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Okay, this is Thursday night. We're into our study of Revelation and we have migrated from after chapters one, two, and three into Ephesians to look at the church as it relates to how we should understand the theology and doctrine of Christ and how we apply that in what we should be living our lives in regards to what scripture tells us. So Ephesians is the model for the church and that's what we're studying.

So as we come back to the book of Ephesians, we're now going to in this session and next week's session, wrap up chapter one, all right? And so I want you to understand that the theme on these two sessions tonight and next week is is something that we can term as Christ is everything. And what that means is we have talked last week and this Tuesday night in an open discussion is everything was provided in Christ before the foundation of the world and everything will get summed up to Christ when this world begins to dissolve, okay? And that's what we're going to get in Revelation, but it's told to us in Ephesians how all this is going to work and that we actually studied that last week when we looked at inheritance. So that's what we're going to focus on.

So this week and next week, I'm going to label this as Christ is everything. Why? Because that is where we live and if we don't understand that, we don't understand our spiritual life journey. So it amazes me and I've been in church off and on all my life and I just, guys, you've just got to understand, I despise church.

I despise the corporation church because of what it has done to our understanding of really what our life is about. And I am amazed that the church leadership and the church pastors and the teachers and the corporate church have totally lost their focus on Christ and have wandered off into all kinds of other subjects, themes, interpretations, delivery. It's like a theatrical journey now instead of a study of biblical principles and how we're supposed to live this life.

And it's very sad. It's very, very, very sad that this has happened because that's the reason why many of us are here, is because we've never been taught the truth. And that's the problem.

So I'm going to try to convey tonight about Christ is everything. I'm going to start that. This is going to be more of an introduction versus the hardcore principles of of why that exists.

But we're going to get into verse 15 through 23, which is the end of the chapter, on Paul's prayer for the church, which basically starts what we need to understand. Now, we understand from verses 3 to 14, all of the things of the plan of Christ before the foundation of the world. Now, Paul is bringing that into being the reality of how you should understand this.

And, you know, the blessings are such a process in verse 3 with all of the three types of blessing that's given from verse 3 to 14. That's your life before you were born. And so Paul understanding that and giving that to the church of Ephesus basically stops and says, okay, guys, we're now going to start revealing to you the actual doctrine of Christ.

And to understand that, we need to come to realization of really what these blessings are that we have learned from verse 3 to 14. And that's where verse 15 starts. So recently, I picked, I don't know what, I don't know, several months ago, maybe six months ago or so, I picked up a book titled The Reformation of the Church.

And you guys know that I'm an avid reader and I love things that basically give me insight to that which I'm studying. And this book includes articles from preachers who lived in the 17th century. So it goes back hundreds of years and it addresses the issue even at that point in time that was really close to the Reformation itself.

Remember, the Reformation started in 1615, the latter part of 1590s and went through the 1600s. This book was written just right after that. And what it called was that it called the church to another reformation.

This is like 50 years after the actual reformation that this book was written with all these articles from pastors. And the pastors were calling for the church to be reformed one more time. So it's amazing how short of a period of time that we as humans can get off the focus of really what Christ was all about.

It took them a very short period to do that, 50 years. I mean, so there was the book that I picked up had a forward written into it by Ian Murray. And I'm just going to read.

And this book was actually republished in 1964 with Ian Murray's forward in the book. And I'm going to read what he wrote here. I'm quoting him.

At a time when the Christian faith is commanding so little influence on the nation, the church herself should be engaged with questions which affect her own life, rather than the life of the masses of the people. What had happened 50 years after the Reformation is the church went back to trying to conform to societal norms. Instead of focusing on what Christ was teaching, they went back with the influence of the Catholic church, I might say.

They went back to focusing on societal norms, which means that basically they were focused on what does society want instead of what does society need. So this is such a simple and profound insight as to the church. When the church begins to focus on the masses of the people and what the people want, it loses its influence.

You lose your influence. It almost sounds counterintuitive. Church experts would tell us that if the church wants to reach the world, we have to find out what the world wants.

Well, when the opposite is the truth. We don't need to ask the world what it wants. Why? Because it is controlled by Satan.

And therefore, if we ask the world what it wants, we're going to put into practices in the church. We're the church, you. We're going to put in practices what the world wants, so therefore we're defiling Christ.

And what does John tell us? Do not be of this world or love anything in this world. Why? Because this is exactly what happens. We lose the focus of the church and we gain, we gain, if you call that a gain, we remove Christ from the center of our lives and move into that which the world wants, which is nothing more than what Satan wants.

So the Christian faith will always lose its influence when it tries to accommodate the world. You get the opposite results than what you hope for when you do this. Now, in another statement, it has become customary for us to act as though the gospel could progress on earth independently of the condition of the church.

That's a great statement. We think that the character of the church plays apparently a minor role in reaching the world with the gospel. In fact, there are so many these days so busy trying to find out what the world wants.

That is a very popular notion than the worst thing a church can do that wants to reach the world. What the church should do is act like a church. Now remember, we're the church, so when I talk about church, I'm talking about individual lives here, right? That's the devil's lie.

For the church to reach the world, it must refuse to be like the world. It must refuse to define itself by what the world wants, what believers want, what the unconverted desire. Oh, let's go back to this.

I want to live in a world of unconditional love. That is absolutely, it's completely 100% opposite from what Christ taught. You cannot go around unconditionally loving everything in this world because if you do, you're going to love Satan, and that's 100% opposite of what scripture tells you.

You just can't do it. You got to make a stand. You got to understand where you stand.

You got to be biblically sound, and that is not biblically sound. The church has one obligation, and that is to be what the Lord of the church commands, not focused on the culture, but focused on Christ, not focused on passing social issues, the desire of the devil's children, but solely on the will of the Lord. That is the sanctification we've been talking about as we migrate through Ephesians.

Only when the churches are what Christ wants them to be are they useful in the fulfillment of the great commission. You will only be useful and fruitful in that regard. If you conform to this societal norm of, oh, you know what, we should all be loved, okay, going back to the 60s.

You know, I love the 60s. I went through it. I thought it was great because I was a teenager.

You guys understand, you know, it's just crazy, but I'm telling you, I wish that I'd known then what I know now because I wouldn't have been so messed up then, but beside the point, if we are not focused on what Christ loves and we're not focused on what Christ hates and we're not focused on what Christ tells us to not to do in being obedient, then we have screwed our lives up. That's where it's at. It's just straight bottom line, okay, right out in front of you.

Clearly, churches have little influence in the world. Yeah, no doubt because they are trying to give the world what it wants rather than obey the Lord who is the head of the church. There's no text anywhere in the Bible and especially the New Testament that commands the church to give lost sinners what they want.

On the other hand, the church is to obey the Lord Jesus Christ, to comfort the culture, to love the culture as people, but to hate their sin. There is nothing in the New Testament that calls the church to change societal structures, to be engaged in political efforts, economic efforts. The church that effectively reaches the lost is the church that is relentlessly devoted to being what the Lord of the church commands this church to be.

If a church has little influence in the world, don't ask what the world wants. Ask what the Lord requires. Remember, your focus and my focus ought to be what? Internally asking the Spirit, which is Jesus Christ, what we should do.

