

Goodness And Severity of God, Pt 3

Studies in 2 Peter

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Bible Text: 2 Peter 2:7-9

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Ok, let's take our Bibles today and turn back to 2 Peter chapter two and I want to preach the third message in this section on the goodness and severity of God. Tonight we are going to deal with the goodness of God. You know, we hate to talk about the bad. You know, we hate to talk about the things that are so troubling to our hearts and our minds and our understanding, but I was going back over my notes this afternoon and I was going to talk about Lot tonight and the story of Lot is probably one of the most interesting stories that you will read in the Scriptures. I mean, I would encourage you to go back and read Genesis—I think it is Genesis chapter 19. I think that is where it is at. I think it is Genesis 19. Yeah, Genesis chapter 19. Go read it and read about this man. And think about the grace of God and think about what we are talking about here. Because I... and he has brought before us... and we talked about this a couple of weeks ago.

He has given us three illustrations that we looked at the previous two Wednesday nights that brings forth before our mind and before our understanding the God's faithfulness to his [?]. Now what is this [?]? Anybody no matter who they are, no matter how moral they might be nor dedicated they might be nor committed they might be nor sincere that they might be, any person who does not possess the righteousness of Christ, who is not holy, unblameable and unproveable in God's sight and particularly these men who have come forth who had told these people whom he rights to that just like there were false prophets in the old days back in Israel that infiltrated Israel and brought really gloom and destruction on the nation of Israel he said, "In the like manner in among your number there is going to be false prophets that will come forth, false preachers that are going to declare damnable heresies."

Now it doesn't mean that they are... and this is the thing. Folks, it doesn't have to be something that is just ungodly and immoral that these people are declaring. Damnable heresy come in a variety of different packages. And the most damnable heresy is which? The one that denies, that really comes forth with morality and sincerity and encourages people get right or get left, you know, to do your best to please God and satisfy God and work out a righteousness and try to hold out to the end and yet denies the accomplished death of the Lord Jesus Christ. It puts as much emphasis, if, as a matter of fact, more

emphasis on what is done in the sinner or by the sinner than what has been done for the sinner.

Now, listen. When we get to the end of our lives and a lady rightly this week and she and I was talking back and forth and she asked me, she said, "I want to know what your doctrine is." And she asked me about sanctification. She said, "What do you believe about sanctification?"

I said, "Well..."

She said, "Do you think it is progressive or not?"

And I wrote her back and I said, "Absolutely, it is not progressive. We are sanctified once for all in Christ."

Now I told her. I said, "Now we do grow in grace and knowledge of the truth."

But let me ask you this. Are you ... any of you here and I wouldn't dare ask you to answer, but just think in your mind, are you growing in holiness? Really? Are you holier now than you were, say, five, 10, 15 years ago? Are you holier this week than you were last week? Are you holier right now because you are sitting in Grace Baptist Church in Russton than you were when you were sitting at [?] or in Shreveport or over there where you live out there in Cypress Springs or me back over [?]. Am I holier now because I am at church?

Well she wrote me back and say, I told her that. I told her. I said, "Look. We... we love him."

And have I stressed that enough to you all? We love him. You hear me? We do love him, because he first loved us. There is no doubt about it. No love to God, no desire to please God. You will know God. But listen. I don't need a law to tell me that. And I told that woman. I told her. I said, "Madam," I said, "Look. It is like that. We as justified saints have absolutely, positively no legal obligation. Do you hear me? No legal obligation to God's commands. No legal obligation. Now we have a obligation of grace and gratitude."

And I told her. I said, "We are free. You are not under law. You are under grace. You have been redeemed from the curse of the law. As many as are of the works of the law what? This is the language. As many as are of the works of the law, what are you under?"

You are under a curse. You are not among the blessings of God. You are trying to produce a righteousness [?] Holy Spirit working it out in you. What are you denying the necessity of?

Well, she wrote me back and she said, “Well, I believe that where sanctification is progressive and it is growing and it is getting further and it will be consummated when we make it to glory.”

Well, my thought when I hear something like that is that righteousness going to be brought up at the end and God is going to say, “Ok, I have worked out this righteousness out in you through our life and now I am going to count this as why I am bringing you to glory?”

It ain't coming up. I am telling you now. I don't have any qualms about that.

