

**2013 COEUR D'ALENE CONFERENCE**

**Lesson 1 – August 9, 2013**

**/Welcome To  
THE COEUR d'ALENE BIBLE CONFERENCE  
of BARAH MINISTRIES  
Rory Clark  
Pastor-Teacher\**

Good evening! First Thessalonians, Chapter 1, Verses 2 and 3 say...

/1TH 1:2-3

*We (Paul, Silvanus and Timothy) give thanks to God (the Father) always for all of you (believers in Christ), making mention of you in our prayers; // constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and (your) labor of love and (your) steadfastness of hope in (union with) our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father... \*

Just as Paul and Silvanus and Timothy were granted the opportunity to thank the believers in Thessalonica for their faithfulness to the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...so I begin by thanking John and Monica Miller for their labor of love and their faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ in hosting, for the third time, this Coeur d'Alene Bible Conference. Barah Ministries is a Christian Church based in Gilbert, Arizona...we are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ...we have a relationship with Him...and He has charged us with bringing the gospel message to unbelievers...the “good news” concerning what the Lord Jesus Christ did at the Cross to provide us all with a “so great salvation;” He has charged us with teaching the Word of God to believers in Christ for their comfort and encouragement, for their admonition and warning, and for their exhortation; and He has charged us with doing missionary work by mentoring aspiring Pastors and by establishing independent churches throughout the world who can engage in the same labor of love for Christ for which we have chosen to offer up our lives.

May grace and peace be multiplied to all of you from the three separate and distinct persons of the triune Godhead...from God the Father, from God the Son, from God the Holy Spirit, and from the physical manifestation of the members of the Godhead, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...the Sovereign of the Universe...the uniquely born One...100% God and 100% Man in one person forever. Thank you for being here when you could be out doing something else.

I will ask you to consider several things in this lesson.

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First, are you saved? Do you know what is going to happen to you when you close your eyes in this life? This matter refers to your salvation. If you are not yet saved, in this lesson you'll learn the issues of salvation so you will have the opportunity to be saved.

Second, I'll ask you to consider your individual life. If you were face-to-face with the Lord Jesus Christ right now, your Creator, and He asked you, "What are you doing with this life I gave you?" how would you respond? It's a question worth considering. This matter refers to your life as a Christian. In this lesson I'm going to ask you to reflect on how your life is going and what you are learning from how it is going.

Third, I'll ask you to consider your collective life. How, if at all, does your life matter to others? What difference does your life make in the life of those around you? Does it even matter that you are on the planet? This matter asks you to reflect on the Christian Way of Living. How are you influencing and contributing to the lives of others?

I can say with great certainty that John and Monica Miller pass these three tests with flying colors. They are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. They are learning about the Christian Way of Life. And this conference is proof they are engaged in the Christian Way of Living.

I love my brother in Christ, John, and my sister in Christ, Monica, and at their request it is my pleasure to travel north from Phoenix to be with you tonight for this bible study.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

Bible study is a time of RENEWING, a time to learn about all the divine assets at your disposal...we ask you to assess for yourself where your soul is constantly tuned...is your soul tuned to the broadcast of KCOS...the cosmos...the world system of thought that is sponsored by God's enemy...or is your soul tuned to the broadcast of WGOD, God's system of thinking as communicated from the bible? Only you and God know the answer to that question. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23 requests...

EPH 4:23

*...that you be renewed (by God) in the spirit of your mind...*

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Thank you for coming to receive this renewing, thanks for listening to this broadcast from WGOD, and thank you in advance for sharing this message with everyone you know.

**/MUSIC AND REFLECTION**

*Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

Come See a Man\

As God prepares your soul for RENEWING, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. The opening song is COME SEE A MAN.

**/OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray...\

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth...the Word of God...

Thank You for sending Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to die on a Cross so that we could have the possibility of relationship with You...thank You for giving us the Mind of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God, to strengthen us...thank You for surrounding us, tonight, with like minded people who edify us...but most of all thank You for allowing us to be tormented by Your enemy so that we may experience the power of Your plan for mankind, and the power of Your personal plan for each one of us...thank You for having each of us personally in mind by name for all eternity...and thank You for making perfect provision for our welfare, including the chance to hear the insights that You will be providing for us on this night...make Your thoughts clear to us, especially clear on how they apply to the life You want us to live...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...  
Amen.

