

The Method and Message of False Preachers

Studies in 1 Timothy

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Bible Text: 1 Timothy 4:1-6

Preached on: Sunday, January 6, 2008

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I would like for you to take your Bibles with me this morning and turn back to 1 Timothy. We have made it down through verse 16 last week. I have entitled this message, "The Method and Message of Apostate Ministers." I want to, if I can, deal with about the first six verses of this chapter and then we'll come back and we'll deal with the rest of it next week. Now we need to remember to keep this in the context as Paul begins to warn this young man Timothy about those who would come claiming that they were God's ministers, that they were God's servants. Understanding this all revolves around and rests in the context of him telling him how to handle himself and how others who would be preachers of the gospel should handle themselves in the house of God, i.e., telling God's ministers what we should preach, what we should say. We are going to see a big deal of difference between what is being said by God's servants, God's true preachers as they preach the gospel of Christ and His righteousness, as opposed to those who have come on the scene with great personalities and excitement and enthusiasm. Their messages are not the same. It is not the message of Christ and Him crucified.

If there is one thing we know for sure and certain, the message that needs to and must be declared every time we stand up is the fact that Christ came, that he lived, that he died, that he rose again, not as a private person, but as a substitute, as a representative, as a mediator, as a redeemer and that Christ, by his actual obedience, actually accomplished redemption for the objects of His love. He didn't make it possible, but he actually accomplished the redemption of every sinner whom He represented, every sinner whom God the Father gave him in the everlasting covenant of grace, every sinner whom God the Father through the Spirit would bring to a true saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and bring them to an understanding and a resting and a reliance, literally of faith upon Christ as the Lord their Righteousness.

That is the context. And it is important that we keep that in mind. That is the only introduction I am going to give you so I might actually get a little further this morning. But I want us to look and just pick up in **verse one**. Now this comes on the heel of **I Tim.3:16** - *"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles,*

*believed on in the world, received up into glory.”¹ Notice what **verse 1** says, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart,”² and this is so important, **they shall depart from one thing**. What will they depart from? **They will depart from the faith**. Now God the Holy Spirit had revealed plainly that in the latter times, some would depart from the faith which means that they are going to depart from the doctrines of the gospel. They are going to depart from the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Hold your place there**. Turn over to **Matthew 24**. This isn’t something new. Our Lord Jesus Christ himself warned us and warned those who he had sent out, his gospel preachers, his apostles, that this great falling away from the faith would occur.*

In **Matthew 24** - notice **verse 22**. Our Lord himself says:

*And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, **IF IT WERE POSSIBLE** they shall deceive the very elect.³*

Now this is what is so comforting to you and me. “*If it were possible they shall deceive the very elect.*”⁴ I tell you, they have a powerful persuasion, do they not? If our Lord Jesus Christ said, “If it were possible...”, it is an extremely important warning to God’s elect. These men are so persuasive and their message is so permeating like the leaven that our Lord Jesus Christ warned of. “*Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.*”⁵ Their message, their doctrine would even destroy and tear down God’s elect if God did not preserve and protect and watch over his children.

Now we read at the beginning of the service II Thessalonians 2. Turn back over there. The apostle Paul tells us exactly the same thing that our Lord Jesus Christ tells us. The thing that always jumps out at me when he talks about what these false preachers, these apostate ministers, is what they would declare. Notice II Thess.2:10 - Paul says, “*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.*”⁶ Now that has always struck me as an interesting passage. “*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.*”⁷ Now does the apostle Paul or God the Holy Spirit through the apostle Paul mean by making this statement, “*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness,*”⁸ that these men are going to preach open ungodliness and immorality? See, we have to use a little wisdom to interpret the Scriptures. You and I as well as the weakest of men and women in this world wouldn’t be deceived if a man or a woman in our generation stood up in the pulpit and said, “You can live however you want to,” that wouldn’t deceive anybody. Or if they

¹ 1 Timothy 3:16.

² 1 Timothy 4:16.

