

Reality Check Conference 2007 Video Clips (Session 2, 3, 6 & 7)

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[Session 2 Clip]

Do you realize that men much better than ourselves have longed to hear these words and did not hear them? Prophets rotted in prison with their ear pressed to the window longing to hear these words. Kings and scholars searched the night skies longing for the day when the Messiah would come and set things straight and teach men about God. And it is our privilege, as I have always said we are the most privileged people on the face of the earth. But I also want to talk to you about the responsibility that is ours – to obey such teaching. To whom much is given much is required. Your privilege is great. Your responsibility is equal to your privilege.

For some of you, I don't want to seem harsh, it would have been better if you never heard of Christ. For some of you, it'd be better if you'd never had this book or these words, because you treat them so lightly. And we can become so dull at heart. I have been preaching longer, as Brother Jeff said, than some of you have been alive. But do you realize that when young Matt Fowler got up here and preached it tore my soul in two? Lord do you look in my heart and find no loyalty. Lord do I serve you for the sake of ministry? Lord do I serve you for your protection? Lord do I serve you for my family? Lord if you took everything away from me would I follow Thee? Because Lord when the smallest trial comes to me I grumble. I am not as righteous as Job.

You see, especially for you young guys out there so full of zeal and so full of desire to do the right thing – I so appreciate that, I applaud what God has done in your life. But realize this. Twenty-five years from now you are going to be much more unholy than you are today. At least in your own estimation. Anytime a word is spoken, anytime a person or a prophet, or the tiniest member of the church stands up and says, “Something's wrong” you're going to look at your own heart and say, “Is it I Lord?” Is it I? We have a great responsibility.

Also we're going to learn from this what true Christianity and true Christian disciple ship really looks like. We got a good taste of it the last hour, and hopefully we'll be able to build upon that. Also we're going to look at the true goal and greatest endeavor of the Christian life. And do you know what that is? Conformity to the image of Jesus Christ. A Godly character. You have one problem. It is your lack of Christ-like character. If you have problems with your parents, you have one problem – a lack of Christ-like character. If you have problems with your wife, you have one problem – a lack of Christ-like character. I have been among those and I still do pray for power. And I pray for the unction of the Holy Spirit. And I pursue those things, but Paul Washer's greatest need is to be more like Christ and less like him (Paul Washer). And if I'm to pursue anything, it shouldn't be ministry. It should be the character of Jesus Christ.

It goes on. We're going to learn something about what it means to be salt and light in this world. We hear so many militant things about how to change the world. But the world is not changed through militant organizations or conservative politics. The world is changed through a Godly man, through a Godly woman, through the youngest among us who has desired one thing, and that is to be like Jesus

Christ. You want to be great preachers? Then you want something that's not very worthy. You want to be mightily used of God? You're putting the cart before the horse. Your greatest want should be Christ and conformity to Him. Not in some super-spiritual, monastic sort of way. But to live in a real world with other real people doing real mundane things but just like Jesus Christ would do them.

We're also going to test the validity of our own profession of faith. You see, the Beatitudes (Matt 5:3-12) are something we are to strive for. All these characteristics, we ought to strive for them, but you need to realize something. The old preachers used them as a standard of measure to determine someone's conversion. You see, if you are born-again, you will be salt. You can't help it. If you are born-again, you will be a light, and if you are born-again, these things will be found in your life. Even though in your development they may be immature, even though in your struggle in sin it may be two steps forward and three steps back, but nevertheless if you are truly born-again, people are going to see these characteristics in your life in an ever increasing measure. Now, I'm not talking about a race of two weeks or two months or two years. I'm talking about a race of a lifetime. That over the full course of your life both men and angels are going to see you truly were born in Zion, because the characteristics God has been working in your life throughout your life.

Now, let's go to the first phrase. "When Jesus saw the crowds." Now this phrase is found in several places in Matthew. Let me read it to you. Matthew 14:14, "He saw a large crowd and felt compassion for them and healed their sick." Matthew 15:32, "And Jesus called His disciples to Him after seeing this large crowd and said, 'I feel compassion for the people, because they have remained with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry for they might faint along the way.'"