**/Welcome To**

**THE COEUR d'ALENE BIBLE CONFERENCE**

**of BARAH MINISTRIES**

**Rory Clark**

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### **Pastor-Teacher\**

Greetings! My name is Rory Clark. My spiritual gift is Pastor-Teacher, a gift given to me by God to help you develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Sovereign of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is God. The Bible is His exact thinking...it is more than just a book...it is a SOURCE of the exact thinking of God and we are the intended RECIPIENTS...the Bible contains no errors...no contradictions...no lies...the Bible is the absolute truth. Welcome to a place where you can “receive the Word of God implanted, which is able to deliver your souls.”

### **/TONIGHT'S STUDY**

#### **How Important is the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word in Your Life?\**

Christianity is a secret weapon for your benefit.

Christianity is not a religion, it is a relationship with the Sovereign Being of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Those of us who are Christians don't go around wearing tee-shirts that boast, “I am a Christian.” We don't sit down to conversations with others and begin them with, “What do you know about the Lord Jesus Christ?” Perhaps we should. After all, as believers in Christ, we don't have access to miracles today like the apostles did to call attention to God's message. Acts, Chapter 19, Verses 11 and 12 say...

#### **/ACT 19:11-12**

*God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, //so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.\*

Notice that God, not Paul, was performing the miracles. Men do not, nor have they ever had the power to perform miracles. It has always been God who is in charge of performing miracles, either Himself or through others. I assure you, I have no such power. So put your handkerchiefs away. I assure you that your evil spirits will leave with you just as surely as they have come with you. But it is my sincere hope that I spend the next two hours irritating them.

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I am a Pastor. I too, am one of God's secret weapons for your benefit.

Yet I am quite human, not worthy at all to stand here before you to teach you something as miraculous as the Word of God. In many respects, I may be more confused than you about life. I have probably failed at many more things than you...I can boast of a failed twenty-one year marriage, a failed relationship with one of my two children...broken relationships with virtually every member of my nuclear family...failed businesses and business dealings...contentious relationships with bosses (I've been fired from jobs and assignments several times)...a failed social life...a life of never doing quite enough to contribute to my community...and as of today I have yet to discover a cure for any of the ills of the diseases of our society.

Yet God has seen fit, in His magnificent grace, to make me a Pastor, a minister of His gospel message and His Word, for your benefit. And this is why every single day, I labor intensely and incessantly behind the scenes of these few and far between public appearances, which amount to about four hours a week, so that messages can be constructed which give you comfort as you face the same challenges that I do.

If memory serves me correctly, and it may well not, this is my fiftieth year as a Christian. I think it was the summer of 1963, just a few months before the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, that I first believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and accepted the established and irrevocable fact that He is who He says He is...the Sovereign of the Universe and the only way to salvation. Isaiah, Chapter 45, Verses 5 to 7 say...

/ISA 45:5

*"I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me..."*

/ISA 45:6

*"...that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other..."*

/ISA 45:7

*"...the One forming light and creating darkness, (the One) causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these..."*

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In spite of the lies that God's enemy may be telling you through religion and legalism and the World system of thinking...KCOS...there is only one God...the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...John, Chapter 14, Verse 6 says...

/JOH 14:6

*(The Lord) Jesus (Christ) said to him (doubting Thomas, the apostle), "I am the way (to salvation), and (I am) the truth (the Word of God), and (I am) the (Zoe) life (the resurrection life...eternal life); no one comes to (God) the Father but through (believing in) Me."*\

I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ from a very early age...at the age of eight years old. I believe my conversion to Christianity came about during a traumatic event in my life. My mother was entertaining company. I asked if I could go out into the back yard to play. She said, "Yes...but don't go out of the yard." I didn't listen. I sneaked over to the playground to play baseball with my friends.

