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All the messages that I intend to bring in this series are interlocked. They are interlaced one upon another, so for whoever listens to just some of the sessions, you will forgive us if some things seem without foundation. But here at the beginning, I want to lay out an overarch. It will have two effects in my estimation. One is to adjust the understanding of the past to be consistent with the revelation that God is bringing forth now. You will find that in upgrading you are not starting from scratch, but simply adding new levels of insight to things you have already known. But with that, it will take you to a whole different level. The net effect of what I say here will *not* be to merely reinforce the past. In fact, I think you will find that it does not at all reinforce the past. What it does is cause you to go, in the words of C.S. Lewis, “further up and further in,” because such is the nature of maturity. When you are mature, it is not without reference to your past experiences, but maturity interprets your past experiences in a manner that is different from the stage you were in at the time when you had those experiences. Now, you will find in the book of 1 Corinthians it says, “*We do have a message of wisdom among the mature, but it is not the wisdom of the world.*” Paul said this.

Let me just introduce a reading, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. ²For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Paul is saying, “I made a decision as I was coming to see you. I made a decision that for the time that I would be among you, I would elect to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” Now, there is a reason he made that decision, because that is a foundational principle of our faith, Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Let me show you the reason why Paul decided to do that.

Go over to the next chapter, 1 Corinthians 3:1-3,

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ²I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now [the present time] you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; ³for you are still carnal."

The word, carnal, and the word, immature, are synonymous. In other words, a carnal Christian, so to speak, is not described as an immoral Christian, as we have often said. A carnal Christian, a carnal believer, is simply an immature believer. Now, why is that so? Because he is preoccupied with matters of his flesh. The word, carnal, is the word, flesh. You know the word, carnivorous, and various aspects of that root, which means, of the flesh. When you are immature, you are preoccupied with matters of your flesh. *"What shall I eat? What shall I drink? Wherewithal shall I be clothed?"* Concerning which, the word would be, *"After these things the Gentiles [or unbelievers] seek"* (Matthew 6:31-33). And it is indicative of one who is not seeking the Kingdom.

Paul said, "I made a decision as I was planning to come to see you. I took a command decision because of your condition of immaturity, which should not have been the case. Because by now you ought to have been teachers of the word, but you insist on milk, which is the food of children." And here is the carnality that was evident among them. Do you remember that he is writing to the Corinthians? The Corinthians were the ones who were saying, *"I am of Paul, I am of Apollos, I am of Cephas, I am of Christ."* The Corinthians were the ones who were practicing behavioral patterns that were such as were not named among the Gentiles, where a man was living with his father's wife, and they were not ashamed and mortified by that behavior. So, he said, "I have come back, as it were, to re-dig the foundations. I have come back, as it were, to re-dig the wells. And I decided to start over with you. I decided to come and start with the most elemental aspects of our faith, Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I am starting over with you." And this was their condition: *"For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? ⁴For when one says, 'I am of Paul,' and another, 'I am of Apollos,' are you not carnal?"* (1 Corinthians 3:3-4)

The reason he elected to come to them knowing nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified—the reason he elected to come, and demonstrate the power of God, and speak not with persuasive words that their faith should rest in the wisdom of men, but starting over with them—was because of their condition.

But, note 1 Corinthians 2:6, “*However, we speak wisdom among the mature...*” There is a contrast between giving children milk; there is the juxtaposition of children and mature. One of the most shocking things to me is to discover over the years that there is no real thought in the church, let alone any real practice in the church, that suggests that we are meant to become a mature people. Is that not shocking? And even less true is that we are meant to conduct ourselves with the seriousness of those who are mature. I will tell you what happens when a people are not mature: They are blown about by every wind of doctrine, and they are routinely trapped in the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. What is the net effect of that? The net effect of that is we have no effect at all in the world. If by the time we ought to be teachers we are still on milk, we are carnal, and we are immature, then what difficulty do we present to our enemy to deceive us when he comes with promises that appeal to our carnality? Because that is all he has. It is his ability to devour flesh—dust, carnality—that allows him to entrap us as routinely as he does.