We should not be asking ourselves, what do we need to do to live in this world? We should not be asking us, what does the world want that we can actually be in harmony with? You know what? That's so stupid because that is not Christianity. At all. If a church has little influence in the world, don't ask what the world wants.

Ask what the Lord requires. Be the church. It has always been our passion here for the last 18 months to honor and exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am your watchman. I'm telling you the truth. Okay? It's always been my focus to give you what we need to do to honor and obey and exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have no interest and we should not have any interest in what the children of the devil want a church to be. That is irrelevant. And furthermore, beyond being irrelevant, it invites the devil in.

It is the legal door opening position in your life. And then you want to know why you're sick or you have issues or things happened. Well, that only happens when you allow that legal door to open up.

In the Reformation, there was a principle that was articulated called the formal principle. Those of you who want to study history, go back and study Martin Luther and understand that even before him, one of the conditions, the fundamental condition of all Reformers was there was one principle that they were after. The formal principle was simply what the Reformers identified as the truth.

That's what they were trying to get at. The truth. That the Word of God is the sole authority in the kingdom of God and therefore in the church.

That was it. We have only one divine revelation for the life of the church, and that is the Holy Scripture. And when you get into the New Testament epistles, like Ephesians and the rest of them, you will find that they are designed to make sure that every subsequent generation of Christians and churches understand the will of the Lord for the life and conduct of yourself and the church at large.

And that is true of the epistles in general. We talked about Galatians 520 on Tuesday night, and we'll get into Corinthians and all that. It is true for every epistle, but particularly true of Ephesians.

That's the reason why we're studying Ephesians. Early on in the ministry here, as we look into Ephesians, because it is so absolutely definitive as to the life of the church, we find that here is the heaven's instruction book. This six chapter book is the instruction book that we can lay our hat on as to our belief system and how we apply it to our lives, how we live our lives in accordance to that belief system.

There's not a word in it about what the world wants. You can read chapters one through six. There is not a word anywhere in those six chapters that talk about what the world wants.

Nothing about how to engage politically, socially, culturally. It's all about how to follow the Lord, who is the head of the church, how to be consumed with Christ. That's why the epistle begins essentially in verse three, stating, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

Everything is in Christ. I hope we got that from last Tuesday night. Everything is in Christ.

He created it. It's going to emerge in him when this is all over. He's going to destroy it, and he's creating a new heaven and earth.

Everything is in Christ. I don't care what it is. Your favorite candy bar is in Christ.

Your favorite ice cream is in Christ. You like that Coca-Cola, which is terrible for you because it's got all the bad stuff in it. It's in Christ, too.

Your whole life as a believer is in Christ. It's all about knowing him. Now, guys, I really want you to think about this.

We're setting the stage for your belief system. It's all about knowing him. It's all about loving him.

It's all about adoring him. It's about declaring him and becoming, as Scripture tells us, to be like him. Scripture tells us to put on Christ.

How are you going to put on Christ if you're not going to be like him? That's what the church needs to be. The more it's like the world, the more it forfeits its influence. The more it tampers with the world, the more divisive it becomes.

The more cantankerous it becomes, the more fractured it becomes, the more exposed its weaknesses become. It is a deadly danger for the church, for you, any church, anywhere. To be anything other than what the Lord of the church has designed the church to be, we'll have to deal with the information in the revelation of the New Testament because that is where you need to live your life.

As we look at the book of Ephesians, because now we're launching it. We're actually launching it now. We've got the history behind us.

We know that we're chosen. We're predestined. We're adopted.

We're redeemed. We're there for sanctification during the redeeming process from eternity past to eternity future. We know we have an inheritance, which is our glorified body at the end of the age when Christ returns at the rapture.

We know, based upon all of that, that we're joint heirs in Christ. Therefore, we live a life eternal on this earth with all the blessings that God has given Christ in his will. That's just the beginning.

That's how it was set. Now we're getting into the implementation. We're getting into the doctrine for your belief system.

As we look at the book of Ephesians, we're going to notice that the first three chapters, we talked about this in Ephesians, is on doctrine. That is what we believe. The last three chapters is the practical section of how we behave.

I was listening today to some, I love old time preaching. I was back in Spurgeons today, listening to him. Now Spurgeons is the latter part of 1800s to early 1900s.

I was listening to his preaching today on this subject. It was amazing how spot on he was, even then. It is how we believe is predicated by what we believe.

I'm sorry, let me repeat that. As how we behave, it is predicated on what we believe. Now test that for yourself.

Anything you do in your life is predicated on what you think. That's just how it works. And if what you're thinking is of this world, then how do you think you're going to behave? If what you think is based upon what Christ has taught us to believe, then we're working with what's called in spirit, and the spirit is taking hold of our life, and we are protected.

So we're going to see, first of all, what we believe and how that impacts how we behave. But we're going to go jump right into Ephesians in a prayer right here in chapter one. Now this prayer, you also feel it is kind of interruption in the flow of Paul's revelation for the church.

He has been on a roll from verses 1 to 14, giving you all the historical reference of how we were actually identified in Christ before the foundation of the world. And it's almost if he can't go another step unless he offers a prayer for the church. Well, I think it's pretty fitting because he's writing to the church in Ephesus.

It's been four years since he was there, not only to the church at Ephesus, but Ephesus was a major town in Asia Minor, and there were other churches listed in Revelation 2 and 3. They also would have received this letter, and he starts out with an amazing set of blessings, spiritual blessings in Christ, and then before he starts to go into some more detail about the church and what it believes and how it behaves, he raises a prayer starting in verse 15. It's as though he said, okay, God, we're ready to kick this thing off. I need to say a prayer for the people to receive this so that they get wisdom and understanding of what we're fixing to reveal to them.

Because if we reveal it to them and they don't have the wisdom and understanding, they're not going to understand it at all. So Paul stops in this process and says, it's time to pray. Let's look at this.

So this is a prayer for the church. So here's the prayer. For this reason, I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you while making mention of you in my prayers that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened and you will know what is the hope of his call. What are the riches of his glory and of his inheritance in the saints? And what is the surprising greatness of his power towards us who believe? These are in accordance with the working of the strength of his might, which he brought about in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at the right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things in subjection under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulfillment of him, who fits all in all.

Now, this is just filled with Christ-centered truth. If I were to say we could spend a month on just those scripture passages, I wouldn't be lying because they're filled with all kinds of truth. And Paul's prayer is that the church would focus on fully understanding what is theirs in Christ.

That was this whole prayer. He wanted the church to completely understand what they have in Christ. Every faithful church leader should be leading their church into a deep understanding of Christ.

Every faithful leader must live in the constant expression of a desire to see the church filled with the wisdom and knowledge that comes with the deep revelation of Christ. You can't know Christ unless you have a wisdom and revelation. Do you guys understand that? This is just the basic course of your belief system.

This is the church being the church, being Christ-centered. Certainly, guys, this is my prayer for you. So let's look at this prayer, at least by way of introduction, where it's about as far as we're going to get tonight.