I was squatting behind one of my friends pretending to be a major league baseball catcher. He was hitting "pop flies" to a few of our friends. He never noticed I was there behind him. He swung to hit a ball out to them, and on his follow through my forehead was the "catcher" of the barrel of his bat.

I ran home, bleeding profusely. My mom and her friends (who luckily had a car, because we didn't) rushed me to the hospital. I remember telling my mom on the way to the hospital that I didn't want to die. I remember telling God that if he would just let me live, I would do whatever He wanted me to do.

Well God let me live. Knowing God as I do, He didn't let me live as a result of my vow. He had a plan for my life well before that, and He has been unfolding that plan for the last five decades. He has a similar plan for your life. It's a deep, intimate and personal plan that is designed to take you through a series of trials and tribulations on your way to an eternity face-to-face with Him. First Peter, Chapter 5, Verse 10 says...

/1PE 5:10

*After you have suffered for a little while, the God (and Father) of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in (union with) Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.*\

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In my fifty-year walk in Christianity, the Lord Jesus Christ has taken me on a twenty-one year tour of Roman Catholicism before showing me the error of its ways. Then the Lord Jesus Christ took me on a twenty-nine year journey through the legalism of Systematic Theology, before showing me the error of its ways just this year. In the time since I was in Coeur d'Alene last year, God has made it clear to me where Systematic Theology missed the mark of His perfect Person and His perfect character. It is missing love! Now fifty years into being a Christian, I am finally ready to learn what it truly means to be a Christian, without the perversions of religious and legalistic thought to hinder my knowledge of and my relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

It would be easy to think that the last five decades has been a waste of my time. It has not been. I have been on a journey. On that journey, I have learned how easily deceived I am. If a person is willing to trust, then he can be deceived easily. I have been deceived. In the process, I have misled others in some areas. It has pointed out to me the importance of accuracy when teaching the Word of God to others, which only comes from diligent study.

I have learned, in these fifty years, that I am a sinner, and that I need a Savior. I have learned that I am a hypocrite, one who talks from behind a mask. I have learned that God always puts the hypocrites up front to teach, so that there can be no mistake about one thing...that there is only one God...the Lord Jesus Christ...and those of us who stand up in front of you to teach are not the Lord. Often people are bothered by this...that their teachers are hypocrites...human and not perfect...yet they have no trouble studying the bible with hypocrites...and sometimes I don't think people realize that the apostle Paul, who wrote two thirds of the New Testament, the instruction set for the Church Age...this current time period of divine history, was the worst sinner of all time. It was Paul's stated goal to wipe out the Christian Church. Acts, Chapter 22, Verse 4 says...

/ACT 22:4

*"I (Paul) persecuted this Way (Christians) to the death, binding and putting both men and women (who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ) into prisons..."*

In First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 9, Paul says...

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/1CO 15:9

*For I (Paul) am the least of the apostles, and (I am) not fit (qualified) to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.\*

/1CO 15:10

*But by the grace of God I am (and always will be) what I am (a man with the spiritual gift of apostle), and His grace toward me did not prove vain (a bad decision); but I labored even more than all of them (the other apostles), yet not I (doing the labor in the energy of the flesh), but the grace of God with(in) me (is doing the work).\*

I am clear that I am but a vehicle standing here... a person whose flaws are easy to see upon close inspection. There is nothing special about me except the fact that I am willing to stand here before you flawed, to admit those flaws, and to report to you what the grace of God allows me to report for your benefit. I am simply a conduit that God has prearranged to send you a special message tonight.

I'm sure you have a similar journey though this life. God has given you life. He has a perfect plan to use your imperfect life for His benefit. I hope tonight's message will shed a ray of light on the meaning of this life for you.

This message is about your life.

First, are you saved? Do you know what is going to happen to you when you close your eyes in this life? This matter refers to your salvation.

Second, if you were face-to-face with the Lord Jesus Christ right now, your Creator, and He asked you, "What are you doing with this life I gave you?" how would you respond?

Third, how, if at all, does your life matter to others? What difference does your life make in the life of those around you? How are you influencing and contributing to the lives of others?