Well then she wrote me back and she told me, she said, “Well,” she said, “If you don't put people under law you open the door for them to become a bunch of hellions,” is what basically she told me. And the only thing that will keep people. Listen to me. The only thing that will keep people from being bad people is as you hedge them in with the laws of God.

Now then I wrote her back again. And I told her. I said, “Tell me which laws you are talking about if we are going to hedge them in with it.”

And then I went this direction because this is the thing. What law did Noah have? Did he have the 10 Commandments? Did he? I mean, think about it. Did he?

We read last week or a couple of weeks ago, what did it say in Noah? It said Noah... now listen to this now, who had not the 10 Commandments, no written legal law. It said, “Noah was a just man.” Do you hear me? He was just in his generation. And listen to this one. He walked with God. Is that a law? But they tell me today that in order... if... I am going to tell you what. The one who [?] and this is the thing. I know where all that comes from. That comes from being like John MacArthur who stand up there and teach this thing of progressive sanctification and push forth this doctrine of lordship theology that you... if you are not making him more and more, if you are not growing in holiness and sincerity and dedication and commitment you are probably not saved to begin with. Where is?

Listen. And this is why I look at... I try to look at things as simply and [?] as I can because I am a simple guy. I'm not real smart. But I can understand some things.

I have a woman that I have been with for 31 years. It is going to be 32 years. And I told that lady. I said, “Ma'am,” I said, “I have been faithful to my wife and loved her and cherished her and sought to honor her for the last 31 years and I don't have any desire to be with anybody else other than that one woman that the Lord graciously gave me.”

And I told her. I said, “It is not because some old legal, dry document that I have got up in my cell.”

I have got mine. You still got yours? Ok? I can go home right now and put my hand on

that marriage certificate that was issued to me by the state of Louisiana saying that I was legally married to her. I don't run upstairs every once in a while and drag that [?] out and say, "Well, I know I love her because I have got a document that says I have got to love her." I just love her.

And like I told her, I said, "Ma'am, why would you think that what this gospel that I preach of freedom and liberty in Christ why would you immediately assume that people are going to want to have no regard to God in their lives?"

Now see they just... their minds will not allow them to make the connection between the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. They don't understand that. They think you have got to be hedged in my laws.

I am telling you. If a man or a woman knows him, I mean, really knows him. And that is what it... this is life eternal that they might know thee.

And I told you for years, what does that word "know" there mean? It is the same exact Greek word that has the Hebrew equivalent that Adam knew Eve his wife and she conceived and bare him a son. Now how did Adam know Eve? Huh? It was an intimate relationship involved in it, right? It was a coming together, a two fleshes becoming one, right? And he said, "That is what life eternal is, is what?" We are intimately intertwined with our bridegroom. We are the bride. He is the bridegroom, right? We are his and he is ours. And we are joined vitally one to another. So much so that even as our God told us that the only thing that can separate the true marriage vow is what? Death. Death. That is what it says is the only way.

And I am... I don't know why they think that somehow, some way you teach that, that you are totally and completely free that people are just going to bust out and do whatever they want to do. If they love him, if they know him, if they have been intimately acquainted with him, if they have been drawn to him and they have been caused to sit...

I told her. If we look on him whom we have pierced, what does it say we are going to do? They will look on him whom they have pierced and what will they do? They will mourn for it.

Are you happy with yourself? It amazes me how sometimes we think we improve. Me, too. And we seem like we get a leg up on something in our character and our conduct, how the Lord sometimes will pull the rug out from underneath us and let us see ourselves for what we are. I am telling you.

But he is not going to let us rest in our improvement. It ain't going to happen. He is going to make... and the worst part of it is when he pulls the rug out and you see. You think... I know. I know that.

Let me keep my... isn't that look unto Jesus the author and the completer of our faith. Let

us run the race. They are not running the race to obtain the prize. We are running the race because somebody has obtained the price for us.

Now that being said, God has told us these false preachers if they come in among these Jews, he said just like God reserved [?] judgment he said he is reserving these false prophets that is going to be raised up. And what is coming for them? Judgment and condemnation.

But the thing I would point out to you that you need to keep in mind, what is the difference between the false prophets that perish and Lot who is delivered? What is the difference? Is it character? Is it commitment? Is it love for God?

It is grace. And you have got to keep that in mind. The promise is by grace. The threat is by God's justice and the only thing, the fine line between these false prophets that God has held in judgment, reserved them in chains to eternal condemnation and the true child of God is what? A righteousness that they had no part in producing or maintaining, a righteousness accomplished for him by the promised Messiah.