Now what do we learn from this? Something very important. For God to care for our temporal needs is a great manifestation of His compassion – His love, His mercy. When God heals people, when God feeds people, it is a tremendous demonstration of grace. You see, people have questions. Many of their questions, it's not that they have wrong answers, it's that they have wrong questions. People will say, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" That's not the question. The question is "Why does anything good happen at all in this fallen world?" Nothing good should happen here. There should be no leaves on trees, no babies born, no lovers, no poetry, no joy, no dancing. Nothing. The world should literally be like a set for the stage play *Waiting for Godot* where it's all gray, blanketed in death, and you see a man sitting on a park bench with a tree behind him, gray and dead and without a leaf.

So anytime God does anything good, to anyone among Adam's fallen race, it is an act of grace. So to feed – to heal – is a great work of God. But the greatest demonstration of God's compassion to men, the greatest most loving thing God could ever do for you, is to pull back the veil and reveal Himself to you and reveal His will to you. We can see this in the New Covenant promises in the Old Testament, where God declares He's going to do a great, compassionate thing for His people. This is what He says He's going to do: "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days.' declares the Lord, 'I will put my laws within them, and on their hearts I will write it, and I will be their God and they shall be my people. And they will not teach again each man his neighbor and each man his brother saying 'Know the Lord' for they will all know me from the least of them to the greatest of them,' declares the Lord."

What is this great act of love and compassion that God is going to do to a people? He is going to take out their heart of stone that cannot and will not respond to Him. He is going to replace that heart of

stone with a heart of flesh, as it says in Ezekiel 36:26. A heart that can respond to divine stimuli. And then, not on tablets of stone, but literally on that fleshly heart – supernaturally and in the power of the Holy Spirit – God is going to write His will into the very core of their being. And He will see to it through this miraculous work of conversion that He will be their God and they will be His people. That is the greatest act of God's compassion. So when Jesus sits down on this mountain, and opens His mouth to teach the people, it is the kindest thing He could ever do.

Now let me ask you two questions. First of all, do you see that? Do you see the kindest thing God could ever do for you is not take care of your temporal needs? And let me be honest with you, I didn't know what Matt was preaching until he got up and preached it. But do you see it's not the greatest act of compassion that He give you this perfect marriage, that He give you this wonderful life according to the standards of this world, or that He fix ever hurt in you? You see that's not the greatest thing He can do for you. The greatest thing He can do for you is to regenerate you, is to make you into a new creature that loves Him and then to open up your life, your mind, and your heart and pour Himself in you and teach you the Word and guide you with His Spirit.

Now, next question. If someone were to look at your life would they say the greatest thing you appreciate about God is that He, through the Word of God and through the Spirit, that He has seen fit to teach you. Do you treat His Word, His written will – His revealed will – as the most precious gift that was given to you? And do you dive into it like me into a box of chocolates? The only thing Johnathan Edwards and I have in common, other than saving grace, is that he was a chocoholic and so am I. You give me chocolate, I devour it. Can you appreciate – do you appreciate – the Word of God, because you have nothing but the Word. You have nothing but the fact that He opens up His mouth and teaches you, and what comes out of that mouth your life depends upon it.

Oh, young Christian person. You want to wear Christian t-shirts, sing Christian music, and hang around Christian friends, but how many of you will wear out a Bible and say, “I must know this elst I die?” The most compassionate thing He can ever do for you is reveal Himself to you. And He's done that, if you are a believer, through His Spirit and through the Word. Now the most horrifying judgment God can send against you is to close Himself off from you and tell you nothing. To hide from you. To let you go on with just enough Christianity to soothe your defiled conscious, and yet you know not the truth. You live a Christianity that is no Christianity at all and you cannot see how false your life is.

Isn't it amazing? Have you ever thought about the nation of Israel? How they can literally go into the temple of God , and supposedly worship the one true God, Yahweh, and then go back out and worship Baal and not see a problem? You say to yourself, “How can someone be so totally blind?” But then look at us. We say, “Jesus Christ is the only way.” Yet do we cling to Him. We say, “Only by the power of His Spirit can I prevail” but do we cry out for ever increasing fillings and measures of the Spirit in our lives? We say that without the Word of God we have no wisdom. We're like a lost blind man walking in a field – a mine field – without the Word of God, and yet even though we say it, the Word of God sits on our desks. Or we study it, just to know more than everybody else. The Bible, if it's anything, it's a survival book. It is given to us to survive.