I was having dinner with Sid, Monique and Jason Wednesday night... and Monique put it all in perspective. She said, "My life is all about faith and hope and love." First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 13 says the same thing...

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/1CO 13:13

*But now faith, hope, (and unconditional) love, abide (in the sphere of) these three; but the greatest of these is (unconditional) love.\*

Faith in God for salvation...hope...the absolute confidence that this faith is guaranteed to result in a life beyond your wildest dreams, even though your current circumstances may indicate something different...and love, a life that makes a difference to those around you because of your involvement with them.

Take a ten-minute break and we'll learn the things God wants you to learn tonight about this life in the sphere of faith and hope and love.

/Welcome Back Song

Whosoever

June Murphy\

Welcome back! SALVATION. The first phase of God's plan for your life. The next segment of this lesson is dedicated to anyone who is here tonight without a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, who as a result does not have eternal life.

### **/THE GOSPEL MESSAGE**

#### **The Good News to Unbelievers Concerning Jesus Christ**

##### **Introduction\**

A Christian approached a new believer after church and asked him how the new believer had come to be saved. The new believer said, "It was easy. I did my job, and God did His job." The Christian was curious. "What do you mean you did your job? I thought being saved required no works on our part." The new believer said, "It was my job to be lost. It was God's job to find me. I did my job, and God did His job."

Being lost is "good news" according to the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ, who says, in Luke, Chapter 15, Verses 4 through 6...

/LUK 15:4

*"What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine (sheep not lost) in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?"\*

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/LUK 15:5-6

*“When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.//And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’”\*

If you are lost, God, the Great Shepherd is looking for you. Shepherds find lost sheep. When you understand this truth, then you know God wants a relationship with you because each of you are His sheep.

### **/THE GOSPEL MESSAGE**

#### **The Good News to Unbelievers Concerning Jesus Christ**

#### **You were born condemned... \**

Perfect God made perfect provision on your behalf, so you can have a relationship with Him forever. First Timothy, Chapter 2, Verses 3 and 4 say...

/1TI 2:3-4

*This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior (the Lord Jesus Christ),//who desires all men to be saved... \*

An abbreviated version of Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 9 says...

/2PE 3:9

*The Lord (Jesus Christ) is...patient toward you (unbelievers)...and **is not willing** for any (of you) to perish in the Lake of Fire but for all (of you) to come to repentance (a change of mind about the Lord Jesus Christ).\*

According to the Word of God you were born condemned. You were born physically alive, but spiritually dead...First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 22 says...

/1CO 15:22

*For as in (union with) Adam (at physical birth) all (mankind are set to) die (the second death)... \*

Thus, you were born condemned...separated from a relationship with God, in a state of total spiritual helplessness and in a state of utter hopelessness. It is not your fault that you were born condemned, spiritually dead, helpless

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and hopeless, but it is your circumstance at physical birth. Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 12 says...

/ROM 5:12

*For by one man (Adam the) sin (nature) entered the world and (spiritual) death by (having a) sin (nature), so (spiritual) death passed upon all men, for all have (been considered by God to have) sinned (when Adam sinned).\*

While you are spiritually dead you cannot have a relationship with God, you cannot save yourself, and you cannot perform any works that would remove the barrier between yourself and God.

#### //THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

#### **The Good News to Unbelievers Concerning Jesus Christ Salvation...God's Reconciliation Offer\**

God offered you a relationship with Him while you are condemned. Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 8 says...

/ROM 5:8

*But God (the Father) demonstrates His own (unconditional) love toward us (all mankind), in that while we were yet sinners (spiritually dead unbelievers), Christ died (as a substitute) for us.\*

While you are in the pathetic state of spiritual death, a just, righteous and loving God extended His righteous right hand to offer you salvation. Why? God loves you unconditionally. First John, Chapter 4, Verse 8 says...