³ Matthew 24:22-24.

⁴ Matthew 24:24.

⁵ Matthew 16:6.

⁶ 2 Thessalonians 2:10.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

promoted ungodliness and immorality and said that where sin abounds grace more abounds. You wouldn't be deceived by that. So whatever this "deceivableness of unrighteousness" is he says that it is in them that are perishing, in those that are lost. It is something that is subtle. It is something that is deceptive. And listen: This is where it is born from. Why are they deceiving and declaring all deceivableness of unrighteousness? Because they have not the love of the truth. They can't stand up and preach Christ and him crucified consistently every time they preach the gospel or what they call the gospel. In other words, what he is talking about here, whoever this group is, it is the same group the apostle John referred to over in **1 John** when he talks about they will not abide in the doctrine of Christ.

He said, "Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause..."⁹ Now listen to this. This cause, because they received not the love of the truth. This is a warning to you if you will not rest in Christ and his righteousness as your only ground, hope or cause of salvation. "*God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.*"¹⁰ Now what is the lie? It is whatever this unrighteousness is. And tragedy of this is that they "*might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*"¹¹ We are not talking about people who are having just pleasure and ungodliness and immorality. They take pleasure in unrighteousness. The unrighteousness that he is talking about here is religious things, those things that they thought would save them and qualify them and keep them and guarantee them eternal life, that is the things that these people he is warning here of are taking pleasure in.

And he makes the same point here in our text. Back over in **1 Timothy 4**, also **II Thessalonians 2**, **I John 2** and **I John 4** they call these times the latter times. This departing of the faith is a sign that we are in the latter times folks. The term latter times, do you know what it means? It is the same term that is translated "*last days*" over in **Acts 2**. It refers to that last age which is the time of the gospel economy. That is the last time, the time after the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ until when He comes back to carry His Church home to be with Him.

Now notice something here in our text. This departing from the faith, what does it have to do with? It doesn't have anything to do with immorality. They departed from what? **The faith**. It has to do with false doctrine. It doesn't have to do with immorality. It is true that there is going to be days of great open immorality among humanity. I know we heard a lot of people in the last 10 or 12 years talk about the fact that God is punishing the United States for the fact that we have forsaken God. I don't even want to justify that with an answer. They talk about the fact that we are the most godly nation on the planet. No. It is just not so. That is not what he is talking about here. He is telling you and me something very important that we must understand. America does have immorality problems. I mean, we have come a long way just in the last 10 years of my life. You know, as we look across all spectrums of humanity, even in false religions, the moves they have made over the last few years, who would have ever thought that we would have

⁹ 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11.

¹⁰ 2 Thessalonians 2:11.

¹¹ 2 Thessalonians 2:12.

reached in our generation a time where they would appoint homosexuals as preachers when the Scriptures are so clear on these things. But it just shows where they are going to.

So there are great times of immorality and ungodliness. Now we know that to be so, but that has always been the case. You know, there have been times... prohibition was a pretty bad time back in the Great Depression, was it not? There were the 60s when everything was peace, love and all that wonderful stuff. That was a pretty bad time as far as morality and sincerity is concerned. Those days have always existed. But the thing that marks these latter days has to do with those who profess to believe in Christ, **but they won't abide in the doctrine of Christ**. That is what we see in our day which is specifically defined for us in 1 Timothy 3 as the mystery of godliness. That is why they won't abide in it. It has to do with the truth concerning both the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what men won't continue in. They will preach on 10,000 different things. They will instruct you on holiness and morality and sincerity. But they will not abide in this one great glorious truth. **Christ redeemed his children from all their sins, period**.