[Session 3 Clip]

George Muller who was one of the most frugal and obedient and even at times impoverished servants, impoverished himself for the benefit of the kingdom, he always said this, “I never want someone to

look at me and see me worried or sad or confused or bewildered, because I don't want them to think that my Master's not a good master.” One of the things about the Christian life, and again is such a rebuke to me, is people ought to look at me and they ought to see a seriousness, and they out to see a purpose, but they ought to see joy. C.S. Lewis said that was maybe one of the greatest characteristics of true Christianity. Now we're not going to go into the prosperity gospel, which we don't believe. The purpose of walking with Christ is joy, but in walking with Christ, how can we not have joy, even when our body is filled with sickness, trials are all around, and it seems that some of the things most beloved to us are being torn apart. Yet we should still have joy, because our joy and our blessedness is fixed, not in what we do, not in what others do to us, not in our circumstances, but our joy is fixed in the perfect person of Jesus Christ and the perfect work of Jesus Christ.

But now He says here in the next verses that He's going to teach us as Christians how to walk in blessedness, how to increase in blessedness, how to be happy. I know that sounds trite to some of you who are very spiritual. But after all these years, I've realized is that one of the most blessed fruits of Christianity is just being happy. Being complete. Being whole. Having joy. And He's going to tell us how to do it. Now before we look at at this, I want to look at a contrast between the teachings of Jesus Christ and, not just the modern-day contemporary secular thought, but the teaching of Jesus Christ and a lot of the teaching that goes on in the church today. Let's look at a contrast. Because we do know this, everybody wants to be happy. Everyone wants to be blessed. The question is “How do we get there?”.

Just a quick summary. Let's look at a contrast. The world says blessed are those who are self-confident and independent. The movers and shakers who grab the bull by the horns, and they make out of their life what they want it to be. They forge with their own two hands their life. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who recognize their absolute need of God and live in constant dependence upon Him.” The world says, “Blessed are those with a healthy self-esteem and an optimistic view of mankind.” Does that sound familiar? And Jesus said just the opposite. “Blessed are those who mourn over their fallenness and the fallenness of their world.” But again, I want to catch you here. They mourn and they mourn enough as to turn their eyes off themselves and to place their eyes on Jesus Christ. And their mourning is turned to joy. You see there's a Godly purpose for mourning. We do not mourn for mourning's sake. We mourn because it causes us to take our eyes off of self and place our eyes on Christ, the only one who can fill us.

Now, the world says, “Blessed are the driven who put themselves first, make their own plans, and go to any length to get what they want.” I want to tell you something. That is pumped into the head of our youth, even by parents. **You** go out there. **You** do it. **You** win. **You** get what you want. No one's going to give it to you, **you** take it. Jesus says, “Blessed are the meek, who seek the glory of God, His purpose in the world, and who submit to His will.” The world says, “Blessed are those who are satisfied with the priorities and treasures of this world.” One of the great ways you can tell whether or not you are converted is this: Are you so satisfied with the things of this world that you don't need Jesus, except for that little thing you do on Sunday? You're so filled with the world, with it's activities, with its things, its ideas, its dreams, its visions, its purposes that you don't need to be satisfied in Christ. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who recognize the temporal nature of this world and hunger and thirst for God, for God's kingdom, and greater conformity to His will.” I would put it this way. Blessed are those who recognize that this is not their home. That they are strangers, and they are pilgrims, and they are outcasts, and their like – if they try to fit into this world they're like trying to stick a square peg in a round hole. They just don't fit. Blessed are the misfits.

And the world says, “Blessed are those who demand the best from others and distribute rewards and punishments based on performance.” I’ll give you exactly what you deserve. I had a young man one time, I was praying at the front of the church, and it was during a meeting, and a lot of people had come forward. And a young man sat, kneeled down right beside me and began to pray, “God I just want you to give me what I deserve.” I stopped him. I tapped him on the shoulder. Stopped him. I said, “No. No. The last thing you want is for God to give you what you deserve. Because young man, you deserve the deepest part of hell.” But at the same time we must realize that if we do not want what we deserve, but desire the grace of God, as David Muller said, “Those who believe in sovereign grace ought to have some of their own.” If we believe God has granted us grace, we should grant grace to others. And then Jesus says, “Blessed are the merciful who recognize God’s mercy in their own lives and seek to reflect that mercy in the lives of others.”