/1JO 4:8

*The one who does not love (unconditionally) does not know God, for God is (unconditional) love.\*

What does God's unconditional love mean to you? It means you could NEVER, under any circumstance do anything to disappoint Him. It means that you cannot make Him love you more. It means that you cannot make Him love you less. UNCONDITIONAL means just that...He loves you without conditions. It doesn't get any better than that. So how do you get a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? It's simple. Acts, Chapter 16, verse 31 says...

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/ACT 16:31

*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and (everyone in) your household (who also believes).*\

A relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ is the way to salvation. John, Chapter 14, Verse 6 says...

/JOH 14:6

*(The Lord) Jesus Christ said, "I am the way (to salvation), (I am) the truth (through the Word of God) and (I am) the (eternal) life; no one comes to the Father, but through (believing in) Me."*\

God loves His imperfect creatures with a perfect love, a love willing to do EVERYTHING to provide you with salvation. God is willing to do anything to save you but He is not willing to force you to believe. You have free will and God honors it. You can choose to be saved or you can choose to remain condemned. John, Chapter 3, Verse 36 says...

/JOH 3:36

*"He (anyone) who believes in the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) has (the) eternal life...but he who does not obey (the command to believe in) the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) will not see (the eternal) life (the resurrection life...the Zoe life) but the wrath of God (the lake of fire) abides on him."*\

### //THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

#### **The Good News to Unbelievers Concerning Jesus Christ**

#### **How do I become saved?\**

How do you become saved? It's a private decision. It's a one-time decision only you can make. You have a choice. Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 8 and 9 say...

/EPH 2:8-9

*For by (efficacious) grace you have been saved through faith (alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone); and that (grace, faith, and salvation is) not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;//not as a result of works, so that no one may boast (before the justice of God).*\

Your soul can express faith, not blindly, but after examination of God's reconciliation offer, and that faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone will

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be your ticket to eternal life. A short conversation with God the Father results in your salvation. Faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone is the way to salvation. Acts, Chapter 4, Verse 12 says...

/ACT 4:12

*“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved (except the name [the Person] of the Lord Jesus Christ).”\*

For a thief being crucified next to the Lord Jesus Christ, it was a nine-word conversation. Luke, Chapter 23, Verse 42 and 43 say...

/LUK 23:42-43

*And he (one of the thieves on the Cross next to Jesus) was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!”//And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to him (the repentant thief), “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”\*

Nothing is easier than salvation. It's easy for you because it was hard for the Lord Jesus Christ when He laid down His life for you at the Cross. Once you have salvation you cannot lose it. John, Chapter 10, Verse 28 says...

/JOH 10:28

*And I give eternal life to them (believers in Christ), and they (believers) shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them (believers) out of My hand.\*

### //THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

#### **The Good News to Unbelievers Concerning Jesus Christ**

#### **What happens if I don't want to be found?”\**

Religion encourages you to work for salvation and to reject the free gift offered by the Lord Jesus Christ. There are consequences of a “do it yourself” salvation program. So what if you don't want to be found? Revelation, Chapter 20, Verse 15 says...

/REV 20:15

*And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life (at the last judgment), he was thrown into the lake of fire.\*

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If you are still in a state of condemnation at your physical death because you rejected the reconciliation offer of the Lord Jesus Christ... Matthew, Chapter 25, Verse 41 says...

/MAT 25:41

*“Then He will also say to those on His left (unbelievers who rejected the reconciliation offer of salvation), ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’” \*

The Lord Jesus Christ will accept your rejection of a relationship with Him. By your own choosing you will live in a place totally separated from the presence of God. Matthew, Chapter 13, Verses 49 and 50 say...

/MAT 13:49-50

*“So it will be at the end of the age; the (elect) angels will come forth and take out the wicked (a term for unbelievers) from among the (absolute) righteous (ones...believers in Christ),//and (the elect angels) will throw them (unbelievers) into the furnace (lake) of fire; in that (literal) place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” \*

If you are an unbeliever, you are lost. God is reaching out His hand to find you right at this moment.

/JOH 3:36

*“He (anyone) who believes in the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) has eternal life...but he who does not obey (the command to believe in) the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) will not see (eternal) life (in heaven) but the wrath of God (the lake of fire) abides on him.” \*

You can spend eternity in the lake of fire, or you can spend eternity in relationship with the one and only eternal God, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What's your choice?

