

Joe LaTour
"God Desires Relationship"
Zoom Meeting 10/17/21
Transcribed by Wendy Sellick

So happy to be here with everyone and to see all your faces this morning that I can see without scrolling through all the pages trying to see everyone. We miss you all being together in person but we thank God for this platform that we can come together and be together. Faith comes by hearing not necessarily by seeing and hearing by the word of God. So as long as we can hear the word of God it's faith food for us, right?

I'd like start in the Book of Romans. I love the Apostle Paul. This man who was a Pharisee of the Pharisees. That was excelled in the Jewish region above many of his peers. Yet counted it all but dung. Counted everything that he knew as dung. Counted himself as weak and needy. I love the scripture that says the Spirit of God used him to pen because they carried a consistent thought that continues to build on itself. And I believe that he had the fullest revelation of Jesus Christ of all of the Apostolic ministry that surrounded him. And was able to pass it on to us and I love (and if I get to rambling, please forgive me but I am going to ramble a bit) I love that back in 1 Corinthians he said, 'I was with you in weakness. I was with you in fear. I was with you in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with the enticing words of men's wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit.' And folks we need the moving of the Spirit in the midst of us today. Of the Spirit and of Power that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. Because preachers will come and go. But the one who lives on the inside of you is the one that said, 'I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. Lo, I am with you always. That your confidence, that your faith would not be in men or in the wisdom of men. But in the Christ that lives inside of you.'

Brother Gary and Sister Shelley and myself and Darla just had a wonderful time out in Montana having a mini convention with them. And Brother Gary when he got up was reminding us of the foreknowledge of God. Now this is a subject that is very dear to my heart, that I've been on for a long time and that God keeps bringing me back to. You know, when you have foreknowledge there is no necessity for a Plan B. God is never surprised by anything. He is never surprised by anything in your life. He knows everything about you. He knows every hair on your head. He knows your down sitting. He knows your uprising. Brother Gary was talking about Josiah over in the book of Chronicles and how that the prophet came and prophesied against the alter and told and spoke Josiah's name 300 years before he was ever born. Not only that but Gary went on to talk about King Cyrus who Isaiah prophesied of about 100 years before he came on the scene. It was written in the scrolls of Isaiah. I wish I could have been a fly on the wall, that when Cyrus, maybe, was reading through the scrolls of Isaiah and saw his name written there. But folks I don't know if you realize this or not but the book of Ephesians tells me that not only did God know Josiah, not only did God know Cyrus but, ladies and gentlemen, he knew you today. And before the foundation of the world, He knew you. He called you. He chose you in Christ. And not only that but He wrote your name in a book called the Lamb's Book of Life from the foundation of the world. So that before you were conceived you were a people of purpose. A people of a calling. A people that God knew before, or fore knew. And predestined, determined your destiny in advance. That you and I should be conformed to the image of his Son, Jesus Christ. That is our calling this morning. And I'm excited about that. I don't know about you, I don't know if you've been getting any revelations over the years about your life apart from His. It's not very pretty. But I want to tell you something, that's not your destiny.

That's not your identity. You and I need to come to the safe place, we need to come to the hiding place and hide ourself in Christ. Some of you have heard me minister about this a little bit, and I know very little about it, it's called the Law of Entanglement in quantum physics.

What the Law of Entanglement literally means is that regardless of space or of time, that when particles are connected, that when something happens to one particle the same thing happens in the other particle. Regardless of time, space or distance, geographical distance. Whether before the foundation of the world, something happened and it's happening in particles that were connected to Him. Because the scripture says in 1 Corinthians 1:26 that 'it is of God'. In other words, this is God's doing. That you are in Christ. You had nothing do with it. God put you in Christ so that whatever would happen in Him, you and I would be a partaker of. That we are partakers of everything He goes through. And this is my launching point here, the thought that Paul starts with.

I'll start in vs 3 and dive right into it, "know you not" now remember, it's because you're in Him, "know ye not that so many of us as were baptized unto Jesus Christ were baptized unto His death. Therefore, we are buried with Him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father even so we also should walk in newness of life." We went into the grave with Him and we were in Him when He was on the cross. We were in the Lamb when he was slain from the foundation of the world. And so, you and I were born in the natural with the shadow of the cross over us. But not only that, but we were planted together with Him in the likeness of His death so that we could also, that when He rose, we were in Him and we rose also. Vs 6, "knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him. That the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin."