So in verse 15, for this reason, first three words, and now we're going to stop there. For the reason of what? That's what should be asked in our mind. For what reason? What prompts this intercession? What prompts this gratitude in this request for spirit, wisdom, and revelation in the knowledge of Christ? For this reason.

What is the reason? The reason is because of the incomparable blessings of Christ listed from verses 3 to 14. You were chosen. You were chosen.

You were predestined. You're adopted. You got redeemed.

You were told how to sanctify yourself. You got glorification. You got all this heritage.

These are blessings that we need to understand, and that's what Paul's saying. For those reasons, I need to stop and have a prayer that you understand what all this means. It's beyond comprehension of how rich the blessings and the promises are in Christ that have been granted to every true believer.

Your star house is right here, before the foundation of the world, by the way, on the basis that we have, as in verse 3 says, been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, on the basis that he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, on the basis that he chose us that we would one day eternally be holy and blameless before him because in love he predestined us to adoption as sons. Predestined you as an adoption. You had no choice.

You were done because in verse 7 we have redemption through his blood. Blood is his death. The forgiveness of our trespasses, our sins, because in all wisdom and insight he had made known to us the mystery of his will according to his purpose.

Verse 10 of summing up everything in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth, that is he's even given us the end of history here. Before the foundation of the world he's given us the history. He's told us what the end is going to be.

Do you not think we're living in a simulation by now? We have obtained an inheritance to which we were predestined according to his divine purpose because having believed in verse 13 we are sealed. He's given us a sealing that this can't go away. We're the holy spirit of promise and nothing can alter that future fulfillment because all of the spiritual blessings in the heavens.

For this reason I'm praying that you would have a spirit of wisdom and knowledge in the revelation of him. Wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. What Paul desired for the church is that we would know Christ, that we would know him so deeply and profoundly that we can see in Colossians 3.16 it says, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

He wants us to know Christ and the only way we can know Christ is read the scriptures. Now he knows he's writing to a true church because if you look at verse 15 he says, I too having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints. What does he mention? Why does he mention those? Because those are the evidences of true salvation.

Okay, key point right here. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the gospel in first Corinthians 15.1-4. Faith you believe and that you have love for the saints.

That's what he told the believers to do is love the saints. How did he know about this? Let's get this out of the way first. How did he know that the Ephesian church was doing so well after four years? Now remember he was in jail.

He hadn't been there in four years. So how did he know this? It says in scripture that he heard. He heard about it.

How would he have heard about it? He was a prisoner in Rome. He hasn't seen them in four years. He's incarcerated.

But the prisoners by scriptures were told could receive letters and they could receive visitors. And over the period of time of his imprisonment he had received both letters and visitors. And the testimonies were always the same.

It was about the faith of the people in Ephesus and it was about their love for the saints. Based upon scripture those are the evidences of a true church. Evidences of a true church salvation through the church.

Do you see those evidences in your life? If you don't you may question whether or not you have been truly saved. Paul says the same thing to the Thessalonian church. As he opens that letter 1 Thessalonians 1 verses 2 3 and 4 he says, I know your work of faith and labor of love.

Faith and love. Trusting in Christ. Loving the saints.

This is the mark of a true church. That's why that's what a church is. That's how you know it's a real church of redeemed people because their faith is in Christ and they manifest the transformation by loving all of the saints.

Nowhere does it say in here of unbelievers. You're not to love the world. You're not to love anything in the world.

You're to love the saints. That's the reason why unconditional love cannot be in our belief system. So we know then that this is a true church.

This is a church that believes and loves. And because it's a true church Paul can pray for them that they would understand all belongs to them. Okay, get your storehouse.

That's what he's saying. Know the Lord deeply, profoundly. Why? Because that's your storehouse.

And I just have to say there are churches, guys, you got to think about it. There are real Christians in churches today who have no clue what is theirs in Christ. They're cheated of that because they're not taught the Word of God.

Their thoughts and their interests are all over everywhere when they ought to be focused solely and totally on Christ. It's when you gaze at Christ, 2 Corinthians 3.18, it's when you gaze at Christ that you're changed into his image. Okay, this is levels from one level to another.

So in your sanctification process as you migrate to the knowledge of Christ, the wisdom and understanding the inside of Christ with his revelation, he moves you level by level. So my prayer, as Paul says, is for you is that God, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the God who is one nature with the Lord Jesus Christ, the God who is the Father of glory, the source of all glory and the end of all glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom. May give you a spirit of wisdom.

What is a spirit of wisdom mean? Well, in this case, it's used in the sense of perspective, disposition, attitude, mindset. Mindset controls thoughts. So what does this tell you? This is the way you need to direct your mind and your thoughts.

I want to give you a spirit of wisdom and a revelation and a knowledge of him. You can't do that without changing your thoughts. So it's part of your belief system, part of how you behave.

You must understand that you need to be deeply and profoundly looking, gazing at Christ in every thing you do. And the only way you can do that, because everything starts with a single thought. You've got to change your thinking.

Let this mind be in you as it was in Christ. This is what every spiritual leader should be praying for every church, that they would be lost in wonder, love and praise for Christ. It's only then that the church becomes the church.

And becoming the church is how it influences the world. Becoming like the world is how it loses its influence. Matter of fact, it's how you get spotted and how you lose your fulfillment of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Paul is saying, I want you believers to fully grasp all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies that are in Christ, that we saw listed in that opening section. So what does a spiritual leader pray for, for his people? For wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ. This is what you should be praying for yourself.

How are you going to grow if you don't ask? Peter writes in 2 Peter 1 and 3 essentially the same thing. He says it this way, seeing that his divine power has granted to us everything, to life and godliness, that's your star house, through the true knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence. The riches of God's grace, which Peter says all things that pertain to life and godliness becomes ours through the true knowledge of Christ.

You can't access your storehouse unless you're accessing it through in Christ. You can't do it. The more you know of Christ, the more you comprehend, the more you grasp, the more you enjoy the fullness of his riches in him.

I want you to know the fullness of riches in Christ. I want you to know Christ, everything about him. Why? Because that is your source, not only of energy, protection, fulfillment, grace, blessings, all of this.

You can't get it if you don't know Christ. All spiritual blessings, chapter 1 verse 3, all spiritual blessings, every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies, every single spiritual blessing that heaven has at its deposit is deposited in the lives of those who know Christ. I want you to get this.

Do you understand it yet? Do you understand the fullness of that? That's where your preoccupation should be, that you become so much like Christ that you radiate his glory. You radiate him. That's how the church influences the world, but muting that or hiding that and are trying to act like the world makes the church not only irrelevant, but ungodly.

I want to take you back to John. John 1, 14 and 16. And the word, speaking of Christ, became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

For of his fullness we have all received. Didn't say we will receive, we have received. It's there.

All grace upon grace. That means all blessing upon blessing. He's full of grace and truth, and in him we receive grace and truth, grace upon grace, upon grace, upon grace.

Your storehouse is completely full in Christ. The ability to get access is what you know about Christ. Do you know Christ in that depth? So that you comprehend all that is yours in him.

Everything in this world is yours. Do you get that? John 15, 5. Jesus says, I am divine. You're the branches.

He who abides in me and I in him bears much fruit. Okay. Much spiritual fruit.