First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 13 says...

/1CO 13:13

*But now faith, hope, love, abide (in the sphere of) these three; but the greatest of these is (unconditional) love. \*

Faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone is the ticket to eternal life.

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Once you have eternal life, what's next? HOPE is the second phase of the plan of God for your life. Can you imagine a fart in a space suit? That's what it's like when I bring up the subject of the Lord Jesus Christ to people. It's like a fart in a space suit. This morning at the breakfast buffet, I asked a young lady how her day was going. She gave the whiney, "Same crap...a different day" response. That's a reflection of her view of life. I asked, "Have you heard the good news?" She said, "What good news?" I said, "The good news about what the Lord Jesus Christ did for you at the Cross to ensure that you could have a relationship with Him." She said, "Yes, I've heard," and she practically ran back into the kitchen. On the golf course the other day, I told a guy I was playing with that I am a Pastor, and he practically ran from me... "Gotta get to my ball." I was having dinner the other night with a teen-ager. I asked him, "What is your spiritual life like?" His whole countenance changed. Yep. Fart in a space suit. He said, "I don't go to church!" I was talking to the maid in my room this morning...she was willing to tell me every aspect of her life story...the ups the downs the trials, the tribulations...and then I asked her that fart in a space suit question, "What's your spiritual life like?" She said, "I don't go to church. But I get up every morning and I say, 'Thanks for another day.'" I said, "Who do you say that to?" She said, "I'm not religious. You've got the Latter Day Saints...you've got the Seventh Day Adventists...they go door to door and shove their religion down your throat. I've got my own way of worshipping and I don't think you need to go to church for that." I said, "Well isn't that a little like saying that you don't have to go to a gas station to get fuel for your car? Isn't that a little like saying you don't have to watch the news to know what's going on in the world? How can you know who God is and what He expects of you without some form of interaction with Him?" She broke the world land speed record getting out of the room. "Well I accept all views!" Translated? "You're a nut job. I gotta go." The space suit again.

God has an enemy. The enemy uses religion to make you indifferent or antagonistic to God. And it works! He inundates you with busy-ness so you will believe that the busy-ness is your life, and so that you will forget about the encouragement, the comfort, and the exhortation that the Word of God provides for your life. So I ask you this question...

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### /QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

As a Christian, how much importance do you place on the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ and on the hearing of His Word?\

I reconnected with a friend of mine this week. He is a great guy, and a great Christian. He used the Word of God to get him through a rough divorce. Now he has met someone new. He has a new job. He went back to finish school. He is adjusting to a life in a separate residence from his children. He is about to get remarried. He is struggling to maintain his balance in light of all these real tribulations that people go through. Here's what he said to me...“Pastor Rory...I'm not listening to your lessons as much as I used to, what with the divorce, and a new woman in my life, and getting ready to get married, and getting into a routine with the kids, and with my “ex” hassling me because I am growing and because I am happy. But as soon as I get through these things, I'm going to get back on track with the Word.” Busy-ness.

I just laughed. And he knew exactly why I was laughing. He said, “Come to think of it, all I have to do is download your lessons by podcast on my phone and listen to them in the car, huh?” I kept laughing. He called me a bad name. Here's what Paul said to his Pastoral student Timothy regarding dealing with the tribulations of life...First timothy, Chapter 1, Verses 18 and 19...

/1TI 1:18

*This command I (Paul) entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight... \*

/1TI 1:19

*...keeping faith (in God) and a good conscience (from study of the Word of God), which some (believers) have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. \*

God's enemy introduces commands into our souls that tempt us to pay attention to everything except God. Thus we drift off course without God's rudder...the Word of God. “I'm not religious.” “I don't go to church.”

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I was fortunate enough to have dinner with five families this week. They were telling me their trials and tribulations, which I appreciate. I will not “put your business in the street,” so all of you can breathe a sigh of relief. But I really enjoyed our time together. Here’s what I left thinking...you are all right where God wants you...under pressure. But I saw the pressures of married life and of family life and of social life and of business life and of community life weighing heavily on your souls. God wants you to be encouraged.