Let me just say this morning how important the right or correct relating to the cross is. In your life and in mine so much so that Jesus recommended that we relate to it on a daily basis. It is the instrument of God and it's interesting because it was there on Calvary that it happened in the visible realm. The place of the skull. Where God defeated His enemy, the carnal mind, in you and me. It is the cross that is the answer for the old man. It is rightly identifying with your place in Him on a daily basis and letting the loins of your mind be gird about with truth that will free you and me out of the bondage of our carnal minds and be the starting place to where you and I can actually be transfigured, be transformed by the renewing of our minds. And it is in the cross that God triumphs over His enemy, the carnal mind, in the place of the skull. So, our old man is crucified but not only that. The cross does so many things. So many wonderful things, but you and I, we tend to run from it. I could almost write a cartoon with a cross chasing Christians and them running from the cross. Folks, don't run from the cross. It is the instrument of God's deliverance from everything that troubles us. It is not your enemy. It is your friend.

Look over in Romans 7:1. "Know ye not brethren" He keeps saying 'Don't you know?' "Knowing this that your old man" somebody said 'well my old man's giving me a lot of trouble.' What are you doing with him? Knowing this, that there's some things that you and I need to know. That your old identity is crucified with Him. Thank God for the cross. There's a couple of things in the books of Joshua and Exodus. The children of Israel came out of Egypt and they went through the Red Sea. When they came to the Red Sea one of the aspects of the cross is the atonement that you and I can be cleansed from our sins so that we can be washed and sprinkled with the blood of the Lamb. We're baptized in the Red Sea; His blood cleanses us. So, there is an aspect of the cross that is strictly an atoning work that He did for you. But then

later on, of course you know they went over on dry ground, later on when it came time for the second generation to go into the land, once again they're going down into waters that were at flood stage, Jordan River, but once the foot of the priesthood stepped into those flooded waters, they parted all the way back to the city of Adam. And those priests stepped out into the middle of that Jordan River on dry ground and the people of God passed over and the Lord said take 12 stones and put them in the midst of this Jordan. Again, both the Red Sea and the Jordan River are speaking to us of the cross. Two aspects of the cross. Put the 12 stones down in there and leave them there and then take 12 stones out of the Jordan and put them on the other side for a memorial. So, the 12 stones are a picture of Israel. They are a picture of the people of God where your old man was left there in the Jordan River so that you were crucified with Him. But not only were you crucified with Him but there were 12 stones that were brought out to the other side and set there to be a memorial. That not only are you crucified with Him but you are also risen with Him today, people of God. And you and I have something to rejoice in. Listen, stop letting the enemy put you under condemnation. There is no reason for condemnation for any blood bought child of God, and I don't care what you did yesterday, turn from it. Turn back to Him. The only place that you're going to be accepted is in the Beloved. The only place that you're going to be complete is in Him. And if you got out of Him yesterday the answer is to not let the Devil beat you up. To not let own self-righteousness beat you up, but to get back into Him as soon as you can. Because apart from Him how much can you do? And so God's whole purpose in the cross was to reconcile, rejoin you and me to himself and also not only that but to free you from the consequences of sin. And also, to free you from the sinner himself so that the old man would be crucified with Him as a picture of those 12 stones being left down in the Jordan. God whole purpose is relationship with you and I.

You know it's one thing for you to be reconciled to someone. OK, we're on speaking terms but we never talk. Are you enjoying your reconciliation today? Are you drawing near to Him? Are you getting to know this Father who so loved that He gave His only son? Isaiah 49:15-16 says, "Can a mother forget her children? Yea, she may forget, says the Lord, but I will not forget you. You are graven upon the palms of my hands."