This series of messages is about bringing us to maturity. Now, whenever you talk in those terms, maturity requires a standard. Nothing can be judged without a standard. Then it is just a matter of people’s opinions. If we have some question, let us say, about the dimensions of this table, and some say it is so many centimeters, and another says it is so many centimeters, and they are different, how do you determine accurately what the dimensions of the table really are? Somebody will get out a tape measure, a standard, and they will run it along the length of it, and they will run it along the width of it, and they will tell us what the readings are. At that point, anyone who says, “I do not believe that,” is judged to be carnal and immature, because the application of the standard puts an end to all argument. Maturity *cannot* be the judgment of our traditions, our prejudices, and our preferences. Maturity is the divine standard, the exactitude of

Christ carried in a Corporate Man. Now, all of what has preceded us was designed to dispose us to being able to lay a hold of that standard, personally, for our own lives, so that we ourselves might become the standard.

In the course of this discussion, then, I will talk to you about the church of the Firstborn. What does it mean, the Firstborn? But, before we get into all of that, let me finish this reading, and then I want to jump off at a point of real challenge to us—to you and to me.

1 Corinthians 2:6-7,

*However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, [There is a kind of wisdom that is not accessible except to those who are mature. It says right here.] ...yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained **before the ages** for our glory. [Before God began time, He ordained wisdom for the mature in our present time.]*

When are you glorified with Christ? “*When Christ, who is your life, appears, you shall appear with Him in glory*” (Colossians 3:4). When the Standard, who is Christ, appears in your life, you also are clothed in the glory of God. And let no one tell you that the Scriptures that say, “*I am God, and I share My glory with no other,*” applies to you, because you are not, another (Isaiah 42:8). Part of the hidden wisdom of God, which is a mystery, is how God was *in Christ* reconciling the world to Himself. When you are reconciled to God, *in Christ*, you are reconciled to God Himself, and the wisdom of the ages that preceded the creation of the world comes to be the obvious and manifested truth of your existence in the world.

Jesus had two glories—and here I am laying out foundations. Obviously, I will come back and develop these things with greater precision. Jesus had two glories when He came into the world. One He left: did not count it robbery to be on equal terms with God, because, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, the Word was God*” (John 1:1). The same Word that came as flesh, “*...and we beheld His glory as the only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth*” (John 1:14). Jesus, when He came to the earth, came from His place of being God, and was manifested in the earth

in the form of a servant, but primarily the One who is known as His Son. He had a glory before the foundations of the world. Concerning that glory, in John 17:5, when He was returning to the Father, He said, “Father, glorify Me with the glory I had with You before the foundations of the world. I am coming back to You Father, so glorify Me with the glory I had before the foundations of the world.” So, He intended to resume the glory that He had at the point where it was said, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” But then He said to the Father, same John 17, “...*and the glory You gave Me.*” He had a glory that was inherent, and He had a glory that was imparted. “*The glory,*” He said, “*that You gave Me, I have given to them*” (John 17:22). There was a glory that Jesus had while He was on the earth that the Father gave Him. That glory has remained in the earth, not just for the twelve, but for “*all those who believe in Me through their word.*” So, yes, there was a glory.

Continuing from 1 Corinthians 2:7-10,

*But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages **for our glory**,⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew... [This is the message of wisdom among the mature.] ...for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.⁹ But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

Note that, “*for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the **deep** things of God.*” God himself is described as ‘the Deep.’ Are we of one mind in that? Sure, the Deep calls to the deep (Psalm 42:7), Spirit calls to spirit. There are things that are not apparent—they are the deep things of God.

In fact, they might even be said to be God Himself. “*For the Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are the sons of God*” (Romans 8:16). Well, here it is. Sometimes the very next things say what I just said. I wish I had thought it up, but here it is before the fact. 1 Corinthians 2:10-12.

For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of a man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God, [one might say the deep things of God] except the Spirit of God, ¹²for we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may know the things which have been freely given to us by God.

