 21:18-21.

✓ We will see God. This is known as the Beatific Vision

Rev 22:4 and they shall see His face

- Face-to-face experience with God.
- This will be a direct, complete revelation of God in which the believer will actually see the divine essence—full and direct knowledge of God.
- This vision will result in fantastic love for God.
- This vision will bring about a completion of happiness never before imagined.

- ✓ Contrast this to common view among “Christians.”
Maria Shriver, 1st lady of California, in *What’s Heaven?*
[with lots of pictures of fluffy clouds in blue skies]:
- “Heaven is somewhere you believe in . . . It’s a beautiful place where you can sit on soft clouds and talk to other people who are there. At night you can sit next to the stars, which are the brightest of anywhere in the universe. . . If you’re good throughout your life, then you get to go to heaven...”
 - This is more or less exactly what millions of people in the Western world have come to believe, to accept as truth, and to teach to their children. There is a farrago of these ideas in modern hymnals.

Preparation for Bible Class - Foundations

Personal issue #1: Salvation—God's Unconditional Love

Romans 5:6-8 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 5:8 But God demonstrates (συνίστημι) His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- ✓ God's transcendent and unparalleled love is poured out on helpless, ungodly, sinners—all unworthy and unresponsive. His love toward us: Christ died for us!
- ✓ Who would do that? Even for a righteous person?
- ✓ Note what is implied in the demonstration.

Preparation for Bible Class - Spiritual Foundations

Personal Issue #2: *Daily* Advancement to/in the Promised Life

1 Cor 10:1-11, all under the cloud . . . all passed through the sea . . . all ate the same spiritual food . . . all drank the same spiritual drink . . . from a spiritual rock . . . and the rock was Christ. . . . Nevertheless with most of them God was not pleased, for they were laid low in the wilderness. Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. . . . Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction.

Heb 4:1-11, Therefore let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. . . . Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.

Preparation for Bible Class - Foundations

Personal Issue #3: Spiritual Maturity & Greater Grace

James 4:4 You adulteresses [in bed with KD], do you not know that friendship [ἡ φιλία] with the world [τοῦ κόσμου] is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain: The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously [over the believer's positive volition for God/POG instead of kosmos diabolicus]? ⁶ But He gives a greater [μείζονα] grace. Therefore *it* says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Resurrection Special #15: Mark 16:1-9a; John 20:1-18

The Continuum/Physicality of the Resurrection Body

1. Note the physicality of the resurrected Christ, In 20
 - She “saw” Him standing there with her natural eyes.
 - She “heard” Him and was familiar with His voice.
 - She “touched” Him.
 - She, and two disciples, saw the empty tomb—this shows us the numerical identity of the pre- and post-resurrection body.

2. In this first appearance alone we have evidence for an unmistakable identity of the *same* visible, material body of Christ that was raised immortal.

3. Isagogics & etymology on the resurrection(ἀνάστασις). We have vast resources that clearly reveal the views of the ANE about death, the body and afterlife, and how they intersect with the Bible (language & theology). The importance of this critical groundwork is staggering in regard to Christ, believers, the SL, and heaven.
- ✓ What did the pagans think about the afterlife?
 - ✓ What did the pagans think about resurrection?
 - ✓ What did the Jews think about the afterlife?
 - ✓ What did the Jews think about resurrection?
 - ✓ What does the Bible teach about afterlife, resurrection, and heaven?
 - ✓ What is the Christian hope as it relates to resurrection?

4. Western worldview (mostly Platonic) of the soul/death/afterlife/body cannot be imported into the biblical texts—to do so only results in perplexity, contradiction, misunderstanding, and heresy (different/false views).
- ✓ Consider the vast resurrection doctrinal themes (especially in Rom. & 1 Cor. Examples: how is the R related to the SL? How can it be that we “perish” if Christ was not raised? What about Moses and Elijah? And Christ siding w/Pharisees against the Sadducees on afterlife and resurrection? Why such emphasis on resurrection if the body does not matter? Why the constant reference to Adam and creation in R?
 - ✓ Failure to grasp the meaning of R means no chance of entering into the surpassing grace of resurrection power mentioned by Paul, Philip. 3:10.