The world says, “Blessed are those with a singular devotion to self, who put themselves first and are willing to compromise all other loyalties in order to obtain their goals.” Again, if you do not think that is a main theme in this world then you have deaf ears and blind eyes. Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart.” That doesn’t mean some person with a monastic lifestyle who lives on a mountain, but blessed are the pure in heart who have an undivided loyalty to God and the advancement of His kingdom.

The world says, “Blessed are those who make self-preservation their highest goal.” One of the greatest sins, and I’m going to say this – recognize that I have the greatest respect for pastors, I think it’s one of the highest calling of the kingdom. But one of the greatest sins of pastors in America today is self-preservation. To preserve self, they will turn away from preaching the truth. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who risk themselves and everything they have for the promotion of God’s peace in the world.”

The world says, “Blessed are the moderately religious who have the respect of this world and are never labeled fanatical.” Jesus said, “Blessed are those whose conformity to Christ, and passion for truth, are so evident that that they are disdained and persecuted by this world and the moderately religious.”

[Session 6 Clip]

But Jesus tells us the way to be truly happy. There is initial step. There are things that must be done. There are workings of God’s Spirit that must take place before we can be truly happy. One of them is to be impoverished seeing our sin, and the other is to be broken over that and to actually – to mourn. And I want you to note here that when it says “to mourn” that’s a present tense participle and that’s very important. What does it mean? Blessed are those whose lives are marked by mourning over sin. A characteristic of their life is that when the Holy Spirit or a brother or sister comes and points out a real sin in their lives, they’re broken about it. They hurt about it. And they may fight with it for a while. They may wrangle with you for a while. They may not see it that quickly, but eventually they are going to come to say, “Yes, that’s sin and it hurts me.”

One of the genuine marks of being a Christian is not sinless perfection. One of the greatest marks of genuine Christianity is that when we sin we are sensitive to it, and that sensitivity leads us to contrition and brokenness and ultimately confession. Christians are confessional people, and that doesn’t just mean that we confess Jesus as Lord, but we’re constantly agreeing with the Lord about our selves. The word confession, *homologeō*, means “to speak the same thing.” That God speaks to you through His Word and says, “You have anger in your heart.” Confession is not “Lord forgive me for my sins.”

Confession is “Lord I hear you and I speak the same thing.” “You say I have anger in my heart. You say I was proud at that moment. Lord I speak back to you the same thing. I agree with you about me. I confess that what You tell me is right and I repent.

Now, I want us to look at a few things here for a moment. Just some examples of Biblical mourning. Ezra 9:5, “And I said oh my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to You, my God.” Has this ever been a reality in your life? Does it continue at times to be a reality in your life? Have you ever been ashamed, not before people because you got caught, but before God alone, with Him? Have you ever been ashamed and embarrassed?

Luke 18:13-14, “But the tax collector standing some distance away was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast saying, 'God be merciful to me, a sinner.'” We all know what Jesus said about him, “This one went to his house justified.” Because he saw the reality of his sin and he cried out for mercy.

Now, James 4:9-10, “Be miserable and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.” You read a text like this. and people will say, “You're unbalanced, and you're leading people into depression and all sorts of emotional maladies.” Isn't it amazing that if I talk about the happiness in the Lord no one will come to me after the service and say, “You're not balanced, because you didn't mention mourning.” But if you mention mourning nowadays, all these preachers are so afraid that the congregation's so fragile that they'll go out and commit suicide or something. But there is a sense where there's an unbiblical mourning, an unbiblical repentance that leads to death, like we see in Judas. But there's a real, genuine mourning and repentance that comes from God, and it leads to life, because it leads us to Christ.