So understanding that and getting that set in our mind and when we think about these examples of God's faithfulness to punish these people with wrath, there is no doubt that God hates immorality and ungodliness.

Write down his verse. Write down Ephesians chapter five verse five. There is no doubt that if a man or a woman lives recklessly abandoned in their lives and has no concern for true holiness and love for God and love for the gospel, love for God's people, they don't know God. I don't even have to... I don't even think I got to point that out to anybody.

But now listen. Not submitting to Christ's righteousness is 10,000 times worse than that, than the worst immorality in [?] not being submitted to Christ.

The only thing that shuts you out is what? What shuts people out of heaven. What shut Israel out of the Promised Land? They came right... folks, they could see it, couldn't they? They looked across. They sent spies over there. But they couldn't enter in. Why couldn't they enter in? They didn't believe the God who made the promise.

So the only thing that shuts men and women out of glory is what? It is not God. What is it? It is unbelief.

Now I pray for [?] what? That the Lord would open their hearts and minds to the truth of the gospel, because what have we done? We know the terror of the Lord, do we not? We know that he is so holy in his justice, [?] that he will by no means clear the guilty.

I know how holy our God is and you do, too. How do we know it? When he found sin charged to Christ, just charged to him, he crushed him to death. And I tell you. If he spared not his holy, harmless and undefiled separate from sinners Son, what do you think he is going to do when he finds some sinner with sin on him? And he wouldn't spare

Christ, what about the unbelieving sinner, the sinner who...? [?] moral, sincere, [?] who has not rested in that righteousness. How do you think God is going to react towards him?

Well, let's look at it. Look at verse seven. 2 Peter chapter two.

David, read verse seven and eight for us.

[off mic voice]

Think about it. In all this... he is being... verses one through verse six telling us about nothing but destruction coming on men and women who tamper and tinker with the truth of God. That is what the question God promises. And [?]. And God is not to be blamed for this punishment that is coming. The only people to be blamed are sinners, ungodly sinners that are to be blamed because God commands sinners to do what? To seek him. Didn't he tell us, "Seek and you will find it? Knock, it will open. Ask and you will receive"?

Why don't people ask? Why don't they seek? Why don't they knock? I mean, our generation we have got folks who are knocking... he is knocking at the heart door seems like everybody is opening the door, but listen. They [?]. God commands those who hear the gospel to believe his promise and do what? Repent. God commands... he doesn't request. God commands all men everywhere to do what? To repent. And listen, this is the thing. And this is what is so good about preaching the gospel. God promises he will save anybody who does, anybody. I am telling you. Whoever you are, friends, family, foe, everybody out there. Anybody... come to him. Anybody.

You don't know how bad I have been.

Come to him. Throw your... Lord, God, be merciful to me the sinner. That is all that is required. And, see, this is the thing. God is able to save and to preserve his people. He delivered just Lot and not just Lot by himself that is not the way that verse is written. In know some people try to say that, but it says God knew, God delivered just Lot. So it doesn't mean just Lot because who came after Lot. Well, we know his wife and his two daughters came out. His wife turned into a pillar of salt, but those two daughters came out. And they lived on. We are going to see that in just a few minutes. The daughters lived on and... as did their children live on. So it wasn't talking about that the only one that got out of Sodom and Gomorrah was just this man.

He said, "God delivered this just man, this holy man, this righteous and accepted man."

You think about this, now. Lot believed in the Redeemer to come. That is the only way he could be... you can't be just unless you have righteousness. You can't be just because you are a good guy or you are holy in the whatever kind of description men talk about holiness or your character or your conduct is improved. Lot had... Lot looked forward to a righteousness to be established by his Redeemer, his Mediator, his Substitute, the seed

of the woman, the promised one. And by God given faith he rested in that like Noah, like Abraham after him. He became an heir. In other words, he became entitled to what? The righteousness which is by faith. And everybody who trusts and rests in the Lord Jesus Christ, they have every right to expect, listen. God is going to deliver you. He will.

We are to have... folks, we are to have assurance of our salvation. Now we are. And we are to have comfort knowing that we are sure and certain for heaven's glory based on the imputed righteousness of Christ. I tell you, I just... I cannot get away from this verse. I just keep... it is like the new catch verse. I love Isaiah 43 again verse 21.