Notice what he says in the second part of 1 Timothy 4:1 . Look at the last part of it. *"...giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."*¹² Now this is a deplorable situation. Whatever he is talking about is deplorable. I'm telling you, we are living in it. We have been living in it since our Lord Jesus Christ left this earth. The deception that sought to bring the Church off the true and living God started right after Christ died. It did. When the gospel went forth Satan and her ministers followed behind and went in where Paul had Peter and James and John and all the apostles put their life on the line to preach Christ and him crucified and turned around and told men and women, "That is not really the issue. There is more to know. There is more holiness to have. There is more sincerity to be brought forth. There is more that you can do to make yourself more saved or more qualified for more fit for eternal life." And Paul and all of God's servants say, "No, no, no." Those who depart from the faith here, he tells us who they are. He says they are those who give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.

Now think about that. They listen to Satan and his ministers who seduce them with the deceptions, with doctrines that seem right. Doesn't it seem right to take care of the sick? I mean, you find that in that in the Scriptures, don't you? They talk about the deacons and their responsibility, their role in the Church when Paul addressed the deacon's role. But they talk about it is the deacon's role to care for who? Widows and orphans. That seems right unless you say that by your caring for widows and orphans it contributes in some way to your salvation. See, that is the subtlety in this thing of these seducing spirits and these doctrines of devils. It seems so right to the natural mind. But they are opposed to the gospel. I will tell you this much: In the context of the whole New Testament and seeing how many of the churches were seduced, which ones were seduced? Well, we have been studying through Galatians. How did they get seduced? He said, "*Who hath*

¹² 1 Timothy 4:1-2.

*bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?*¹³ How did they seduce them? They just subtly denied both the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. They said, “Oh, Christ came. Oh, he lived. Oh, he died. How glorious. But except you be circumcised after the law of Moses you can’t be saved.” Now circumcision came from God. It was an ordinance that even our Lord Jesus Christ participated in. On the eighth day Christ Jesus our Lord was circumcised according to the law. Why did he do that? He said, “*Not one jot or one tittle will pass from the law until all are fulfilled.*” God had commanded it. He did it for me. He did it. You, too, if you are one of his elect, if you are one of those who were chosen in Christ Jesus. That is why he did it. And so they say, “Well, see there? You have got to do these things because God gave it to us.”

Some insist in our generation on baptism, that baptism makes the difference between lost and saved. No, it does not. Baptism is a testimony of what you already possess by virtue of your oneness with the Lord Jesus Christ. It doesn’t save you or qualify you or make you more fit or more holy or more accepted in the Lord. Baptized or not baptized, you are holy, unblameable and unreprouvable in God’s sight. That is what this book teaches. And that is what was coming into the Church in Galatia and Colosse. In Colosse they came in and said, “Taste not, touch not, handle not...” and Paul condemned, “Taste not, touch not, handle not.” We will see that in just a minute.

And then considering what follows the seduction and deception had to do with holiness and holy living. Boy, we hear a lot about that in our generation. There is more emphasis put in my day on how you live than on what Christ did. **Now it is**. As well as speaking peace—and **this is the thing that is so tragic**—where there is no peace and judging saved and salvation and holiness based on Satan’s lie as opposed to God’s truth.

Turn to **2 Corinthians 11**. I am tell you this is so subtle. Look at what he says in **verse three and four** to these Corinthian believers. He says, “*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted,*”¹⁴ and listen to this. What is your mind corrupted from? “*...from the simplicity that is in Christ.*”¹⁵ Now we don’t have to complicate the gospel message. It is a simple message. What is the message of the gospel? That Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture and how he was raised again for our sins according to the Scripture. That is the simplicity of the gospel. He came, he lived, he died, he rose again according to the Scriptures for his children and he says your minds are being corrupted from this simple message. Now, how is it being corrupted? Look down at **verse 13** of this same chapter.

*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed...*¹⁶

¹³ Galatians 3:1.

¹⁴ 2 Corinthians 11:3.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

And I have got this underlined and highlighted in my Bible - "... *transformed as the ministers of...*"¹⁷ **What?** What are they going to preach? **MINISTERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.** What are they out there saying? Go to church. Give your money. Be moral. Be sincere. Love God. Love your neighbor. It sounds so right, does it not? But their message is this. You do those things, God will accept you. If you don't do those things, God might not accept you. They won't even be real critical of them in that either.