We're spiritual beings first, physical, living a life experience. It's when we look at Christ that you find all your spiritual blessings. Colossians 3, 11 says Christ is all.

He's everything. Romans 13, 14 then says, put on the Lord, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, put on Christ. Wear Christ as it would be.

Make no provision for the flesh in regards to its lust. Be consumed with becoming like Christ. That's our, that's our goal.

First Corinthians 1, verse 30, by his doing you are in Christ Jesus. By his doing, Christ doing, you are in Christ Jesus. Christ Jesus, not Jesus Christ.

Christ mantle, Jesus person, son of God, son of man. And I love this. Who became to us wisdom from God? That's the Holy Spirit inside of you.

And righteousness and sanctification. That's the teaching. And redemption.

That is your salvation. It's Paul's way of saying everything is in Christ. What more could you want than wisdom from God, righteousness, holiness, and to be redeemed? It's all in Christ.

I'm going to stop here. I want to answer Victoria's question. I just saw it pop up.

So knowing Christ is being like Christ. Absolutely. But you have to apply Christ.

Knowing him is one thing. That's your belief system. Behaving like him, that's like Christ.

That's the difference. So later in Corinthians 1, 3, listen to what Paul says. All things belong to you.

All things belong to you. And you belong to Christ. And Christ belongs to God.

Or to reverse it, God is the one who possesses all things. Christ, being God himself, possesses all things. Christ living in you and me makes you and me possessors of all things.

All things belong to you. All things that pertain to life, which is everything about how you live, all your life on this earth, life eternal, and godliness, all spiritual blessings in the heavenly. Paul in Philippians 1, 11 puts it this way.

You've been filled with the fruit of righteousness. You've been filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God. To the glory and praise of God.

That's his will. That's his will. So to the Philippians in chapter 3, Paul beginning to understand the depth of these spiritual blessings and riches says this.

I count all things to be lost in view of this surpassing value. Okay, here's your currency value. Surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

He's saying my value. My value is basically the amount of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. That's his value.

Reserve it up. Same place. I count them but rubbish is what Paul says.

That's the word for garbage. So that I may gain Christ. Everything in this world is garbage except Christ.

Now, I don't know about you, but I'm glad to give it all up. I'm glad to give up all the rubbish because I know where I'm at with Christ. Okay, that is the key point.

So this is how the church should live. We should live with this consuming preoccupation with the person of Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, he's anticipated.

In the New Testament, he's revealed. And he is the revelation of God that is the most clear revelation. God spoke in time past to the prophets and the writers of the Old Testament.

In these last days, he's spoken to us by his son. God is on display in Christ. To know Christ is to know all the riches of heaven that are yours because you are his.

You are joint heirs with Christ. Churches struggle with this. I'm talking about corporate churches who try to teach their congregation.

They get caught up. They get seduced away from Christ. If you turn to Colossians 2, I'm going to give you an illustration of this.

Colossians 2 verse 2. At the end of verse 2, it says, Christ himself. Then in verse 3, it says, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Christ.

They're in Christ. That's why back to the end of chapter 1 in Colossians, Paul says, here's my goal of my ministry. We proclaim him, that is Christ, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

That's what I'm trying to do here. I'm trying to give you the wisdom and teaching so that you may present yourself complete in Christ. For this purpose, I also, I labor, this is Paul talking, striving according to his power, which mightily works within me.

I have one objective in my life, and that is to bring people to Christ. Then once they're brought to Christ, to admonish them, which is teach them with all heavenly wisdom, so they may be complete in Christ. And Paul's life, Christ is everything.

If you go back now in the same chapter to verse 15, Christ says, is the image and the invisible God, the premier one of all who's ever been born. By him all things were created. He is the creator, both in heavens and the earth, visible and invisible.

Whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things and in him all things fall together. Go back to Ephesians chapter one, three for 14.

Before the foundation of the world, he took care of you. And in that process, he developed how he holds all things together. Think about it.

He was before anything was created. He was the creator of everything created, and he is the one who sustains everything. He is what holds it all together.

All atoms are held together by Christ. When science says there's a quantum leap, okay, what's a quantum leap? It's when something over here is appeared and it goes away and it appears over here without moving through time to get there. That's called quantum leap.

That's exactly where Christ lives. How can something go out of existence here and into existence here and never pass in time between the two? That happens all the time, but that is where Christ is. He is the one who holds everything together.

He is the undiscoverable one under a microscope. You will not find Christ under a microscope. He is the head of the body of the church.

Verse 18, he's the beginning. Again, the premier one, the firstborn from the dead. Of all who have risen from the dead, he is the premier one.

He's the one, end of verse 18, to have first place in everything. That is so simple, guys. He should be the consuming preoccupation of the church, which is you, in your mind, which is your thoughts.

For it was the father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in him. Everything is in Christ. Christ is everything.

That's why in Ephesians Paul says, I pray that God would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation and the knowledge of him. Everything is about knowing Christ. So at the end of that first chapter, Paul says, that's my goal in ministry is to proclaim him.

Now, I hear a lot from a lot of people about this stuff. They often say, why doesn't everyone ever talk about Christ? Because if they did, then a lot of this mess that we have been taught would go away. Well, look what happened in Colossians.

Go over to chapter two, verse eight. So, to it that no one takes you captive. In latter uses in Greek, that verb captive was used for kidnapping.

See to it that no one kidnaps you through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. Don't let any human philosophy, ideology, empty deception, elementary principles of the world, take your focus off of Christ. Don't do that.

Guys, hang on. It seems to me that in our current world, evangelicalism, in whatever form that is, as it morphs through society, there is a consuming preoccupation with everything but Christ. That's the focus of the church.

There will be an endless seduction effort made at the church from human minds, philosophical, psychological, social, religious, political, to take the church captive, to kidnap the church with vain deceit and traditions of men, society. Traditions of men is a very obvious thing, just human ideas. We talked some about this on Tuesday night.

We're going to get into this really heavy now. That's where philosophy comes from, and philosophy is empty deceit. It's elementary principles.

That is a very interesting phrase. It basically means ABC, baby talk. Now I know that when you think about the world, you think there's a certain degree of sophistication in the world, and on some level there is.

There certainly is from hard sciences, like things like mathematics, quantum physics, and so forth. But when it comes to philosophy, which is a way to understand the world, the world, while ignoring God or rejecting God, you get nothing but empty deception, and you get nothing but human ideas passed down from one person to another. And in reality, human philosophy is simplistic.

Simple is good. Simple means it's not complicated, but simplistic is a bad word in our vocabulary. If somebody says you're simplistic, what they're telling you is that you're not giving a reasonable response.

I want you to think about this, okay? Because this is your hill to die on. When somebody approaches you and asks you, and then they tell you that you're simplistic, it means that they don't think that what you've given to them is a reasonable response. Simplistic is to underestimate the reality of something.

Now, as I was preparing for this, and as I was making notes about another area that God was telling me I need to do, which is homeschool, and I was thinking about, okay, what age should I start, and how I should start that, and how do I get it to the point where I really grasp the attention of not only the student, but the parents, I thought about this. And we talked briefly about this on Tuesday night. And the question that I asked myself in starting this is, what do we need to know, or what does parents need to know, or what does students need to know facing higher education like university and college going forward? And what protections should they have? And as I began to explore this, I said, you know what? That's not homeschool.