He says, "The Lord is well pleased," wait, wrong chapter.

[?]

That is 42. 44. Isaiah 44. He says, "Remember," Isaiah 44 verse 21.

"Remember these, oh Jacob, Israel, for thou art my servant. I formed thee. Thou art my servant. Oh Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me."

Now I am going to tell you. Go back and read the rest of that chapter some time this week and look at what they are doing and look at what they have done and look at how they have acted and behaved. Folks, they are a bunch of hellions is what they are. They are a bunch of rebellious children. And yet God says that he says, "Remember these, oh Jacob, Israel, for thou art my servant. I have formed thee. Thou art my servant, oh Israel. Thou shalt not be forgotten."

And then verse 22. "I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions and as a cloud thy sins. Return unto me for I have redeemed thee."

Do you see that?

Verse 25 of chapter 43. "I, even I am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for my own sake and will not remember thy sins." Isaiah 43 verse 25.

The only way we can have that kind of assurance is based on what? He says, "I, even I..." what does he do? Blots out your transgressions. And he says, "I won't remember your sin."

Now Lot is a splendid... now turn back to Genesis chapter 19. You have got to see this. You can't read this story and not look at this. Lot is a splendid example of how nothing can separate the child of God from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Genesis chapter 19. Look at verse 31.

Now this is... they were in Sodom and Gomorrah. They had been brought out of Sodom. Listen. He didn't want to leave. This man tried to stay there and literally the angel of the Lord took him and drug him out of that place. And so he is delivered and he does, by

God's way of command, thank God he didn't look back, because God said, "Don't you look back." His heart wasn't in Sodom even though he was... had dwelt among them and lived among those. His heart was not there and his wife's was. And so he is out and he is free.

Verse 31.

"And the firstborn said unto the younger..."

Now this is... he is dwelling up in the mountains because he is afraid. He is living in the mountains with his two daughters."

Verse 31.

The firstborn said to the younger, "Our Father is old and there is not a man in the earth to come in with us after the manner of all the earth. Come, let us make our father drink wine and we will lie with him that we may preserve seed of our father." And they made their father drink wine that night and the first born...

Folks, I am telling you. What is happening here, he had to be not just a little drunk with wine. This man was tanked is what he was. And his first daughter goes in and lies with him. And she rolls up.

In verse 34 it says, "It came to pass on the next day..." This is a two night event now. Not enough that he gets drunk with one daughter. The next night the younger one says, "Well, you went in. Now it is my turn. So behold I laid yesternight with my father. Let us make him drink wine this night also and go [?] and lie with him that we may preserve seed of our father."

They make their father drink wine... you would think he would have figured out something. Wouldn't you?

[?] all believers can't do that.

How about this? They always say, "Well, we can sin, but we can't live in sin."

He lived in it one night, folks. He is living in it a second night."

And this is not just any sort of sin. This is incest is what this is.

And he perceived not when she lay down nor when she arose. He was so drunk he didn't even know what was going on. Thus were both daughters of Lot with child by their Father.

And here is the interesting thing. They both got pregnant by their father and they both had children and like I am going to tell you in just a few minutes, sin has consequences,

folks. One of them had a son and from her son do you know what nation was born? The Moabites. What did the Moabites do? They persecuted Israel for as long as they existed. And the other daughter had a son and from his lineage came who? The Ammonites, two races that hated Israel and some can destroy Israel. And yet here they are.

And now turn back to our text. Now that is the situation we have got. We have a just man delivered out... meets the wrath of almighty God and one of the first things he does is what? Sins grievously against his God.

And it says here in our text that Lot was vexed with the filthy conversations of the wicked. In other words, that when he dwelt among them in sin and hearing them, do you know what happened? It vexed his soul. He was righteous. It talks about his righteous soul. As he looked around... because... Sodom and Gomorrah was bad, as bad as what is going on out here. It was his daughters. Sodom and Gomorrah...

That word “vexed,” do you know what it means? It means tormented. His soul was tormented over what he saw. Lot was a believer and Lot made some bad choices, folks. He made a lot of bad choices. And he wasn’t very wise. When he took his wife and his children and when he looked out on that plain and he saw the beauty of that plain and he could see, he said he pitched his tent towards Sodom and Gomorrah. He should have never went there. He should have stayed away.