(Break in audio here) Wow! It's good to be dead with Christ. "For the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he liveth. But if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband so that if while her husband liveth she be married to another man she shall be called an adulteress. But if her husband be dead, she is free from that law so that she is not an adulteress though she be married to another man." Then he goes on to say, the reason that I'm saying all this is because of this, "Wherefore my brethren, you also are become dead to the law." Why? "By the body of Christ because that when He was crucified you were crucified." The Apostle Paul had it, "I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live. Yet not I, but Christ" there's another man within. You know God's new man is Christ. It is Christ. You have become dead to the law by the body of Christ. Why? So that you should be married to another. God desires intimacy with you and me today. God didn't reconcile you so that you could just go and have a good life. God desires relationship with you and me today. "So that you should be married to another even to Him who was raised from the dead" Why? "So that we should bring forth fruit unto God." Offspring, after His kind. To bring forth His life. To propagate the very life of God. That even as it was said to Noah when the flood destroyed the current world, when they came out of the ark and made a covenant. God said, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the face of the earth with your kind." But you see God isn't interested in filling the face of the earth with Adam's kind any longer. What God is going to do as the scripture says, "that the glory of the Lord is going to cover the earth as the waters cover the

sea.” And it’s going to happen, ladies and gentlemen, because of the people that have become dead to the law and that have been married to another that are bringing forth an offspring and filling the face of the earth and being fruitful and multiplying and filling the face of the earth with God kind. With God life. So that the Adam life never even comes into remembrance again.

I believe that’s our calling today. It’s like the little woman at the well. Our soul has tried to be satisfied, tried to get satisfaction from so many things. Can you say amen to that? You see Jesus came to that woman. And the marriage is actually with your soul. Five times in the Song of Songs she says, “He’s the lover of my soul.” It’s about the relationship, the woman that he’s talking about being saved in childbearing is my soul and your soul. Even as David said, my soul has made her boast in the Lord. The relationship and the marriage that is going on that’s being made available right now is inside of you. Right inside of you! Because the bridegroom lives in your spirit. But you see this woman, when Jesus offered her water, he said, “Go call your husband.” And she said, “well I don’t have a husband.” And he said, “That’s true. You’ve had 5 husbands.” And you see that is been our problem, ladies and gentlemen. We’ve been married to the 5-sense realm, where Satan moves around. Where he can lead us around by the nose. We’ve been in bondage and Jesus said, “The one that you have now is not your husband.” So there’s 6 husbands. 6 is the number of the old man. And so, in order for you and I to be joined with something outside of our senses, your soul and my soul is either going to be drawn outward into this external world, ruled by the 5 senses, or it’s going to be drawn inward into the Holiest of all. Where Christ lives in you. And right now, folks you can find your place at His feet. You can find your place at His table. Because He’s sitting there waiting between the wings of the cherubim over the mercy seat, over the throne of Grace where by invitation you and I can come in without fear by the blood of the Lamb and enjoy fellowship with Him. You can come to the throne of Grace to find Grace to help in your time of need. You see, we try to wait to get all of our ducks in a row before we come to God. But God says, “Don’t wait!” because you’re never going to get your ducks in a row if you’re trying to do it by human steam.

Now the woman over in Hosea 2:14, “Therefore behold I will allure her” and isn’t this what God is doing to you and I in the days that we’re living in? You know, God is speaking such an encouraging word to us. There is such truth coming forth that to deliver us from the idea that it was left up to us to get this thing done, that you and I would be able to do anything apart from Him. And some of the things that Jesus himself has said to us, I am the vine. You are the branches. Without me you can do zero, nothing, nada. Just enjoy your attachment. Stay joined. Abide in me in everything that I am. Everything that I have. Everything that flows through me out of the Father the root will flow into you. And the fruit that you will bare will be the fruit of my Life because you remained in me. Hosea 2:14, “I’m going to bring her into the wilderness” This is a picture of my soul that has been adulterous like Gomer in Hosea. A lot of people like to claim that Ruth is their story and she is. Ester is their story. She is. But don’t forget when you claim all these lovey ladies, remember Gomer. Remember her. Remember the woman with an adulterous heart. Because she’s a picture of me and she may be a picture of you. She is a picture of our soul that has gone back to those 5 husbands, to those 5 senses that draws us out. Every man is tempted and he is drawn away. Drawn away from what? Drawn away from that reconciled relationship internally into this external world. And the whole world lieth in the wicked one. The lust of the flesh. The lust of the eyes. The pride of life. These are of the world. They are not of the father. And you see the soul is kind of caught in the middle, it can go two ways. But God in the hour we’re living in is speaking comfortably. He said, “I will give her her vineyards from thence” And if you’re going through any trouble today, and I don’t know of anybody who’s not going through some sort of trouble, “I will give her her vineyards. And I will