That's us. That is us. So what I thought about, and I wrote down in my notes, and we talked some about thing is, we need two things in our life today.

And with those two things, we can solve the majority of our issues. Two things that if you have, you will not be a victim of the world. Number one, you need conviction.

You have to have some non-negotiables. You have to have some hills you will die on. And you have to know why, and you have to be able to substantiate those in the word of God, and in your own consciousness.

Without convictions, you are a cork in the surf. You're going to end up wherever they want you to go. So you need convictions.

Your convictions are an immovable pillar of your character. They're your structure. Because what they're going to want to do in educational settings, societal norms that they're doing, propaganda educating us in our belief system, is crush those convictions.

Because they're biblical convictions, and they're true. And the world is ungodly, and the world is run by Satan, who's a liar. They're going to attack you with lice.

And they're going to attack your convictions about God, about man, about sin, about righteousness, about conduct, morality, about everything. And you have to have convictions. You got to know where you stand.

And the second thing you need to have is critical thinking. And I think for this particular period of history that we're in, this is what is most under attack. Let me tell you how I looked at this, and maybe you're going to look at it the same way.

If we look at universities these days, certainly in the humanity side of things, universities these days are concerned about ideologies. You hear a lot about that, an ideology. And so what is an ideology? It's just another word for philosophy.

But ideologies in the current climate are seductive and attractive to people because they are mindless. They don't have to think. So how does an ideology work? Well, what's wrong in America? We talked a couple of bad things on Tuesday night.

I wrote a whole lot more, and I'm doing that tonight. So we're going to really get into this tonight. What's wrong with America? White privilege.

What's wrong in America? Systemic racism. What's wrong in America? Abuse of women. They want you to buy into the fact that everything that's wrong in America can be explained by an ideology.

They don't want you to think critically about it. What's wrong in America? Some people have money, and others don't. What's wrong in America? Corporations are getting rich, and people are being abused.

What's wrong in America? They can be reduced to an ideology, a simple, simple idea. This is so stupid, guys. We've allowed ourselves to be engulfed in society's norms that we have lost our ability to think.

And you know what? Universities, those of you who have children in universities or children ready to go in universities or whatever, when you really think about it, universities are really bent on teaching people to be stupid. This is infantile. You can't say what's wrong in America is systemic racism, no matter what it is.

If the bus doesn't show up on your quarter time, I said this Tuesday night, it's systemic racism. If you got mold on your bread, as I said Tuesday night, it's systemic racism. You know what? That's the stupidity of that oversimplification of everything.

That is easy for people to suck up and to be seduced by it because it's one size fits all answer to everything. You don't have to think. You can put your head, you can put your brain in a bag and bury it's basically what you can do.

That's what you do. You just, you put your head in the sand and say, whatever they say, that's what it is. You have to think critically.

You have to understand. For example, I'm going to give you an illustration, something recently in the United States, and you've heard me talk about this and you've heard others talk about this, 99.9% of the population survives COVID. That's a fact.

You can't mess that up with the behavior they're requiring of us. How about this one? Get vaccinated. And you're saying to yourself, well, let's look at this.

They lied about Russia. The FBI lies, the CIA lies, the National Health Organization lies, the World Health Organization lies, the CDC lies, the director Fauci at that time lies because everything he says is different every time he opens his mouth. The politicians lie.

They lied about a George Floyd's incident in Chicago. They're just lies and lies and lies. And then they say to you, be vaccinated.

It's good for you. Now I know why people aren't getting vaccinated. Number one, people like me telling them not to do it.

And given the historical reasons why, the facts, but it's because people don't believe they're being told the truth. It's simple. It's like the old Osset fable about the boy, he cried wolf.

We talked about this. Wolf, wolf, wolf, wolf, everybody came. Wolf, wolf, wolf, wolf, everybody came.

And then when a wolf was already there and he cried wolf, nobody came. Same thing. So you can't keep lying and then expect people to believe you.

Why have I said so many times in our communication forums, facts, truth, no opinions, facts, truth, no opinion. You have to think critically and thoughtfully and carefully. You have to realize CDC reports death rate from normal flu when COVID started was 99% lower.

Oh, really? What happened to the flu? Where did it go? I can tell you where it went. It went to COVID statistics. Why? Because they wanted you to take a shot.

That was the whole purpose of this, was to get people to take a life ending shot. The chaos of deception and lies forces you, if you want to navigate the world in which you live, to think critically. And there are things wrong with capitalism.

There's also things because capitalism can be abused. There's things wrong with socialism because socialism can be abused. Why? Because people, sinners are running the program.

So anything that we get involved with, human relationships, finance, anything is either going to be good, bad, or indifferent. But what they want us to accept is this, buy the package that I'm telling you. You don't need to worry about it.

I've got you covered. You got your back covered. Just do what we say and shut down the alternative discussions.

They don't want you to think. That's why they cancel Kutcher because they want you to buy the ideology. They don't want you to think critically.

But we should be thinking critically because when we think critically, we're thinking biblically because our base of understanding is the Word of God. And when we have the mind of Christ, as 2 Corinthians 2.16 says, you have the mind of Christ. We do not make a decision without the counsel of the Holy Spirit.

Now we can stop here and I can say, okay guys, take your cheat sheet out of your life that we started with and revelations and see where you're at on the scale. I personally do not want to get caught up in philosophy, which is another term for human wisdom. Somebody else's wisdom on a human level told to you to live your life on their belief system and not of God's.

That's what philosophy is. And why do you send your children to philosophy degrees? It's unbeknownst to me why you do that. Not saying particularly, but why? I don't want to get caught up in an empty deception.

I don't want to get caught up in something that just passed down from one person to another in tradition, which is what philosophy is. And I certainly don't want, I certainly want to be completely above that stupid level of ABCs. I don't want them to reduce me to some simplistic moron.

Human wisdom is infantile compared to divine wisdom. You're getting this. You're getting where your focus ought to be, I hope.

So let's go look at verse 9 in Colossians 2. Look, we don't pay any attention to that, but we pay attention to Christ. Hopefully we do. For in him and all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form.

What did we just say? Let's read this again. For in him. Who's in him? We are.

For in him, we are all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form. He dwells in us. In fullness of deity.

Who's deity? That's God. Dwells in bodily form. In whom? In us.

And in him you have been made. What? Complete. Complete, yeah.

Everything we need is in Christ. 1 Corinthians 2.16. We are the mind of Christ. That's what I feel like is exactly what we need to be looking at, is we need to be looking at the fact that we're dealing with our sanctification.

We're learning Christ. We need to understand our convictions in such a way from scripture. We can die on that hill inciting the scriptural verses that provide us the surety that our decisions are correct.

And in everything you do not accept what somebody else is telling you without your own discernment, which is called critical thinking based upon scriptures that you're studying. Okay guys, this is an introduction to that prayer starting in verse 15, but we need to set the proper tone and the context of going into that because with this we can move directly in next week to exactly what that scripture tells us and how we apply that to our behavior in our lives. Any questions? Comments? Was that good? Yes.