Because, see, Sodom was the most ungodly city not only religiously, but morally. It just had no morals. When we think about it, when you... every... when you want to talk about ungodliness and immorality, how do you refer to it? Sodomites, right? The worst sort of wickedness you can imagine.

Now our society is the same way today, folks, where we live. Our country is ripe with immorality and ungodliness. And the religions that claim to have all the answers to this ungodliness and immorality they are even more ungodly because they deny what? The accomplished death of the Lord Jesus Christ, that his righteousness could actually put away sin.

And we are to not have company with ungodliness and immorality, but who are you to also not have company with? Isn’t that what he said in 2 John? If one comes to you and abides not the doctrine of Christ you are not to bid him what? God speed. Because if you bid him Godspeed, what are you? You are a partaker of his evil deeds.

Write down 2 Corinthians chapter six. Go read that some time. We have no right to be unequally yoked with who? The unbelievers. And it is not just talking about individuals. It is talking about the Church. The true Church of God, folks, we are not to be involved with the religions of this world, period. Lot went to Sodom because he was a greedy man. Now him and Abraham were together and their flocks had grown so big and their families had grown so big they were swallowing up the land. And Abraham made a choice and he said, “Look.”

Abraham was the older. Abraham was the leader. Abraham could have said, "Look, I am going this way," and it would have been fine. But he said, "I am going to give you... you pick. And whichever way you go, I will go the other way."

And Lot looked out there and he saw the plain of [?], or whatever it is. I am going that way and he did. He had his priorities all out of order.

And I am sure he reasoned within himself that he and his family, we can go down there. And we won't be affected by it. Now we just won't.

But he was. And I am telling you, you and me... and I have told my kids this. And I have tried to tell everybody in our church family, folks, if we monkey around with people out there in this world and we make them our best friends and our best buddies, whether they are ungodly or whether they are religious what is going to happen? Are you going to affect them? Are you going to change their mind? Before long you tinker and toil with them, what are you going to be?

Now see, this, folks, this is the thing we need to realize. There is still something in us that has a tendency to be drawn towards that kind of stuff. They don't have anything in them to draw them to the true and living God, not at all. A believer can go to pretty deep ungodly situations, but eventually, eventually they are going to be vexed. They are going to be torn.

Whom the Lord loveth what does he do? He chastens. And it says we are all partakers, everyone. And he says if you are not a partaker of his chastisement, that is why I was telling you a while ago, sometimes God... we might be doing pretty good in our lives. I mean, think about it. Lot was a godly man, wasn't he? Not Lot, Job was a godly man, right? You think about it, Job was out there praying that his children wouldn't even be...

Lord, don't lay it to my children's account if they sin against you.

And yet God pulled a hedge down and let him be touched, first in his family and then in his own person.

Now that... and he admitted ultimately that he was talking about his... the ungodly false comforters he had, but he saw something in himself, too. It wasn't... we need to realize who and what we are by nature. The only way we can know for sure that Lot was a believer is first what God's testimony tells us he is a believer. But secondly we know this. We know he was a believer because what happened? He was vexed. In other words, he experienced true godly sorrow in sin. He really did.

And Lot is a great example of the fact that a believer is never charged with his sins in such a way as for him to incur fresh punishment or wrath ever. Because this... what is the payment price for sin? What does it require? It requires perfect satisfaction, perfect satisfaction. And the only one that can accomplish perfect satisfaction is who? It is

Christ. And he did that for his sheep by his obedience unto death. And Lot was a justified sinner, one to whom the Lord did not impute, did not charge iniquity.

2 Corinthians chapter five. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself... who is he? He reconciled and he reconciled it to who? To himself. And how did he do it? Not imputing, not charging their trespasses, where? Unto him.

Get it in your head. You ought to rehearse it. You ought to read it. You ought to think about Romans four all the time. Abraham believed on him who justified the ungodly. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputeth righteousness, how? Without works. That is [?]

But I am going to tell you. And we have got to remember this, too. Sometimes believers suffer the consequences of their sin. We won't be punished. Now we won't, but they have got consequences, do they not? He vexed his soul. He stayed in Sodom and Gomorrah. What did it cost him? His wife. His sons-in-law, left them behind. And he had two of the most ungodly daughters that ever lived.

He created two nations that ultimately would persecute his own family. But how did he do it? How did he deliver it? Notice how he did this.