It is the Holy Spirit who has the capacity to search out, in God, the deep things that are in God. Whenever God is about to be revealed, you will find the Holy Spirit hovering, because there is an absolute nexus, a binding nexus, between the Logos and the Spirit—between the Word and the Spirit. So much so, that it might be said, and it has been said, that the Word itself is Spirit and Life (John 6:63).

Do you know one of the most amazing things to me is when I read the Scriptures, having a background in the Scriptures, when the breath of revelation comes, something leaps within you, doesn't it? I do not pretend that I will teach you anything that is actually new. People of God, you have walked with God a long time and it is precisely because you have, and because He has laden in you these enormous truths, that now the breath of revelation is causing the things you have known to suddenly come alive. *For the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come into His temple* (Malachi 3:1). We thought that these were pieces just to be consumed to make us look wiser than we actually were. No. They were leading to something. In modern computer terms, it is called, bread crumbs—from the story of Hansel and Gretel. They were meant to mark our path. Do you see? Now, no one can have anything unless God gives it to him. Those who present the Word in a revealed fashion are not greater than anyone else. God just said, "Hey, you there. What is your name again? You, come up, and you stand here with Me. I am going to say something to My people through some of these." You will see this as we go forward.

Continuing in 1 Corinthians 2:13-14,

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴But the

natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, because they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

If a thing is foolish to you, are you likely to take it in, and bring it home, and feed it? No. If it is foolishness to you *ab initio*—from the beginning—you will discard it. So, the immature is the foolish man. The immature is the carnal man. And treasures of the Spirit are disregarded routinely by the carnal man, because they can only be spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:15, *But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.* Now, the reason is that he is an accurate measure of the Truth. In other words, he himself has been calibrated to the standard of the Firstborn. I have not touched that yet, so I am just making a statement, but I intend to be held to the account of that statement. The man who applies the standard of the Spirit—which is the standard that the Holy Spirit has revealed to us as to who Christ is—has first had that standard applied to himself. So, when he proceeds to apply the standard in any situation, he is not going to be judged by it, because he has been previously judged by it. The only way you can carry the standard is, as Paul said, if you bear on your body the marks of the Lord. There used to be in old British settings, a balance, called a Roman steelyard. It was almost three feet long, and it was the way that you weighed or balanced things. It had markings on it. That is the concept of “*bearing on my body the marks of the Lord*” that Paul is speaking about (Galatians 6:17). It is a Roman steelyard, where he himself has been adjusted to the standard of Christ. It is a double entendre, of course, because it means He has paid the price, in suffering, to become the marker—the one on whose body the marks of the measurement have come.

1 Corinthians 2:16, “*For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.*” Now, that is where I want to end this series of discourses. I want to end the series of discourses on, what does it mean to have the mind of Christ? I promise you, you have not heard it before. I am not saying that to you to draw you back. It is not like one of these soap operas where you are left hanging on the edge of the cliff. No. It is one of the things I stayed up until early in the morning to

chase down because of the flood of revelation that was coming to me. Have you thought about the fact that no one has at any time, seen God? That is a reference to the Father. We have not at any time seen the Father. How, then, are we able to call Him Father? That is what I want to end up with when we talk about the mind of Christ. I will take you on a very long journey, in part, to systematically destroy false constructs that stand in the way of seeing God as He is meant to be seen.