Oh my gosh, you guys, come on. So did you just quote 1 Corinthians 2.16? Was that what you said? I did. Okay, that's what I was trying to say.

Okay, thank you. Yes, I did. Nothing? You guys, come on.

Well, did you learn something? Yes, yes, yes. I learned some things. Victoria had a question.

What's up? Are you there, Victoria? It said, as we know more about Christ, do the spiritual battles become less? No, it becomes more because as you know more, you get to Him and Satan wants to knock you off the throne. But what it does do, if you walk in Christ and you're doing that on a daily basis, dying, dying, dying, dying, dying, it makes Satan run from you. So it depends upon your sanctification process as to whether or not Satan's going to run to you or run away from you.

You can't go up and down, guys. You can't say that I'm going to live today this way and tomorrow the next day another way, okay? Because what you do is leave those legal doors open. So if you're doing this with Christ, your sanctification process upwards, Satan runs.

He has no ability to get there. And that's what Scripture says. So wouldn't the battles be less? The battles would be less then.

But if you're doing this, oh, you're in tough waters. That's great, Jim. The whole thing, the whole thing because of redemption.

You got to realize redemption is a period of time. And think about it this way. You determine your redemption.

How's that? You determine the level of your redemption. You can get your ticket stamped and you can go to heaven or you can get your ticket stamped and be sanctified and receive the blessings on this earth that has been given in Christ. That's the two roles we play.

One of the two. So the spiritual battles pretty much come from Satan? Yes, they're all coming from Satan. God does not put you in a battle.

He tests you. He tests you. But I'm going to tell you this.

You're going to know, we're going to get to in Ephesians, you're going to know when you're being tested. Yeah. I'm sensing it.

You're going to know when you're tested and when you're in a battle. And that's what God gives you a heads up on. That's the reason why when we talked about Job, I said, and I forgot, it was you and Billy Ruth and I, I think we're having this conversation.

Job was complacent in his life in Christ. God knew what the outcome was going to be, but God needed to get him off of this complacency. So he just put up to the devil, why don't you go test Job? I didn't get that when I read it, though.

I didn't feel like he was complacent. Oh, yeah, he was because he had all of these things and look what he did. You have to, he was complacent on his spiritual life.

He had everything. You can talk, people talk to him. Oh, but wasn't he fearful of losing it? Wasn't the fear the legal door? Well, yeah.

And fear of losing what? Think about that. That is complacency because God said, fear nothing. I give you everything.

So if you fear of losing it, you're complacent with your salvation. I got it. I got it.

Yeah, that's true. And Job opened the door. God set the boundaries.

Yep. Yep. Yeah.

So was it God testing him or was it Satan? It was both. God allowed Satan to test him. He allowed Satan to test him.

So as we grow spiritually in Christ and we get to know Christ, do you think we're going to be even tested even more and more and more? Well, your testing is based upon your life. Why would God test you if you're growing in grace with him every day? Job was not doing that. Job did not do that.

Job got to the point and says, okay, I've got all this stuff. I'm sitting good. Nothing's going to happen to me.

Blah, blah, blah. He said, oh my gosh, I don't want to lose all of this. But you know what? That's the reason why I said, you're just stewards of what God gives you.

Job wasn't that. So is that why they're saying that most people will lose their blessings within five years because they become complacent? Oh, yeah, because they become complacent in what that is supposed to do. And nobody's teaching them, okay? Nobody's teaching them.

So, you know, and I'm fearful. Guys, I've been honest with you for quite some time. I'm fearful for some of you.

I got it. Yeah. Because I think when it happens, you're going to say, okay, I don't need to do this anymore.

I got this budget. Here we go. And all of a sudden, you've just taken yourself out of this.

Yeah, I can see that. So I'm fearful for some of you. Out of the grace of God.

Is our inheritance and our blessings, really, when you speak of that, you're not speaking of material, even though. I don't know. I'm speaking material, too.

You are, okay. Everything in this physical world that you're blessed with comes from God. That's physical.

Yeah, I know that. But I mean, as you're starting to educate or educating, I tend to, of course, want to go that way. And then I pull myself back and think, no, it's the other, the virtues and the, you know, the peace of mind.

All right, guys, you got to realize you're spiritual first, living in a physical experience. Everything happens in heaven first before it happens here. All of your blessings have already been provided before the foundations of the world.

Think how long that's been sitting there for you. Now you're going to bring, you got to pull it down into this physical world, which is what's happening. And once you get it, you've got to live that spiritual life.

You don't live that spiritual life. What happens to your physical side of this? It gets burnt up. Look at everybody, everybody in scripture that turned away from God.

They lost everything. You can't give me in the scripture where somebody turned from being walking in faithfulness away in disobedience, that everything they didn't, everything they had, and even, even their life in some cases were lost. There's not one place in the Bible you can show me that that didn't happen.

That's right. Yeah, that's true. So they all got slapped.

So why do you think it's any different? It's not, it's not. And the one thing I'm trying to do is to get you on a road that you see that sanctification is your daily walk with Christ. You have got to be in the scriptures daily.

You have got to be learning. You have got to, to provide your soul with the ability to have your mind controlled by God, which allows the spirit to take more and more and more of you. You don't get any more of the spirit.

It's there 100%, as Billy Ruth pointed out on Tuesday night. But you allow from that sanctification, the Holy Spirit to take more control over your body. That's what happens.

And in that process, you get to levels of spiritual process in Christ. And that's the grace that we're talking about. And it's so easy.

It says, oh my gosh, you know, I've accomplished, I've accomplished all of this in my, in my studies. I'm going to take a break. Just going to take a break.

You know, and that break turns into a lifestyle change. That's disobedience. And then everything you work for goes, basically goes away.

It's burnt up. You almost go back to square one, just like Job did. He went back to square one.

I don't know how best to give you any best, more explanation than that. All right. Sam.

My question is, pre-COVID, did your guys as leaders and governors have essential employees out there only? They did that here in Michigan. We had some winter storms that came through. They weren't bad.

Yeah, I know. They classified who could work as essential. Yeah, that's what they were.

And that was, that's what my point is. So many people were complicit to that. Yeah.

They didn't want to go shopping. They didn't want to do anything. And then we saw the masks come up.

That was the irony of this, Jim, is once they started doing that, there was a couple of us preaching the pharmacheia at work in the Bible. We had the biggest seance in the world. Yeah, yeah.

Every time you conformed to six feet apart, you were part of a seance. Yeah. I don't know how I made it through my career.

And every corporation had those six feet apart on them. So what's that tell you? Well, they had rainbow colored flags up on everything. Yeah.

Everything was in rainbow colored flags. David. Jim, yesterday I was reading Luke 12, the parable of the rich fool.

Yes. And it says in 20. No, 19.

And I'll say to my soul, soul, you have many goods laid up for many years. I'll take it easy, eat and drink and be married. But God said to him, you fool, this night, your soul will be required of you.

Then whose will those things be which you have provided? That's the whole thing. It. You can strive as much as you like and build up your wealth and everything.

He can take it away in a day, in a heartbeat. Oh, just snap of his fingers. It's done.