To those who departed from the faith they were professing believers. Turn back over to our text. They claimed to believe the mystery of godliness. They claimed to believe the gospel, and they claimed that Christ's righteousness was their only ground of salvation. They had a lot of truth. Now they did. They taught that a believer had to do certain things. He had to attempt to keep God's law along with their own traditions and interpretations in order to be more holy or more fit or more entitled to heaven and they taught that holiness was wrapped up at least in part in the believer's effort to keep God's law, not in Christ's perfect work of satisfaction, the law and justice alone.

And he tells us here that they spoke lies in hypocrisy. What does that mean? It means they were energized by Satan. Do you know what hypocrisy is? Most people think about hypocrisy they say, "Well, I am not coming down to that church because it is full of a bunch of hypocrites." And by that they mean people claiming they are preaching to a higher level than what they actually have maintained.

The hypocrisy that he is talking about here, speaking lies in hypocrisy, hypocrisy here has to do specifically with that which opposes the mystery of godliness, that which seduces and deceives. And listen. Here is what hypocrisy is - It is any notion that anything other than Christ's righteousness alone entitles a sinner to all of heaven. In other words, hypocrisy is a sinner coming before God claiming something that he doesn't have. Try to get to God based on what you do or don't do. *You are the hypocrite.* I don't care how moral, sincere, dedicated, how many years you have stood in the pulpit. If you think that what you have done makes a difference between lost and saved, brother, sister, you are a hypocrite. That is hypocrisy. Because listen. If I could only preach to the level that I have attained, we might as well go home, Bart, because I don't have anything to preach about. It is not hypocrisy to tell you like I did in the Sunday school hour this morning that the goal for every justified sinner is perfection. People say, "Well, I know you. You ain't perfect." You do know me and I am not perfect. But isn't that the standard? The standard of our God is perfection in our character and conduct. The hypocrisy would be if I said I had attained that standard. That is what would be hypocrisy. I cannot and I will not ever in this life as long as I live love my God with all my heart, mind, soul and strength. I won't do it. And I will not love my neighbor as myself, try as I can. I want to. But what I want to and what I do is two different things. The good I want to do I don't do and tragically the evil that I don't want to do, that is exactly what I find myself doing.

And then he says this, "...*having their conscience seared with a hot iron.*"¹⁸ Now remember. What is the conscience? What is our conscience? It is the seat of all

¹⁷ 2 Corinthians 11:15.

¹⁸ 1 Timothy 4:2.

judgment. Your conscience is where you make a decision concerning what is right and wrong. And he says here that their consciences were literally seared with a hot iron and he means that they were convinced in their consciences that they were preaching what was right and good. They were so dogmatic that they would without hesitation speak peace to themselves and speak peace to other people apart from the only ground of peace, the imputed righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

That is the exact opposite of a good conscience. You don't believe that? Go back and read **1 Timothy 1:5-19**. Here is a good conscience. It has been convinced of sin. It has been convinced of righteousness. It has been convinced of judgment to come. That is a conscience that has been purified by faith. Seeing is believing and resting in Christ's righteousness alone is the only thing that entitles it to all of salvation. And we, as believers, are dogmatic about that. We cannot be moved off that one truth.

Notice **verse 4** because their message just keeps going down hill now. And it keeps exposing itself. Look at verse 3a, the first part of **verse three**. *"Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats."*¹⁹ Here the apostle Paul mentions some of the things that these false preachers were promoting in the way of holiness. He said, "If you want to be holy, what do you do?" You don't get married or you don't eat meat. They preach, these guys that he is talking about here, they preach that a believer can be holier or more entitled to heaven if they abstain from marriage or they abstain from eating meat. We see an example of that in our generation. The Catholic Church tells us that their preachers, their priests, so to speak, what are they to do? They are not to be married. They abstain from marriage. And their nuns, who are they? They are married to Christ. Don't be married to a man. You are married to Christ, which is right in line with all these other religions that profess to be Christians. They promote either abstinence from meats or abstinence on particular days. There is Lent, certain days you do eat certain meats and certain days you don't eat meat.