One of the constructs that I want to destroy is the notion that our goal in this life is to go to heaven when we die. Let me say plainly, it should be as true for you as it is for me that when we are not found here about, we ought to be found in heaven, considering the alternative. But it is not a goal. In fact, by exalting it as a goal, we deny the real purpose of being alive in the earth in our time. We will find that we have made associations with verses of Scripture to paradigms of understanding that we have grown up with, and it is now time to strip the truth from the paradigms of interpretation, and the conclusions that those paradigms lead us to. Do you realize that, for the most part, preachers are trying to preach to people the Word of the Lord, and to the people, their basic understanding of the Scriptures ended with Sunday school? The current understanding is a Sunday school level of understanding, and that is why we really have nothing to say to the world. Because anybody you meet in the world, who is serious about what they are doing, cannot possibly be impressed with our Sunday school level of addressing their critical needs. But, the terror of churches has been that they do not want to take the people to any place where the people do not want to go, and it is why entertainment has come to be a substitute for the Word of God. Entertainment is watered down milk. I mean, it is why we are doing what we are doing, and we look like buffoons. We look like children at a circus. It is tragic, but there is no point in pointing out the tragedy of it to you if we do not have any answers. I hear people talking about how the heavens are as brass. I want to say, "Give me a break." There is a river flowing from the throne of God—it is the most prevalent, rich, voluminous flow since God established four rivers out of the Garden of Eden. Do you remember? The Tigris and the Euphrates, Gihon and Pishon—Gihon means, a gusher; and Pishon means, a spurter. Revelation is coming forth under pressure.

That was the introduction, by the way. I have not said anything of substance yet. **“But we have the mind of Christ.”** Come back with me now to Genesis 1:1, and I just want to read something to set up the framework, or the architecture. This that I have done so far is only to be considered an exhortation. I have exhorted you in the spirit of your mind to position your minds to hearing the Lord as the mature, that you might be counted worthy to receive revelation. Because I know I will challenge you, I ask only this: Be like the Bereans; be more noble than the folks from Thessaloniki. The Bereans received the Word with all gladness of heart, first, and then they searched the Scriptures to see if these things were so. I doubt you will hear in anything that I have to say, or even in my manner, of a self-serving nature. And the reason is, I have not come to serve myself. I have come to present the Lord as He is to His own House, for you are the House of God. I do not mean to pander to you, so I am not going to find the commonality of your interest and labor in that vein. I have come to speak for God, for your Father, as He would have me speak.

Genesis 1:1-5 says,

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light;” and there was light. ⁴And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So, the evening and the morning were the first day.

“*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” The question is, why? You must be able to ask these questions. This is not sacrilegious, you know. It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, and the honor of princes to find it out (Proverbs 25:2). Do you think God is going to be shocked at what we just did? We read the Scriptures, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,*” and I said, “Why?” We would shut down discussion by saying, “Who are you, O man, that you should ask God?” That is a misapplication of the Scriptures. There are many things you may ask God, and I did. I asked God, “You said, in the beginning You created the heavens and the earth.

Why?” If we subscribe to the view that there was no particular reason why God created the heavens and the earth, then we think He was just having an off week and just decided, “Umm, let’s see what I will do this week, before I rest. Before I go from rest to rest, I will take a week and do some work.” I know a lot of people like that. They are in a perpetual state of unemployment, but for a week or so they might work. They are in a perpetual state of self-imposed unemployment, and then, occasionally, they will say, “Well, for a week I think I will do something to make enough money to wander around some more. I want to go to Oregon. It is summer time, and I want to see what is going on in the high country. So, I think I will do some things to get some money to go up to the high country.”

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Why? If you were to ask God, “Why, O Lord, did You create the heavens and the earth?” the answer has to do with the backstory, because this is not the beginning. This is simply the beginning of *this* epoch. In fact, it might be said, because the word ‘beginning’ is the word that relates to alpha—as in alpha and omega, the beginning and the end—that it is actually saying, “I am the beginning.” In short, it is pregnant with significance. God is saying, “I want to tell you why I began; why I am seen as the beginning of this creation.” And, in fact, you know that this is what is said in the Scriptures, because does it not say, “*Thus sayeth the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the **Beginning** of the creation of God.*” Do you remember that Scripture? Yes. It is in Revelation 3:14, and this is what references it. So, God is saying, “I began. I Am the Beginning,” which is pregnant with the understanding that there is purpose for beginning *this* epoch in *this* way. It is not rude. I think the English would say, “I am not a boulder when I ask Him, why?” Actually, I am evincing the character of a prince: The glory of God is to conceal a matter, and the honor of princes to find it out. I will tell you some of the things I have found out, so that you do not have to endure the potential danger of asking God, “Why?”