give her the valley of Achor,” the valley of trouble, “for a door of hope.” Don’t think as the prophecy was saying, God is discomforting his people. He’s told us much tribulation is the doorway to the Kingdom. “I will give her the valley of Trouble (Achor) a tribulation for a door of hope. But she’s going to sing there, as she did in the days of her youth. As in the days when she came up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be at that day, sayeth the Lord, thou shall call me ‘my husband’ and thou shall no longer call me ‘my lord’, because God desires union. He desires relationship. And everything that He has done has been to prepare for this. He desires personal union with us. When He looks at the church He sees a new man, but He is so intimately involved with every one of us as members in particular. There is a place in His heart for just you, that’s special for just you. John found that place. He laid his head on the chest of Jesus. There was plenty of room on the chest of that High Priest for every one of those men in that room that night. John took his place. Will you take yours? John was not the only disciple that Jesus loved. Every one of you today can be partakers of His love. And there’s a place on the chest of the master waiting for you to lay your head. For He is the lover of your soul.

Matthew 22. I love this scripture because it actually lays out the plan and the purpose of God. It lays out and puts into view the heart of this one who is a certain king. And anytime you see the word ‘certain’ it’s talking about the main players in the predestined purpose, the eternal purpose of God. “And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables and said, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king which made a marriage for his son. And he sent forth his servants to call them which were bidden to the wedding’ and I believe that the ministry of God that is under the unction of the Holy Spirit in the times that we are living are going out and heralding an invitation to those who are bidden. ‘But they would not come. And again, he sent forth other servants saying, Tell them. Tell them which were invited, them which are bidden, behold I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and my fatlings are killed.’ There didn’t need to be any other sacrifices. For by one sacrifice, Hebrews says, He has perfected forever those who were sanctified. We’re not looking for another sacrifice. I’ve killed my fatlings. I’ve killed my oxen. All things are ready. Come to the marriage. And ladies and gentlemen, I can sense the moaning of the Holy Spirit over His people saying ‘Do you realize that the doorway into relationship with your God has been opened? That there doesn’t need to be anything else take place. All things have been made ready. The only thing that keeps you and I from entering into that land, into the land of marriage, is our own unbelief in the promises of God. It’s available to you every morning when your eyes pop open, there are new mercies, there’s the invitation, draw near. Have your heart sprinkled and come close. ‘But they made light of it and they went their way. One to his farm, another to his merchandise. And they entreated them spitefully and slew the servants. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth and he sent forth his armies, destroyed those murderers and burned up their city.’ Why? Maybe they didn’t believe the report that God had given of his son. You know, the sin of unbelief. You say, ‘I sinned. I did this or I did that.’ Folks, there’s a provision for you to not remain in sin. There’s a provision for that. And the only thing that short circuits the provision is your faith in the one offering. That you feel that there needs to be something else. That it’s not sufficient. And you don’t believe the report that God gave concerning His Son. Read about it in 1 John 5. “They make God a liar because they believe not. And they did not enter into His rest.” The rest, as it says in the book of Ruth when Naomi says, “Shall I not seek rest for you my daughter?” Rest for her was marriage and bringing forth new life. And that rest is the same for us. We rest from all of our labors because there’s someone else in us. Inside of us that’s doing the works. Just like Jesus said, “The works that I do are not mine. They are the Father’s. And the works that I do which are the Father’s are the same works will you do. And greater works. Because I go to the Father to make an atonement. You are risen with me. You are seated with me. You are joint

heirs with me.” Vs 9, “Go ye therefore into the highways and as many as you shall find bid them to the marriage. And so those servants went out and gathered together all as many as they found both bad and good. And the wedding was furnished with guests.” I’ll come back here but I want to go to Genesis 2:19 for a moment. Here we have the foundation of marriage. Here we have the Biblical principal of marriage. Vs 19, “And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and very fowl of the air. And he brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them. And whatsoever Adam called every living creature that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all the cattle, to the fowl of the air and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a help meet (suitable) for him.” Why? Because none of them were of his kind. If you go up to Genesis 1 you see that He made the grass of the field after its kind and about 4 or 5 times it says after its kind, after its kind, after its kind. And then in vs 26 he basically says, “And let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let us make man after our kind.” Because you can only be married to your kind. The reason there wasn’t a help mate for Adam is because none of them were his kind. So, what did God do? The same thing that He did in Jesus on the cross, He caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam. “And he slept and he took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh thereof. And the rib which the Lord God had taken from man he made a woman and brought her to the man. And Adam said, ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.’” You can look at this in Ephesians 5, he says ‘This is a great mystery I speak of Christ and the church’ quoting this scripture in Genesis. “Bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh.” You know 1 Corinthians 15: 39 says, All flesh is not the same flesh. You are bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. But all flesh is not the same flesh. There’s is one kind of flesh of men, another of beasts, another of fishes, another of birds. Different kinds. But she is flesh of my flesh, she is my kind. She shall be called woman because she was taken out of man.