Yeah. Okay. And if you don't continue to move in the direction to Christ, you jeopardize everything.

Guys, just hear, just hear me, please. Okay. And your life is the one that's doing it.

Not mine. All right. You make your choice, whatever you want to do.

I can't. I'm not living your life. I am trying to be a truth teller to you.

And it's by scripture, guys. It's by scripture. Do not, do not, do not stop your journey.

I don't care how much riches you get. Do not stop that journey. Rafi.

Hey, Jim, thank you. If anything, I'm just going to fan your flame for a second. And that is to copy it.

You know, I, as scripture says, of course, you know, in 17 years, I've been mentoring guys and discipling guys and guys come up to me over time. And this is what the Lord taught me. Last nine years is guys would come with me.

Go rough. I been praying about this, or could you pray for me about this? I said, sure. Absolutely.

Something I'm waiting for, whether it be partner in life, whether it be a blessing of some kind. And they'd come back to me and they'd say, you know, rough. I can't, I can't believe it.

You know, answer, because I always ask them, listen, don't just ask for prayer, but give me a praise reports. Right. Come back to me and tell me we need to hear that.

We need to praise the Lord. So they'd come back and tell me that and they'd say, this is, this is what happened is what happened. I said, Hey, that's awesome.

I said, did you give it back to the Lord? Did you take it back to the altar and hand it to him? What do you mean? I said, listen, everything I read in scripture, we're selfish beings. We want to hold on to it. We want to hang on to it.

We want to hoard it. It's me. Even believers want to take credit for anything good that the Lord's done from our salvation.

So with that being said, you got to hand it back to the Lord. And they'd go, okay, I'll do that. I said, because you got to let it go.

You cannot hold onto it. And so that's, that's a big thing that. Especially as we're expecting of things and so on.

I think it's, it's very important that we do that. And here's another thing is, is in the last thing is you know, I know we talked about testing and you're 100% right. Whoever asked that question, because you, you have a bullseye.

I have guys that come in, whether they're brand new believers or a year or two down the road and they're like, okay, we're off. I'm all in now. I say, great.

You got a giant target on your back. This is why we're on a battleship and not a cruise ship. We got to fight that, fight that battle daily.

So know that, but know we have the victory at the same time now. So you're going to be tested with temptations, all that other stuff. But so, and then they'd always ask me, okay, Ralph, am I being, am I being tested discipline or am I being pruning? You know, what the Lord does is prune right for more fruit.

So I go, that's the part we have to identify what, whatever, wherever you're at. And I won't get into that. But bottom line is that we, we may be pruning as well.

And God will do that. Like daily, I asked Lord, prepare me for what I've been praying for. Prepare me for what I've been praying for.

Because I don't want what is not right for me yet. Give it to me when you give it to me. So that's it.

Thank you. Yeah. Nice stuff.

When we, I can't wait to get into the prayer stuff. We got a couple more weeks in this sovereign, sovereign of mankind. And we're going to get into prayer.

I think you guys are going to have your socks knocked off. Because they're, and I, and again, I was listening to Spurgeon about this today. You know, guys, I love these old time preachers because they pull no punches.

They just tell it like it is. And here it is. And, you know, and I, I ask you to prepare yourself for this.

You need to add to your Bible studies that which is required by God to have your prayers is accepted by him. We think we can do anything all day long and live our lives in many, many different ways. And think our prayers are being listened to.

That is not true. And when we start going through this, and remember what I said, I think it was Norma Jean that said she was going to start this prayer group. And I said, I don't have any problem with that.

I just have, if, if I, if it was, if anything that I could add to this, it is understanding how to pray. Not what to pray for, but how to pray. Well, I'm telling you how to pray means that you are acceptable in God's eyes to have him hear your prayer.

And if you're not there yet, you're praying on deaf ears. And when we get into all of these little areas and we take, go down that, that not rabbit hole for purposes of that, but a knowledge center-based understanding, you're going to understand that this is a very, very narrow gate. Okay.

And it's hard. It's hard. And if you think sanctification might be difficult for you, wait till we get into the prayer.

It is going to be knock your socks off, period, because we're all, we've got to get our, ourselves in obedience for our prayers to be heard. Okay. Now that I just gave you a hint, think about that.

Think about it. If you're out of obedience, where do you think your prayer is going? What I was listening to today was, remember, we talked about this, and guys, we're having Bible study on top of Bible study. We talked about this in many, many different areas along our journey here.

God set up the family for a particular purpose. The family structure was set up to mirror image the church. Husbands, you have certain roles.

Wives, you have certain roles. If you get out of those roles by Scripture, you've hindered your prayers. They're not listened to.

Just take that as one example. The home is so important, just to understand. So yeah, Rafi, what you said, spot on.

And you go back to this. Everything is summed up in Christ, and when Christ gets everything set up, and the last thing he calculates his debt, what does he do? He turns the keys back over to God the Father, who is exactly who gave us the blessings through His Son. Everything that we get needs to be praised back to God, as Rafi just said.

Absolutely. You need to give Him the praise report. Everything good in your life, Holy Spirit did.

That's the best option that you have. You need to recognize everything good in your life came through the Holy Spirit. That's better off than assuming control when you're not in control to give that.

Okay, so give it off. This is the political correctness. Give it back to God.

Give it back to the Holy Spirit. Give Him credit. Everything that goes wrong in your life, take credit for and figure out how to correct it.

All right, that's the journey. But just remember, we're stewards. And when God gives it to you, you need to be thankful that He gave it to you.

And you need to be wise with it. And the blessings from that need to go back to Him. Okay, all of this ties together.

This is a nice little woven ball. He gives you things. He expects you to be stewards over it.

What you give, you receive. If you afford it, you're not getting anything. Think about it.

You've got to be working in Him to make this a very, very fruitful life for you. Lisa. I hope this isn't a dumb question, but can you explain to me about, I know God's omnipresent and I know that the devil isn't omnipresent.

And doesn't that mean that God is everywhere? God is everywhere. God is all-knowing. Yeah.

If the devil is not omnipresent, then he's not everywhere. No, he can only be at one location at a time. But he sure gets there to other places quick.

No, no, no, no, no. He's got demons. He's got demon spirits.

And he's got fallen angels. Okay, okay. See, that just confused me because I know God's omnipresent and I know he isn't.

Yeah. And I'm thinking, how is he over here tempting me? And then he's over there in Arizona tempting Susanne, you know? Okay. And I'm going to tell you this.

When are we tempted and when are we making that temptation ourselves? Yeah. Okay. That's true.

If you're living, okay, think about this. If you're living a life in this world, okay, nobody's going to tempt you. If you're living a life in Christ, depending upon how you're living your life, you're going to open doors that the demonic spirits can influence you.

Part of the demonic spirits is you. Yeah. Okay.

I got it. I understand what you're saying. Okay.

Well, I just wanted to kind of clarify that in my mind because it was confusing me a little bit. So anyway, thank you. You're welcome.

How about you, Jane? Hey, I'm so grateful that you brought up the fact that I had asked you about the prayer roof work because I've been praying and I'm taking it slow. And I'm actually in conversations with the center as far as doing a couple of different things, the prayer circle being one of those. But I'm not moving real quick because I'm waiting on the Holy Spirit to guide me and then the lessons from you on prayer because I knew that I needed to know a lot more than I do know.