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly. Remember who we are talking about here? Lot, a man who had been among a pagan nation of years stayed down here, had to be drug out, lost his wife and had an incestuous relationship with both his daughters.

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation.

God knows what he is doing both in the deliverance of the godly and in the punishment of the wicked. First of all, we have got to realize this. God's judgments are always according to truth and his law—and this is the thing that this religious world doesn't understand, his law is not respecter of persons. In other words, it doesn't... the law doesn't take into consideration what you do or do not do. It just says do what? Just do. Do how? Perfectly, completely and eternally. And God's judgments are never arbitrary. He never punishes the righteous. Listen to this. He never punishes the righteous, never. And he never delivers the guilty.

Now the question is: How are we going to get away from being guilty? See that? We are not guilty. He doesn't deliver the guilty. God's judgment upon wicked people and wicked men that they are getting exactly what they deserve. And those who have a righteousness that answers the demands of God's law and justice, they are going to be justified. And anybody who doesn't have that righteousness, folks, they are going to be punished. But here is the second thing. God know show to save and persevere and preserve and deliver sinners.

God determined to save a people for his name's sake and he determined to do it one way. he determined to save sinners based on the righteousness of his Son so that he could be just when he justifies.

In other words, all those things about God's justice, him being just in order that his character is above reproach and the only way he could do that, the only way he could be just, what had to happen? He had to deal with sin not in an arbitrary way, but in a way of strict law and strict justice, perfectly and completely.

How does he preserve us? Well, he preserves us and he delivers us from temptation in such a way so as to glorify himself, exalt Christ and exclude all boasting and in justifying sinners.

Lot didn't have anything to go over [?].

And I guarantee you. Lot above everybody else, he knows that he is in glory. You don't think he knows something of the grace of God in Christ Jesus? And he delivers the justified saint. And here is how he delivers us.

In Revelation he talks about that they overcame him. They overcame the Satan, the old serpent which is the devil. How did they overcome him? How are you going to overcome? They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of his... their testimony. Now what is the word of our testimony? Surely shall one say in the Lord have I righteousness and strength.

When conscience accuses and sin attacks and temptation comes forth, how do we overcome it? They overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, what? Christ put away my sin. And by the words of their testimony. What? Christ redeemed me from all my sins.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on him. Stayed on what? Stayed on his promises, folks.

If you will stay your mind on what God has given you in Christ, you will be a whole lot less apt to do ungodly. Do you hear me? And more so in any way than any law could ever direct you to do. You do it out of love.

And those who refuse to believe God's gospel, they are going to... folks, they are undergoing punishment right now. They are under the wrath of God. And one day they are going to be before the great white throne judgment where they are going to receiving everlasting punishment, every one of them. And Peter agrees with Jude that if anybody trifles and toys with the grace of God, the glory of God in Christ, the gospel, the ground of salvation, this contempt for God's glory in Christ is not going to go unpunished. If he spared not the old world and he spared not the angels and he spared not Sodom and Gomorrah, ungodly places, how much more those who trample underfoot the blood of God, the blood of his Son?

I tell you. You toy with the atonement of Christ. What? That is one thing you don't want to fool around with. You can be wrong on a lot of things. You better not be wrong on the atonement. You had better not be wrong on the ground of reconciliation. And, see, this is the thing. Peter is not threatening these things and I am not threatening you tonight that justified sinners need some kind of legal punishment or legal threat hanging over their head to make them to be obedient, but he is showing these people and he is showing you and me that the certain end of everybody who refuses God's promise, everybody.

And he is also showing us his faithfulness to everybody who believes that promise. Abraham... Lot believed the promise and I ... in spite of all that he did, God delivered just Lot and God presented Lot to himself.

Think about it. Think about what he did. God presented Lot to himself, to him who is able to keep you from falling, he fell pretty far, did he not? Unto him who is able to keep you from falling and present you holy, unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight be praise and glory forever, world without end. Amen.

That is where we need to be. Where? In Christ, found clothed in, robed in, wrapped in his accomplished death, his very righteousness imputed. And no matter what men might say or what charge conscience might bring against us, if we are found in him, what are we? We are complete. You are complete in him.

Ok, next week we will come back and we will pick up in verse 10.

Let's stand together and we will be dismissed. Remember these on the prayer list. The Lord bless you and keep you until we see you this next Lord's Day.

Bart, if you would dismiss us, please.