5. Due in no small part to devotionalism, millions of Christians have shallow and unbiblical views of resurrection (R) and heaven:
- ✓ That R refers to merely life after death.
 - ✓ That R means there is no connection with one's earthly body.
 - ✓ That in R, Jesus took on a new spiritual body.
 - ✓ That the Risen Jesus is no longer material.
 - ✓ That only the soul is important (Platonic view), and that someday in our final and perfected state, we will be in heaven on a cloud peacefully gazing at Jesus for all of eternity.

(False Views continued)

- ✓ That R means loss of our earthly humanity. Thus, no real connection between now and future.
- ✓ That R of Jesus was an assumption.
- ✓ That R infers a dual body resurrection. The teaching that Christ took on a new body, and that believers will take on a new body.

6. Consider what would have happened to the earthly material human body of Jesus if He just took on a *new* spiritual body.
- ✓ This would be compatible with Platonism.
 - ✓ This would be perfectly compatible with the views that the old body is just a shell and does not mean anything in the POG.
 - ✓ Remember: everyone still believed that Jesus' existence continued after His death and burial. Since all faithful Bible believers believe that a person continues to live after death, what is the significance of the resurrection?

7. Resurrection (N.B.: all of my views are orthodox):

<u>ORTHODOX VIEW</u>	<u>HERETICAL/ABERRANT VIEWS</u>
Doing theology	Devotionalism/piety
Important	Not very important
Makes a profound difference	Makes no difference
The Same Body	A Different Body*
(Numerically Identical)	(Numerically Distinct)
A Material Body	Not a Material Body
In the Flesh	Not in the Flesh
In History	Not in History
(In Space and Time)	(Not in Space and Time)
Visible in Time/Space	Not visible time/space
Resurrection of the flesh	Resurrection of spirit/soul

*Cf. JW's Spiritual resurrection: 'God took the body of Jesus from the tomb, but we do not know what God did with it. Jesus rose in a new body.'

8. The Bible declares that the *same body* placed in Jesus' tomb emerged from it on Resurrection Sunday.
- ✓ The body placed there was a physical, material body. Hence, it follows that the risen body was also the same physical, material body.
 - ✓ Christ's physical body can appear and disappear immediately, but that does not mean that it is not essentially material (Lk 24:31, 36; Jn 20:26).
 - ✓ A person cannot be both essentially material and immaterial. Individuals in the Bible disappeared, but they were nonetheless physical (Acts 8:39).

9. Note the biblical emphasis on the physical/material nature of Christ's resurrection body—a literal, material body of flesh and bones.

- **Luke 24:39** "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."
- **John 20:27** Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing."

- **Luke 24:42** And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; ⁴³ and He took it and ate *it* before them.
- **Matthew 28:9** And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.
- **Matthew 28:17** And when they saw Him, they worshiped *Him*; but some were doubtful.
- **Acts 2:31** he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.

- **John 21:12-13.** Jesus said to them, "Come *and* have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread, and gave them, and the fish likewise.
- **Acts 1:11** and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.

- **Colossians 2:12** having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
- **Romans 6:5** For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also *in the likeness* of His resurrection,
- **John 2:19** Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

- Matthew 12:40 for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
- John 12:1 Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.
- 1 Corinthians 15:42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*;

- ✓ Acts 13:36 "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay; ³⁷ but He whom God raised did not undergo decay.
- ✓ Philippians 3:21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

10. Just because the resurrection body has more powers than a pre-resurrection body, does not mean that it is *less* physical. That is, it does not cease to be a material body, even though by resurrection it gains powers beyond mere physical bodies. Again, even a physical body can disappear and remain physical:

- ✓ **Acts 8:39-40** And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus; and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities, until he came to Caesarea.