So I just wanted to bring that up that it's been really a great conversation with the center and I'm going to be providing a teaching class once a week. And yeah, so moving slow on it, though. But thank you.

You're welcome. All right, guys, anything else? Just to follow up on what Lisa was saying there, what you started out earlier in tonight's session, saying that we were not to love Satan. But in the past, you've said we are to love God's creations.

And you said that we are to love the individual, but hate the sin. So is that just Satan or is that Satan and his fallen angels or does there become a line there? Sin is sin. It comes from.

Yeah, I have no problem with that. But it's the loving the creation. No, no, no, no, no, no, no.

God. OK, let's go back. God created Lucifer, right? God loves Lucifer.

He hates what Lucifer has become, which is the devil and Satan. OK, so we're supposed to love God's created people. But we're not not to associate with them.

OK, because they're still of the world. And that world can rub off of you and change your life in a heartbeat. So there are conditions here.

You're to love the people, pray for them, minister them. Teach them the word of God. But you're not to associate with them.

OK, and the distinction becomes Lucifer was the original creation. Satan was a creation of Lucifer, not origin. God, even though he was in the mind of Lucifer.

Correct. OK. Yeah.

Yeah. Ruth, you were saying several times tonight to take a stand, choose a heel to die on. Let this be your heel to die on.

And there's a saying, I know you've all heard it. If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything. And that reminds me of the.

The man you mentioned are, you know, a man with being having no conviction. And I had to step away, but you probably brought up this verse in Ephesians. That it's like a person tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine.

I think you brought that that up. I made the analogy. I didn't talk about the specific scripture, but I made the analogy of being a quark in the ocean, that they'll take you wherever you wanted to go.

Yes. OK. Like I said, I had to step away.

I didn't catch. No, I didn't. I didn't specifically talk about, but I made the analogy from the scripture that says, if you don't define your heel, you're going to be wherever they want you to be.

And you know what? The first thing is your heel is defining who you are. That's your first hill. Because if you don't define who you are, they will define for you.

Yeah, that's true. OK. So the very first hill you need to decide is where am I? Who am I? And what is my sole belief of me? Just me.

OK. Yeah. Because if you don't or if I don't, that I'm easily convinced or persuaded, you know, so I appreciate you saying that.

And you also mentioned that when we get this blessing, do not stop studying. Do not stop growing. And I know that's all of our prayer.

And I believe that we will all do that. Because if we're not growing. And I think you mentioned something about this, too.

If we're not growing, we're losing. You know, it's like exercising your muscles. When you quit exercising, you lose that muscle mass.

And I know, put me in here. If I am not continually moving forward and growing in his grace and his knowledge and gaining wisdom, if I'm not doing that, I am moving backwards and I am losing. And it doesn't take long to lose it and for us to get complacent.

Do you understand what she's saying? I want you to really, this is a profound statement. Do you really understand what Billy Ruth has just said? Okay, you get the Holy Spirit in all of its fullness. When you're saying, but you do not get the process of the Holy Spirit taking charge of your life unless you are sanctifying your life through his wisdom and knowledge.

You could have gone through a sanctification process for a year. And you could say, and I said, you're going to take a break. You begin to go backwards.

Why? Because you're constantly not reminding yourself that who's in charge. Who's in charge? Okay. If you take that away, like, you know, out of sight, out of mind.

If you take that away, the physical mind, you've just opened the door for your physical mind, your ego to take control. That process, that decision right there has changed who controls you. Because the only way the Holy Spirit can control you is you continue to feed it.

Just like you eat, you got to feed that Holy Spirit. And if you don't feed it, it doesn't grow anymore. And it begins to atrophy.

And that atrophy process, think of it's to two gauge. You've got, you're saved. You're up here in exhilaration of the Holy Spirit.

You're completely fooled. And your ego's down here because you're in such awe that God just saved you. And over the process of time, these two things begin to balance out.

Because you're not feeding this over here to keep this up. You're feeding this over here. So this is going to go down and this is going to go up.

And that's what happens if you stop. You've allowed you to take control of you. And your sovereignty now is under your realm and not Christ.

And the immediacy of that, doing that, you have lost. You are going downhill. Equal to fiat currency.

You are going, and it's going fast. Okay. It's a slow move upwards.

It's a fast decline. It does go fast, Jim, like you said. But always look at it like this.

There is no maintaining. There's no status quo. It's got to grow.

It's a continual growth, you know. So you need to live and you feed your mouth to allow you to have the nutrients to live. That's the same thing with the Holy Spirit.

If you're not feeding it, you don't get the nutrients from the Spirit to continue to provide the nutrition to your soul. And you go backwards. You're atrophy.

That's what happens. And that's my fear for you guys. I'm being straight up.

Being straight up. My fear is you're going to get really complacent. And I'm not saying you're not going to attend our discussion.

I'm just saying your life is going to get to a place. You can come in and participate in this all you want. But if you're not feeding that soul through your only daily activities, you're digressing.

And we're going to get into that in Ephesians 4. Go ahead. And I'm speaking to myself. I'm not speaking to you all.

I'm speaking to myself. Because I know what happens. I've been there in my younger years.

And you do lose it very, very quickly. But another thing is going backwards, not moving forward in spiritual strength is a person becomes weak. And there comes the enemy right there waiting for your weakness.

You lose your power. You lose all your power. Okay, you know, I pray for you guys every day.

And then it's just like, okay, just keep them going. You know, just keep them going. Not because we put a lot of time in this.

We have. But that's God's work. That's not mine.

I just am blessed by being able to be the vessel to do that. But it's the fact that you have put so much time in this. And you're letting yourself down.

And because of that, you're letting everybody else down around you. Because as your energy flows, so does theirs. We're all connected.

We're all connected. All right, guys, let's pray and let's get out of here. All right.

Father, thank you for a great evening of reading and studying your word. Father, again, thankful that we live in a country that allows us to do this freely. And we live in a presence of your glory that allows us to be open up to all that you have to teach us.

We want all the wisdom and knowledge of Revelation from you. We ask that basically you continue to work in our hearts and our minds and give us the complete understanding, not of only the redemption and sanctification process, but the understanding of exactly your total plan. Because once we understand the total plan, we should be able to get it.

The application is easy after that, because we know that we have been chosen by you, that we are predestined to live our lives, not only on this earth in eternal blessings, but the fact that we have a glorified body at the end and we get to live with you for the rest of eternity. So Father, thank you for the session. Thank you for those that you attended.

May this teaching be a blessing to everybody. God, I ask you to protect and guide and direct everyone. Until we meet again.

And we ask all these things in our name. Okay, guys, I will. I will get I will see you guys on Monday.

Okay, okay. On Sunday. Yeah, we're not no Sunday.

We're out of here. Oh, thank you. Thank you.

So but I will, I will be posting stuff as they come up that we need to talk about if so. So but anyway, watch what's happening. This all gets started very soon.

And thank you, Jim. So just just watch it. And I will.

I'll see you guys on Monday. Thank you. Thank you.