Do you realize what happened to you and I? That you were put in Christ before the foundation of the world. The woman was already in the man. And it was while he was in a deep sleep that the Lord God extracted her. And out of His side came blood and water. While Jesus hung on the cross, he went into a deep sleep. He gave up his spirit, “Father into your hands I commend my spirit.” And as he went into that deep sleep the same God that put Adam, the first man who was only a figure of Him that was to come, Adam was never to be the man. Christ is the Man that God will set over all the works of His hands. He removed the woman. Bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh. Do you know who you are today? Do you know? Jesus was the head of Christ. Christ is a many membered entity and his testimony when he was here in the days of his flesh, “of my own self I can do nothing.” And that is the same state that you and I find ourselves in today. And it’s only pride that we condemn ourselves if we fail at something. Because we’re looking to ourselves to do some sort of performance. And if it was a performance that was produced then who would be glorified in it? It would be us. We would take the glory.

And so you find the apostle Paul saying over in 1 Corinthians 1, you see your calling brethren. How that not many mighty, not many noble, not many of all these things are called. But God has chosen the weak things, the foolish things, the things that be not. To bring to nought the things that are. Why? So that no flesh would glory before Him. So that God in all things when He displays what the work of redemption has (there was a break in audio here) before angels and principalities, do you realize the things that God is trumpeting to His people in these days angels desire to look into. And it’s going to be made known by the Church the manifold wisdom of God unto principalities and powers. And in the end of the matter, you’re going to teach angels. But we find ourselves dependent in the days of our flesh. And you’re never going

to come up out of the wilderness of weakness and of the soul and her inability to do anything of herself until you come up out of the wilderness leaning in trust. "Cursed is the man that trusts in man and makes flesh his arm." That leans on the arm of flesh. "Blessed is the man that trusts in the Lord for he shall be like a tree planted by rivers of living water." Waters that flow from the mountain of the Lord's house out from under the threshold of the house. There are waters flowing today and for those that are trusting in God you are being watered by Him and the mountain of the Lord's house. It's coming from on high. These are waters from another realm brethren. Drink deeply today. Drink deeply. We are the benefactors of the redemption that is found in Jesus Christ.

I want to go back to Matthew 22:11. So we see that the place was full. They filled it with both good and bad. "And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment." And notice what he called him. "And he said unto him, 'Friend, how did you come in here not having a wedding garment.'" And another translation says, "How come you're not wearing the garments that were provided for you?" Do you realize today that there are garments that have been provided for you?

Isaiah 61. You know I've been enjoying looking at the things that God has provided for us. But you know, you can just stay there on that place of reveling in the things that God has provided through the atonement of Jesus Christ through the death and resurrection. Everything that pertains to life and godliness has been given you. And Corinthians 2 says that the spirit of God has been given to so that you might freely know the things that are given to you in Christ. The Holy Spirit is bringing these to our attention. There are so many wonderful things that pertain to life and godliness that have been provided for us but if you don't use what is been given to you it profits you nothing. You can be like the man that received the talent. You receive something from the king when he left to a far country and if you bury it and don't utilize it, if you don't exercise it, it will never grow. There will never be any increase in to. Brethren, by faith you and I are to take ahold of the provisions. The things that accompany salvation and use them and they will prosper for you. 'Timothy, give yourself to these things that your profiting may appear to all.' Use what God has given you so that you don't have to be ashamed. It's not enough to just receive things from God. I could give you a brand-new car, brand new Maserati. If I could afford it, which I can't. But let's say that I did. And you park it in your driveway and every day you go over there to the curtain and you pull it back and say to your wife, "Look at that Maserati! Man, it is fire engine red, it is beautiful!" The next day you do through the same thing day after day but you never get in it and drive it. You never use what is been given to you. It will profit you nothing. You talk about it but nothing practical. No change happens in your life because change only comes when you utilize by faith the things He's given. The land of promise is only yours when you put your foot in it. He told you every place the sole of your foot shall touch shall be yours. Walk in the things that God has given you. And how can you do that? The same way that Abraham came to his land. Simply by faith.