Ancient views on women

(a word about marriage, counseling, & BD)

1. Consider the ancient views on women.
 - ✓ In general Greek and Roman courts excluded as witnesses women, slaves, and children.
 - ✓ Women were considered so untrustworthy that they were not allowed to be witnesses to the rising of the moon as a sign of the beginning of the festivals.
 - ✓ Josephus, “women are unacceptable because of the levity and temerity of their sex.”

- ✓ Common ancient prejudice was that women were less rational than men, more easily swayed by emotion, more readily influenced, all too prone to jump to conclusions without thoughtful considerations, gullible, and prone to excessive feelings, and actions.
- Are women more easily swayed by emotions? What are the strengths and weaknesses of a woman's emotional makeup, especially as far as BD, marriage, children, leadership, etc.?
- What was Christ's attitude with regard to the crying emotional Mary?

- ✓ The reason for ancient prejudice was related to a larger paradigm. A woman and her words were not regarded as “public property.” Women were expected to speak to and through their husbands. Women were related to the private, while males reigned in public environments. A woman’s place was in her home, not the witness stand.
- ✓ It was all about the priority of man in God’s dealings with the world.

- ✓ Women were assumed to be less critical and exacting—not wanting to hurt feelings. Does this have any truth to it?
- ✓ Another reason women were not allowed as witnesses is because ancient trials were contests of honor more than they were fact-finding processes. Thus to bring in a woman would be a “victory” of dishonor for the side that lost.

2. It was Jesus Christ who broke the male chauvinistic sexist mold and raised women to a new level in His own life and for the Christian marriage. Those who were honored the least in society were the ones who received the blessings of being the first to see the Risen Lord.

3. It was Christ who reestablished the standards of marriage by going back to original creation,

- **Matthew 19:4** And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created *them* from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh '?
- ❖ One Flesh! Satan's objective is always to divide and conquer the husband and wife.

- ✓ We now live in a time when gender roles and family are under assault on an unprecedented level. The idea that men and women have different roles is scoffed at in the public square. Kids are suffering terribly due to the breakup of families. Polyamory is the next sexual “liberation” movement.
- ✓ Consider the major companies that support lewd Gay Pride parades and openly brag about their openness and diversity, but would never be open and diverse enough to support a parade for traditional family values, teenage (and unmarried adult) abstinence, or support for the unborn. Starbucks and Kraft are two of the most egregious examples of being anti-family.

4. It was Christ who made the conscious decision to provide for the protection and honoring of wives by their Christian husbands, Eph. 5:23-31.

5. One way you can always tell if a Christian husband is really positive to BD/JC/SL is how he responds to Bible doctrine on the responsibilities of the husband as outlined in Ephesians 5 (see slides 41-42).
- ✓ The issue is not perfection. Rather, it is attitude!
 - ✓ The husband who is positive to BD will take these responsibilities seriously.
 - ✓ The husband who really is not interested in BD will ignore them and thus fail to be the blessing to his wife that God designed him to be. Rather, he will use & neglect his wife. The end result is that he will not become the man God wants him to be—i.e., a real man, the leader and protector instead of being a child.

6. God designed men and women to be different. In marriage a man and woman come together, and together they are stronger and better than apart from each other. They are designed to affect each other positively.

- What are the chief differences between men & women.
- What are the beneficial effects of a husband on a wife?
- What are the beneficial effects of a wife on a husband?
- What are the beneficial effects of a mother and father (the family) on children?
- What are the beneficial effects of a traditional marriage (one man and one woman) on society?

- What are some of the benefits that the state receives in exchange for tax benefits for marriage?
- Consider that in 2010, 1-5 homosexuals has AIDS and the average life of homosexual is about 46.
- Why can't we not agree with GLBT without being called "hateful, hitlers," with phobic diseases.
- What does the Bible say about a generation where good is called evil and evil is called good? (Rom 1:32).
- Who suffers the most from GLBT?
- Who cares enough to speak out even though to do so means that you will be called all kinds of vile things?