I want you to note something before we go on, and I will come back to it. We will go on to the backstory, and we will go to Ephesians 1. But, before we do, I want to further rattle your cage. “*In the beginning God created the heavens [plural] and the earth.*”

Now, what does that mean? It means that they did not previously exist. If it is created, I promise you, it did not previously exist. The heavens, plural, did not previously exist, as surely as the earth did not previously exist, because in the same time of creation, the same beginning, God created both. It says that. Well, you could say, "That is probably because his is a cyber device. It is not the real book; you cannot see the rustling of the pages." But the words are still the same. They are the same here as they are in the ones of you still turning the pages. Do you know what that means? It means that heaven is not eternal, because it has a beginning, and I read where it will have an end. Anything that has a beginning and an end is not eternal, right? "*In the beginning God created the heavens...*" In fact, let me have you take ownership of that. This is probably as close as I will come to manipulating you, so I am telling you ahead of time. I want you to say with me, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Let me ask for a show of hands if you actually believe what you just said.

You see, the fact that you are hearing things that are new does not actually make them new. It just means that the light has not dawned in your head, yet. But when the light dawns, you cannot stay in the darkness. When the sun comes up in the morning, if you are staying in bed, you must be sick. As long as you are in the darkness, it is alright to do nothing about it. But once the light comes, you are going to be dispossessed of the mindset that endured in the darkness. I understand that there are consequences to your saying, "I believe that the Scriptures say exactly, '*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*' And that *that* means that in the same event, God, who is the Beginning, executed the making of the heavens, plural, and the earth. And, because nothing that has a beginning and an end is eternal, even if I do not know anything else, I am compelled to conclude that the heavens, like the earth, are not eternal." And yet, what is our governing view of how we view the story of creation? We see God, enthroned in heaven, creating the earth.

When He speaks of the gathering together of the waters He called, seas, our only view of waters is a viewpoint of waters on the earth. But before He created the heavens and the earth, there were waters. Is that not true? Tell me the portion of the story that says,

“And God created the waters.” The Baptist tradition has ordained our thinking in an erroneous fashion. To say that God made everything out of nothing is abysmally wrong. But, because our reference is to heaven as the existent location from which the earth is created, we miss it altogether. What is meant by, “*and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters*”? He was not hovering over H₂O. Whatever “*the waters*” means is the way they were before God created either heaven or earth. That is why, when He separates the waters from the waters by something called the firmament, what He places above the firmament is different, but connected to, what He places below the firmament. And did you notice He called the firmament—not sky—but heaven?

Just a couple other things before we leave the narrative. And when we do leave the narrative, it will be to inquire into why God created the heavens and the earth, and what things are in the heavens and the earth to accommodate that purpose. God created the heavens and the earth to accommodate purposes that preexisted the creation of the heavens and the earth. Everything in creation is made by Him and for Him. I mean, this thing is not for me to exalt myself by shrouding myself in mantles of mystery. Quite the opposite is true. We must lead Christ out of the mysteries of the Scriptures that He might appear as He is, in and through your person. I do not hope to be a mystical figure, for that would benefit neither you nor me, and it would be an affront to God. But, it is time for a new season in the Lord—a time when these things have a place of summary, *in Christ*. Everything in heaven and on earth is meant to be summed up in Christ, and this is a time for the summation of things *in Christ* to begin.

At the end of a case, the lawyer will present a summation. At the end of six thousand years of revelation, God means to present a summation, and that summation is Christ. You are to be found clothed *in Christ*, seeing everything the way He sees everything, including the Father. No man has seen the Father, except the One who came from the Father, to Whom you have been assembled. And what we are looking at is decoding the mystery of the creation of heaven and the creation of the earth to house the revelation of Christ, so that in the end, all things are summarized, *in Christ*. This is our gospel. This is the message of wisdom among the mature.