I want you to look for a moment. Just listen to this in 2 Corinthians 7:9-10. Listen to what Paul says. “I now rejoice not that you were made sorrowful but that you were made sorrowful to the point of genuine repentance.” Paul says, “I am glad that you saw your sin. I am glad that it created sorrow in you for this reason: It caused you to turn back to God. And then he goes on and says – listen this is very important - “For you were made sorrowful” - now listen to this - “according to the will of God.” It was God's will to make you sorrowful. Literally it can be translated this way: You were made sorrowful according to God. It was God's doing.

I remember preaching one time, and as I was preaching, at about the middle of the sermon, people started weeping – just all over the congregation. And they just started coming forward, and they're crying, and the leader of the counselors kept looking at me like “Shouldn't we come forward and help them?” And I said, “No.” And then I realized they were going to do it anyway, so I went down and I stopped them. And this is what I told them. I said, “Don't you touch the ark of God. Don't you try to comfort people that God Himself is wounding.” God must wound you. There must be a crisis. In order to be saved, you must come to grips with who He is and what you are and the heinous nature of sin, the sinfulness of sin. In order for you to come to Christ and see Him as precious. But even after your conversion, there is a sense in which sorrow and mourning should be Biblical and should continue.

Now, I want to share with you just something about the Christian life. How it truly works. This is about the closest to a drama we're going to get. You're a lost person. You know nothing about the revelation of God except what's been written on your heart, and you've pressed it down and restrained it. But one

day, even though maybe you've been in church a million times, one day you hear the Gospel. It may be the only sermon that the preacher's ever preached. He's preached this sermon 1,000 times, but you've never heard it. But one day you walk in the church and he preaches the message and God opens up your heart. He opens up your mind. He renews you. He speaks to you, and you hear that message for the first time in your life.

What has happened? You have received a revelation of who God is, and in seeing a revelation of who God is you've also caught a glimpse of who you are. And it causes you to mourn. You have a crisis. You break in two, but you're not left there to despair. Why? Because with the revelation of the holiness and righteousness of God, and the revelation of your sin, there is also – for the first time – the revelation of the grace of God in the face of Jesus Christ. And He's absolutely beautiful to you, and you run to Him, and you're swallowed up in joy. Day one.

Now, day two. You start reading His Word. You start fellowshiping with Godly people. And what happens? Through the reading of His Word, and the continuing work of sanctification through the Spirit of God, you begin to see more of the holiness of God and more of your poverty. And your mourning becomes deeper. But at the same time you see more of the grace of God in Jesus Christ, and your joy becomes greater. And throughout your entire life what's happening? There's ever increasing revelations of God, ever increasing revelations of your need, and your weakness, and ever increasing revelations of the grace of God in the face of Jesus Christ. So at the end of your life, you are far more broken and far more mourning than you could have ever dreamed when you first began and yet your joy cannot be described.

But not only that, there has been a transference. There has been an exchange. When a person starts in the Christian life, for the most part, the immature Christian finds his or her joy in his or her performance. And so their life is just so unstable. They do good one day, they're excited. They do terrible the next day, and they're down, they're depressed and everything. But what happens? Gradually they begin to put less and less hope – trust less and less – in their own performance as the years go by, and there's a transference where their eyes are taken off of themselves, they no longer become the source of their own joy, and what they're looking at as the source of their life is the finished work of a perfect Savior.

[Session 7 Clip]

The point is many of you will study the Bible, many of you will pray, many of you will seek out Godly fellowship, and at the same time, you do not make that much progress with regard to the purity of your heart, because you're constantly allowing filth to be pumped in. Five seconds of filth on the television will take away two hours of good Bible study. You have to guard your heart. Why? Jesus has already told us in Matthew 15 that from the heart springs everything. If you want your actions to be pure, your heart must be pure. How can we have a pure heart? It's by guarding it. Protecting it. Do not be transformed by this world. Do not be conformed to it. Do not allow it to get near you.

Years ago, when I was a struggling young street preacher, Leonard Ravenhill sent me a tract, and it said, "Others can. You cannot." I don't agree with everything in the tract, but there's enough there that I agree with. And what he was basically saying: You want to be used of God then even what others think they have freedom to do, you must not do. You must guard your heart. There are certain things you cannot do if you want to be a useful instrument to God and you want to have a pure heart. You must cut

yourself off from that which contaminates.