Isaiah 61:10. This is along with the prophecy that came to us today. "I will greatly rejoice" Listen, when you begin to start seeing and utilizing the things that God has prepared for you that God has given to you, there's rejoicing that happens. I don't have to stay in the limitations or the bondage of who I am in Joe. But I can partake of those things, the reality of who I am in Christ. I can look at myself in a different mirror. In the mirror of the word of God and I will reflect everything that He says I am when I take it by faith. "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord" and again here it is, the soul "my soul shall be joyful in my God." Why? Because He has clothed me. "He has clothed me with the garments of salvation. He has covered me with the robe of

righteousness.” Listen, every morning when I get up, usually I first take a shower and then get dressed. This is the same thing that you and I need to do in a practical way every morning when we open our eyes the first thing we should do is realize there are new mercies waiting for you. You can partake of them before your feet ever hit the floor. They are waiting for you. You’re in a new day. Yesterday is done. Here is a day that there are no mistakes in yet. New mercies. Sprinkling of the blood. So I can get up and I can be washed and I can put on my beautiful garments. The garments of salvation and the robe of righteousness. Over in Romans 13:14 it tells you, “Now put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh.” That word ‘put on’ in the Greek says to ‘sink into, as into a garment.’ And so what it’s saying is basically the garment is Him. Put on Christ. Garments of salvation. Robes of righteousness. Righteousness is a big subject these days. But there is only one way that it comes. Over in Romans 4:17, “As it is written I have made thee the father of many nations before him whom he believed, even God, who quickens the dead.” You know what God does? He calls those things which be not as though they were. So not many mighty, not many noble. The things that are not. To bring to nought the things that are. He calls the “are nots” as though they were. “Who against hope believed in hope that he might become the father of many nations according to that which was spoken, so shall they seed be. And being not weak in faith he considered not his own body now dead when he was about 100 years old. Neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief but was strong in faith giving glory to God.” Listen, there are many folks in this move of the spirit that are getting older. But there’s no place for retirement in God. There’s no age of the new man that’s on the inside of you. ‘He staggered not, he being about 100 years old.’ Stop your staggering. Don’t start looking for a place to go to the sidelines and let the younger people take over, proving the calling and the function that God has for you. Keep flowing. There’s no age on the new man. He’s ageless. “He was strong in faith giving glory to God being fully persuaded” Paul said, ‘I’m persuaded that all this list can’t separate me from God.’ But I want to tell you saints, I can’t go off of Paul’s persuasion. You need to be persuaded. You need to be fully persuaded that he that is promised he was able also to perform. And therefore, it was imputed to him for righteousness. Abraham believed God and it was imputed to him for righteousness. Well don’t you have to do some kind of works? Yeah, you do. Jesus said, when the Jews came to him saying ‘What must we do to work the works of God?’ Jesus said ‘this is the work of God, that you believe on Him whom God has sent.’ This is the work, saints, that you believe. He that believes does something. He enters into rest. Believe the gospel. Mix your faith with the gospel and it will profit you unlike Israel of old who had a gospel preached to them but did not mix it with faith. Now vs 23, I love it because he takes it out of just Abraham’s court and puts it into yours and mine. “Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him but for us also. To whom it shall be imputed if we,” What? “Believe in Him who raised up Jesus our lord from the dead who was delivered from our offenses and raised again for our justification.” And when I say believe, I’m not just talking about mentally assenting. I’m talking about faith that works by love. I’m talking about a trust that is happening as a result of you coming to know Him. And believe in the intention of His heart. The integrity of the intention of God aimed at you today. And aimed at me today. That he has not us go all these years with all of our failures He’s still working on our behalf and, saints, He intends to bring you and I all the way in. And the only thing that will keep you from entering in, is you not believing and being in trust. Because when you do that unbelief, you call Him a liar. And we have more faith in the giants. We deify our giants. And we minimize our God. That’s what unbelief does.