In America, right now, we are in our election cycle, in case you have not heard. And it is routine to hear people say, "We have been given the choice of the lesser of two evils." But, what is astonishing to me, as obvious as it is that Donald Trump holds forth with great pomp and circumstance, without any regard for the truth of a matter... Do not hear me in any way, directly or obliquely, suggesting that Hillary Clinton is somehow better. I went to school with people like Hillary Clinton; I did not go to school with her, but I have exactly the same educational background as Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, and Barack Obama. I have exactly the same academic background as they do. I went to law school, as well. I have a law degree. I can tell you about that type of person. They are amoral. I do not mean that they are immoral. They are amoral, because the law teaches you that nothing is absolute, and whatever you may convince another of is a substitute for the truth. That is American jurisprudence. You are taught and trained to argue both sides of an issue because you are not sure who will walk into your office; which side of the issue will walk into your office. And you are trained to win. There are no prizes for second in the law. You must win. And Hillary, and Bill, and Barack, and all of them were the quintessence of the product of legal training. They are amoral people, and people keep looking for them to accept certain standards. No. They know how to tell you publicly what the standards ought to be, but privately they will do anything to win. So, I know that ilk of people. And what she is doing with the failure to disclose, were calculated decisions designed to obfuscate the truth, because she had in mind to be president and did not want anything inconvenient to hijack her. But, Donald Trump is far less sophisticated than that. He is a petulant schoolboy, a rich bully. Again, not primarily because he is rich, but he is an entitled bully. So, how you determine one is less evil than the other, to me, really begs the question of standard. But that is beside the point.

None of that is what I wish to comment on. I wish to comment only on this: I subscribe to a number of news magazines, one of which is *Bloomberg Businessweek*. I look to *Businessweek* for the statistical analysis of things, because they do a lot of polling, and last I checked, they were not an overtly Christian organization. I say that tongue-in-

cheek, like saying the *Wall Street Journal* is not the same as the *Gospel Advocate Magazine*. But, they published an interesting statistic about three months ago, stating that the largest constituency of those supporting Donald Trump are Evangelical Christians. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of Evangelical Christians are voting for Donald Trump. And to me, what that means is the collapse of the leadership of the Evangelical Church is no longer an issue subject to debate. It is a done deal. The leadership of the Evangelical Church in the United States has completely collapsed. It is almost like, in Greek mythology, the three sisters who had one eye between them. I think somebody dropped the eye between the leadership of the Evangelical Church in America, because they do not even have an eye between them. They cannot see because they have come to place their hope in the well-being of the American economy. That is why. And they make the most outlandish statements, impressing only themselves, without realizing how buffoonish they have all become. I know many of these guys, personally, and they are in reality as they have become in current presentation.

What is clear is that God means to raise up a new leadership. The old leadership in the United States has been so thoroughly moth-eaten—so thoroughly compromised—that they are flatly incapable either of leading the current church, or being resurrected to the place where there is any hope that from among them a leadership will emerge. Something new has to emerge from the American church. And the only reason that you would be interested in that is, as was said in the conference last week: When America sneezes, the rest of the world catches a cold. I say that the leadership of the church, when it ceases to be—and it has ceased to be out of America—will have to be raised up from the rest of the world, and I do not think it is coincidental that we are at the ends of the earth today. Cape Town can be properly considered, ‘the ends of the earth.’ The land ends here. It would not surprise me one bit if it is from situs such as these, from the ends of the earth, God will both call a people and their leadership to rise up to show the excellence of the glory of Christ in the earth in this time. And if I am here to add any measure of contribution to that, then it is both my delight and my pleasure.

Do not think of yourselves somehow as being behind the American curve. That is no longer an appropriate measure. It is why God has elected to send, and I am not speaking of myself here, but I have observed that God is sending premier people to connect with those who are already rising, so that He may have a people in the earth. You have heard me say this before, but one of the peoples in the earth in this nation that God will raise up out of the dust, are the people known as the, Coloreds. Some of you will remember what I said in that auditorium. I said that the wickedness of men would say of the Colored, "He is neither black, nor white." But, do you remember what I said? I said, "But, I also say unto you, He is both black and white." He is both, because when you say he is neither, when you are done with him, you cannot find him. If you take away his portion that is white, and that is gone from him, and you take away his portion that is black, and that is gone from him, what do you have left? He does not exist. But God knows that you exist. He knows where you are, and He knows how to find you.