Take a ten-minute break and we’ll wrap up our study with that encouragement.

/Welcome Back Song  
Calling You to Freedom  
June Murphy\

Welcome back!

#### /QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

As a Christian, how much importance do you place on the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ and on the hearing of His Word?\

Your time will reflect how much importance you place on these two things.

While you are under pressure, believers in Christ, now that you are saved, how do you develop your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? It can only be developed by knowing His mind...the Word of God. Here’s what the Word of God says to encourage you...John, Chapter 16, Verse 33...

/JOH 16:33

*“These things I (the Lord Jesus Christ) have spoken to you, so that in (union with) Me you may have peace. In the world (KCOS) you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”\*

Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2...

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/ROM 12:2

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*\

So when the hurricane of life is getting you down, remember this...the Word of God is central to a Christian's soul tranquility...Matthew, Chapter 6, Verses 19 and 20...

/MAT 6:19

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.”\*

/MAT 6:20-21

*“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; //for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”\*

Matthew, Chapter 7, Verses 24 to 27...

/MAT 7:24

*“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.”\*

/MAT 7:25

*“And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.”\*

/MAT 7:26

*“Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.”\*

/MAT 7:27

*“The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell — and great was its fall.”\*

The tribulations of life's nest can close in so much as to blot out the sky...robbing you of hope...the absolute confidence that God will deliver you from every situation...when we get caught up in the hurricane of busy-

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ness we miss the order that the Word of God can put in our souls, just like there is complete calm at the eye of a hurricane.

Storing up the treasures of the Word of God in your soul goes beyond Sunday...and goes beyond “going to church...” and goes beyond religion...the benefit manifests itself when you become like the third little pig...

#### /The Three Little Pigs

Once upon a time there were three little pigs and the time came for them to leave home and seek their fortunes. Before they left, their mother told them “Whatever you do, do it the best that you can because that’s the way to get along in the world.\

#### /The Three Little Pigs

The first little pig built his house out of straw because it was the easiest thing to do. The second little pig built his house out of sticks. This was a little bit stronger than a straw house. The third little pig built his house out of bricks.\

#### /The Three Little Pigs

One night the big bad wolf, who dearly loved to eat fat little pigs, came along and saw the first little pig in his house of straw. He knocked on the first little pig’s door and said, “Let me in, let me in, or I’ll huff and I’ll puff and I’ll blow your house in!” “Not by the hair of my chinny-chin-chin,” said the first little pig. But of course the wolf did blow the house in and ate the first little pig.\

#### /The Three Little Pigs

The wolf then came to the house of sticks. He knocked on the second little pig’s door and said, “Let me in, let me in, or I’ll huff and I’ll puff and I’ll blow your house in!” “Not by the hair of my chinny-chin-chin,” said the second little pig. But the wolf blew that house in, too, and ate the second little pig.\

#### /The Three Little Pigs

The wolf then came to the house of bricks. He knocked on the third little pig’s door and said, “Let me in, let me in, or I’ll huff and I’ll puff and I’ll blow your house in!” “Not by the hair of my chinny-chin-chin,” said the

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third little pig. Well, the wolf huffed and puffed but he could not blow down that brick house.\

/The Three Little Pigs

But the wolf was sly, and he climbed up on the roof to look for a way into the brick house. The little pig saw the wolf climb up on the roof and lit a roaring fire in the fireplace and placed on it a large kettle of water.

When the wolf finally found the hole in the chimney he crawled down and KERSPLASH right into that kettle of water and that was the end of the big bad wolf.\

God's enemy is looking to eat you with the busy-ness of this life and seeks to convince you to that the answers to your mental serenity lie outside of God and His Word. They do not. Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verses 15 and 16 say...

/EPH 5:15-16

*Therefore be careful how you walk (your Christian lifestyle), not as unwise men but as wise, //making the most of your time, because the days are evil.\*

The third phase of God's plan for your life is LOVE...it is you, as Christians, reflecting God's unconditional love toward all mankind. First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 13 says...