Years ago, a concert violinist played his last concert – an old man – marvelously, and a young student came up to him afterwards and said, “Sir, I would give my life to play the violin like you.” And he said, “Young man I have given my life to play the violin like me.” You must give yourself to these things.

Listen to what Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:16: Pay attention to yourself and to your teaching. Oftentimes we're so concerned about what we know, but we're not taking enough concern for our own hearts and guarding them. Now, why am I telling you this. Well, because Scripture tells you this. But there's another reason. One day when some of you young people have children, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about. There is a love you have for your children, a desire to protect them.

I have a little six and a half month daughter named Rowan, and she's just beautiful. She took after her mom. I love going in in the morning and just watching her. I mean, my boys they all sleep in bearskins and everything, but my little girl – she's got like pink on and little soft things. She's just so beautiful laying there. The greatest joy in my morning is to get up, walk over there, and look at her. Not my boys. When they wake up they smell like they slept with a dead shrimp in their mouth, but she's different. She's just there – so pretty. What would happen if one morning I go in there, and there's my daughter, the sheets are all soiled with filth and wrapped around her writhing is a filthy serpent? It's already dug its fangs into her neck. And she's dark and spoiled and spotted. The anger. The pain.

That's why we don't entertain here. This is not a game. There is a serpent out there, and those of you that are children of God, he wants to wrap his filth around you and soil you. And he wants to stick his fangs in you. And if we are men of God, we love the children of God. And it breaks our hearts so we don't have time for silly dramas, and smoke, and dry ice, and parties, and laughter. We want to tell you there's a war going on, and your life depends on you following truth. Some of you will leave here and grow older and destroy your lives. Some of you will stand before God one day and be thrown in hell. This is the burden of a man of God, not to make sure that you have self-esteem, that your checkbook's balanced or that you have your best life now. The great thing is this: Will you not only survive but will you triumph in Christ? And to do that you must give great concern for yourself, for your heart.

Now, remember that I said purity of heart deals with a heart that is not mixed or alloyed. Let me put it this way – It has no competing loyalties. It has one king and that is Jesus Christ and one law and that is the Word of God. Now one of the things that we must do. Well, first of all, let me talk about what God is doing. One of the things God does with a man when He saves them is that He begins to destroy all the idols in his life. That's from Ezekiel chapter 36, a new covenant promise. “I will cleanse you from all your filthiness. I will destroy all your idols.” If I were to have to take a life-verse that most describes my life, it would be that. As I look back over 25 years, I see this: God's sovereignly working to cleanse me of my filthiness and to destroy all the idols in my life no matter the cost. No matter the cost.

As I often say, you've probably heard, I have my – my bones haven't been doing very well. They haven't been doing well since I've been a teenager. I've got more metal in me than a Tonka truck. I'm breaking down all over the place. And I've got news for all the TV preachers, it's not the work of the devil. It's the work of God. He's breaking, destroying, all that will not last in order to replace it with something else. So there's a real sense. If you belong to God, what is He going to do? He's going to be constantly working to tear the idols out of your life, so that He and He alone is King. Because He's the only one that can satisfy. He's the only one. But there's something that we should do also. We should be

hard at work destroying all the competing loyalties in our heart.

Listen to what Jesus says in this same chapter in verses 29-30. “If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you. For it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off, and throw it from you. For it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.” We must look at our lives. We must sit down and think, “Do I have competing loyalties in my heart?” And if I do, I need to put them away. And not be apathetic or even timid, but do radical surgery on our own hearts.

There are even good things that the Lord can give us that can become idols in our life that keep the Lord from reigning there. Let me give you a perfect example. Isaac was God's promise to Abraham, and what a wonderful promise. But it seems as though Isaac, the gift, started having too much importance possibly in the life of that old man. Radical surgery required. “Abraham take your son. Take him up on that mountain and slaughter him.” When that old man came down with that knife, his heart was free. When he made that decision – God above all things – his heart was set free. And God stopped his hand.

Do you want him? We live in a generation that says, “You can have your cake and eat it too.” But God says, “No.” God will bless you with so many good things and so many aspects of common grace. He will give you the desires of your heart, so many times over as He has me. But at the same time, He will make sure to guard you so that those things do not become idols in your life. And you must be sure to guard you.