Now, I said that when I was here the last time in that auditorium. Do you notice what has happened to the country since then? All God wants is the declaration of a thing. When a thing is true, it will keep on advancing. South Africa is a nation for whom sports is a unifying identity. Since the days of Mandela and the football team, sports has unified the nation. Who is the current sports hero of South Africa? The man who broke Michael Johnson's record, and he is a Colored. And do you know what he said? I heard his interview. He said, "Lots of people are responsible for my success. I do not think of myself as black or white. I think of myself as a South African." Already, God raises a secular prophet and puts him on the stage of the world to say, "Behold, we are here. We are not a forgotten people. We have not been divided into oblivion. We are here. We are standing on the world's stage. We are black and white, because we represent an entire nation." Strategic. All you have to do in a moment in time is speak the word of the Lord, and it will be so, and of the increase there shall be no end. And, what is also happening is the one-party system of politics is giving way to a two-party system. Apparently, the second party is led by a black man who is married to a white

woman. It is happening. Do not despise the days of small beginnings, but a different mindset is required for this time.

Before we take a short break, let us come back to the text. I want to show you that the reason that God created the heavens and the earth was because there was a prior story. The story does not begin here. The creation begins here, but both the heavens and the earth were created to accommodate that which God had already determined He would do. So, when you think of the heavens and the earth, you ought not to think of them as being separate and distinct from the purposes they were created to contain. If a family decides to design a house, what are some of the things that would go into the design? If you could actually design a house, what would you design the house around? You would design it around what you need a house for—you would design the house around your need for that space. For example, if you had eight children, would you design a house with three bedrooms, if you could? No, of course not. If you are building a facility—the word, facility, means to facilitate—and you wanted to create a space, a house, to facilitate your living, and if you really could do it in the manner in which it needed to be done, what would the design look like? It would look like the perfect space to accommodate everything that represents your life.

For example, if you had a very active social life, would you not design a space that could accommodate visitors? Think of how the kings of various countries design their palaces. There was something called a great room, and in the great room would be a massive table with, probably, fifty seats. The whole room would be designed around that table, because that was normal for the life of that family. When people came to see you, you would have a state banquet in that massive room, of course, and you would have well-appointed suites for the people of note who would come and see you. Buckingham Palace is designed that way. The various castles of Germany are designed that way. The Spanish monarchy has these kinds of facilities. The White House in the United States, which is an American palace, is that way.

Business tycoons develop their homes around what they need. It is not just so you can have big houses. You design facilities to facilitate your life. Absolutely, you do. And the elegance of your rooms, your furnishings, and your appointments all speak of the level of your perspective. They do. I enjoyed staying in Peter's parents' home the last time I was here. I knew a lot about them from the house. They are elegant people. They are refined people. They are thoughtful people. They are world-traveled people. I could tell that just by being in their house. It is not about wealth and ostentation, or poverty and lack; it is about putting on display a certain character, who you are, and it is not one size fits all. That is communism. You see these old, drab cinder block buildings that dot the cityscapes of Eastern Europe, and you know that the political philosophy was dehumanizing to the human spirit. You can easily tell that. You do not have to know anything else about the philosophy.

Might I suggest to you, that God created the heavens and the earth to accommodate the purposes of God that existed before He created the heavens and the earth? The heavens and the earth are facilities: One facility facilitates aspects of the being of God that, by definition, are spiritual aspects; and the other celebrates aspects of God that are material, or that can be shown through the material. The obvious conclusion is that the heavens contain the spiritual representations of the nature of the invisible God, and the earth contains physical aspects of the same thing. So, the earth is an allegory of the heavens, and both speak, allegorically, as to who God is. But, whereas the heavens are not eternal and the earth is not eternal, as they were both created, God is eternal, because He existed before heaven and earth were created, and He cannot be contained in either one. That is why no one has at any time seen the Father, because He cannot be contained in either one. But we have access to Him, and that access is in the mind of Christ.