/1CO 13:13

*But now faith, hope, (and unconditional) love, abide (in the sphere of) these three; but the greatest of these is (unconditional) love.\*

God reminds one of His favorite churches about a crucial thing...Revelation, Chapter 2, Verses 1 to 4...

/REV 2:1

*"To the angel (the Pastor) of the church in Ephesus write: The One (the Lord Jesus Christ) who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One (the Lord Jesus Christ) who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this..."\*

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/REV 2:2

*“I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles (false teachers), and they are not (apostles), and you found them to be false (teachers)...”*

/REV 2:3

*“...and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary.”*

/REV 2:4

*“But I have this against you, that you have left your first love (a devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the Word of God, His mind).”*

How, if at all, does your life matter to others? What difference does your life make in the life of those around you? How are you influencing and contributing to the lives of others? This is LOVE. First Thessalonians, Chapter 1, Verses 9 and 10 exhort...

/1TH 1:9

*For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God (the Lord Jesus Christ)...”*

You have the power to choose the God whom you will serve...but you always choose a god...either the living God, the Lord Jesus Christ, or idols...

/1TH 1:10

*...and to wait for His (God the Father’s) Son (the Lord Jesus Christ who is coming back) from heaven, whom He (God the Father) raised from the dead, that is (the Lord) Jesus (Christ), who rescues us from the wrath to come (the Lake of Fire).”*

Charity, the old English word for unconditional love, begins at home, it is said. When you look at those in your periphery...in your family...do you make a difference in their lives? If not, what do you need to change? By the way, do THEY think you make a difference in their lives? Second Thessalonians, Chapter 1, Verses 3 to 10...

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/2TH 1:3

*We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren (believers in Christ), as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the (unconditional) love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater... \*

/2TH 1:4

*...therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. \*

/2TH 1:5

*This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. \*

/2TH 1:6

*For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you... \*

/2TH 1:7

*...and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire... \*

/2TH 1:8

*...dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. \*

/2TH 1:9

*These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power... \*

/2TH 1:10

*...when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our testimony to you was believed. \*

God has given us a “so great” salvation. Our personal afflictions are designed to make our faith grow. And as our faith grows, simultaneously, we must take it on as a burden to strengthen the lives of those around us and

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to make the opportunity for them to be saved, and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

John Miller, in his dinner table prayer last night asked that God would allow all of you to hear the gospel message accurately taught. His prayer was answered today. I am convinced that John was a part of establishing and setting up this conference so that you could have this opportunity.

Monica Miller, with a look of absolute resolve and a tad bit of intensity in her eyes said, “This conference is not about me. It’s about the people who come to it. It is for them.” And then she started talking about where the conference will be held next year.

I appreciate the chance to serve you this way and I thank you for the invitation. God has provided us with three things...the chance to be saved...the encouragement to grow in the knowledge of Him, and the exhortation to invite others to the privilege of salvation.

/2CO 5:20

*Therefore, we (believers in Christ) are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us (because He is); we beg you (unbelievers) on behalf of (the Lord Jesus) Christ, be reconciled to God.\*

Thank you for this chance to remind you to enjoy where you are in your tribulations, and to look forward with confident assurance to the deliverance of our God. Most of all...James, Chapter 1, Verse 22

/JAM 1:22

*But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.\*

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### /CLOSING SONG

He Remembers to Forget\

### CLOSING VERSES

/PRO 3:5-6

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.//In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.\*

/DEU 31:8

*The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed\*

/ISA 30:18

*Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.\*

/JER 29:11

*“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”\*

/1PE 5:6-7

*Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,//casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.\*

/JUD 1:24-25

*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,//to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.\*

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**/CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us pray...\

THANKS  
INTERCESSION  
PETITION

And we pray that You continue to shape the messages from this pulpit that are an accurate reflection of Your unconditional love, Your person, Your thinking, Your work, and Your essence...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name, Amen.

**/Thanks for coming!**

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