DIVINE DESIGN BEFORE AND AFTER THE FALL

- ✓ It was not good for man to be alone so God created woman.
- ✓ Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good (לֹא-טוֹב) for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper (עֲזָרָה) suitable for him(כְּנֶגְדּוֹ)."
 - Meaning of “helper.”
 - Concept in “suitable for him”
 - **1 Corinthians 11:7-8**, . . . the woman is the glory of man. For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man;

- ✓ **Divine prophecy of the battle of the sexes:**
Genesis 3:16 . . . Yet your desire (תַּשׁוּקָה) shall be for your husband, But he shall rule (לְשַׁלֵּט) over you."
- ❖ Her desire is both negative (Gen 4:7) and positive (Song 7:10). It all depends on the SL.
 - ❖ His rulership is both positive and negative. It all depends on the SL. Historically, mostly negative as women have been and continue to be dominated, mistreated, and taken advantage of by man.

- ✓ This curse of the battle between the sexes can only be turned into blessings through a spiritual life that is undergirded by F/HS and BD, only this can create a true “Christ-centered marriage.” The key is to live and orient to the NT horizons.
- ✓ It is all about execution of the plan of God.

✓ Only by being serious about BD and the spiritual life will the husband develop the capacity to advance in his love for his wife—a love that parallels Christ’s love for the church. There are at least 8 aspects to this love:

1. Spiritual leadership, Eph. 5:23.
2. Sacrificial giving of self, 25. How did Christ give?
3. Sanctifying her—setting her apart to God, 26.
4. Cleansing her—avoidance of moral filth, 26.

5. Nourishing her – 29. Never taking her for granted.

6. Cherishing her – 29. Real value!

7. Being one with her – 31. This includes rejecting the “advances” of all others.

8. Loving her and thinking of her as he does himself—33 . She never becomes a casual interest. How does he respond if someone attacks his body?

- ✓ No husband can expect to have a healthy, growing, and thriving marriage if he does not grow spiritually. This gives him the instruction and capacity to love, value, and cherish his wife according to the dictates of the Word of God.

- ✓ The husband who does not make spiritual growth a priority (to undergird his love for his wife) will become embittered over time.
 - Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.

- ✓ Christ makes it clear in the analogy in Ephesians that the husband must never take his wife for granted. Christ never regards his bride with casual interest or considers her of secondary importance.
- ✓ Unfortunately, most married couples interviewed admit that if they had it to do all over again, they would not have gotten married. However, those who *can* work it out generally end up happier—but this is not always possible. At any case, grace is always far greater than our sinfulness. BD is the determiner.
- ✓ The way of the OSHGEN and KD leads to cursing. But with BD and HS, any relationship can be turned around & become the most blessed relationship in life.

- ✓ Apart from spiritual dynamics, a man's love and devotion to his wife diminishes over time.
 - Note the energy before the marriage in wooing and winning his wife.
 - After marriage often turns attention to other goals.
 - Often he devotes less and less time to his wife, treating her less and less important.
 - She expected things to continue. She increasingly devotes more and more time to him and his "stuff"—laundry, making his bed, cleaning his house, cooking his meals. He becomes less involved in her and she becomes more involved in doing things for him. Then, usually they tire of each other because of lack of spiritual dynamics.

- ✓ With BD and the FHS, marriage does indeed get better and better and better, year after year!!!! It becomes the blessing for which it was designed.
- ✓ It requires an enormous amount of genuine humility and Bible doctrine before a marriage can be the fantastic blessing as designed by God. No one can fulfill the mandates for wife and husband apart from humility. Takes humility to submit and takes humility to love unconditionally. Of course, it takes a lot of humility to make the necessary adjustments in life.
- ✓ The mandates were designed to be the key to blessedness. Human viewpoint always says “no”!