Israel, I love Paul. In Romans 10 he said, “Brethren my heart’s desire for Israel is that they would be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal for God.” They’re like Cain. We

talk bad about Cain but you know what? He came to worship. He brought an offering. It says 'concerning Israel they were being ignorant of the righteousness of God' You can read it in Romans 10 'and going about to establish their own righteousness.' The prophet says that our righteousness that we perform in human steam in (another audio break) is nothing but filthy rags. 'Going about to establish their own righteousness did not submit themselves to the righteousness of God, the righteousness of faith.' And here you find this broken apostle. This man who was a Pharisee of the Pharisees, who exceeded his peers among the Jew's religion. And he said, "Oh this is my desire, that I might be found in Him. Not having my own righteousness which is of the law but the righteousness of God which is of Christ. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness. "There are garments, robes of righteousness that have been provided for us and brethren, it's time to put those on. It's time to put on your garments. You know you want to make yourself ready. I think about in the book of Ruth when Naomi said to her, 'Listen, Boaz is down at the threshing floor. Let me give you some instruction on how to prepare yourself for relationship. Wash yourself.' Brethren, I don't care what you've done or where you've been, God already knew about it before you ever did it. Look at Peter's life. He could tell him every detail of every failure before it ever happened. He can do that with you and I too. So the first thing that we need to do, wash yourself, as Naomi said to Ruth. Anoint yourself. Get back in the anointing. And change your raiment. Put on the righteousness of God by faith. You're never going to get righteousness by trying in your own strength. It's only the righteousness of God by faith in Jesus Christ. Put it on. And get down to the threshing floor and get down to the feet of Him who is to be the husband of your soul.

Isaiah 52. I think the cry is going out now. There's a wakeup call coming to the church. It's a wakeup call. We've been sitting on the sidelines waiting for God to do something and He said, 'Everything's has already been done. And you're not taking advantage of it simply because maybe of the callous of our heart. Maybe because of the things that we've heard, we've sat under so many tens of thousands of hours of convention word and tapes and meetings and everything. But it's time for you and I to take advantage of the redemption that's been afforded us at such a great price. And to come on in. To come on in like Ester did. Because creation is waiting. Her people were waiting for her to take advantage of the access that she had. And she fasted for 3 days. In other words, there are things that you and I need to do without for a while. Maybe some of the 5-sense realm. Maybe we need to separate ourselves a bit to the things of the spirit of God. Maybe our prayer life needs to be, um, maybe we've been neglecting the secret place. Prepare. She put on her royal robes and just went and stood in the inner chamber. And when the king saw her the scepter was held out and without going into a lot of detail of the story you already know, people were delivered because of the access that she took advantage of. Creation is waiting for a people that will actually believe what's already been provided and go on into the land. But you see here in Isaiah 52 the cry, "Awake." Wake up! Wake up! Do you realize what you have? "Put on your strength, oh Zion. Put on the garments" the beautiful garments that have come at such a costly price. The royal robes, the robes of salvation, robes of righteousness. All things that pertain to life and godliness. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ. "Put on your beautiful garments, of Jerusalem, the holy city. For henceforth there shall no more come in unto thee the uncircumcised" or the unclean. Shake yourself from the man of the dust, take yourself from the man of the earth. Shake yourself from the first man who is of the earth earthy. Arise and sit down in your place, oh Jerusalem, and loose yourself from the bands of your neck. Oh, captive daughter of Zion." Take hold, book of Timothy, on eternal life. Lay hold on the life that I've deposited inside of you by faith. Take hold of all that God has afforded for you and I. Because the cry is going out. The servants of the

king are going out into the highways and byways saying, 'all things are now ready. Come to the marriage. He's prepared his dinner. The sacrifices have been made. Come to the marriage.'

I'll close with Revelation 19:7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give honor to Him for the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife has made herself ready." She's made herself ready. She's put on the garments that have been provided for her. "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen clean and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints." Brethren, I have been dirty and I have been clean and I gotta tell you, clean is better. And there's no one under the sound of my voice today that has to go for one more second in uncleanness. The provision is there for you. Fine linen, clean and white, has been made available to you. The same way it was for Abraham. And not only for his sake were these things written but for us who will believe like he did. "And he sayeth unto me write" put this down in the book John "blessed are they that are invited. Blessed are they which are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he sayeth unto me, these are the true sayings of God."