The apostle Paul dealt with that issue in Romans 14. Listen to what he said here.

*"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink."*²⁰

Do you hear that? *"But righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men."*²¹

Now notice the second part of **verse 3**. Notice what he says there. *"...which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."*²² Now think about this this morning. That is a very important concept in God's Word for you and me. Those who have been... and listen. It all keys off that last phrase, "[who] believe and know the truth."²³ To the clean you know what? **Everything is clean.** You

¹⁹ 1 Timothy 4:3.

²⁰ Romans 14:17.

²¹ Romans 14:17-18.

²² 1 Timothy 4:3.

²³ Ibid.

eat pork? Fish, certain kinds of fish. What does the law say? He said “Don’t do it.” Those who believe and know the truth who are submitted to Christ’s righteousness, who know that His righteousness alone entitled them to all of salvation and made them wholly fit and qualified for eternal life, we are allowed to make proper use of everything in God’s creation. When Adam was in the garden our God took Adam and he said, “Everything is here. It is yours.” And then He told us through Paul in 1 Corinthians, “*All things are yours.*”²⁴ And everything is to be received with what? ***Praise and thanksgiving.***

You and I, we have liberty to eat or not eat meat. You want to eat pork? Go eat you a big old piece of it. If you don’t want to, don’t. It is your liberty. It is your freedom. The believer’s rule and exercise in this liberty, though, is what? Moderation and temperance.

I hear people say all the time, “Well, I don’t believe a believer should ever drink.” Well, the Bible doesn’t forbid drinking or drinking wine or having a beer. It just doesn’t do it. What does it say? “Don’t get drunk.” Don’t overeat like we all did at the Christmas holiday. It doesn’t say abstinence. What does it teach? Temperance, moderation, control yourself. See, that is what we ought to be is people of control. Not out of control, not given over to those things that would pollute and corrupt our mind and take our minds off that simplicity which is in Christ Jesus.

But listen now. Believers aren’t to judge other believers in lawful use or non use of these things. If we see another believer that doesn’t believe it is right to eat certain sorts of meat or they think it is wrong to drink a beer. Don’t jump on their back. You just don’t do it. We are not to look upon anyone who makes proper use of these things as being any less holy or any less spiritual or any less entitled to have salvation. And we aren’t to look upon those who properly abstain from these things as being in any sort of bondage.

Because listen to me. Bondage only comes about whenever a person thinks that his use or non use of these things makes him holier or more fit or more entitled to heaven than he already is based on the blood and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is when it becomes bondage and only then. Believers aren’t to let these things be the standard of sin and righteousness and saved and lost. How do we determine whether a man or woman is saved? Do they rest in Christ? Not do they eat beef or pork or drink a glass of wine.

The proper use of these things is so important. It is all to be received with thanksgiving. That is to say, thanking God for these things in light of the fact that we are already saved. We are already qualified. We are already fit for life. Could you imagine if you were a cast away and you crashed onto an island somewhere and there was nothing to eat and the only thing you could find was a pig? And you thought, “If I eat that pork I am going to be condemned. With prayer and thanksgiving, what can you do? Kill the pig and eat it.

Notice **verse 4**. “*For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving.*”²⁵ I always think about Ken when he goes down to Africa.

²⁴ 1 Corinthians 3:21.

²⁵ 1 Timothy 4:4.

He has told me some of those stories about in Africa. I don't know if I can eat some of the things that he has ate there. But if it is received with thanksgiving and praise and you can stomach it, you can eat it now. You can. Every creature our God gave for food. And this is easy for us to discern. It is not to be refused because of any spiritual contamination. There is nothing wrong with what we eat or don't eat. Remember what our Lord Jesus Christ said? He said, "*It is not what goes in that defiles a man.*" What defiles a man? What comes out. Because everything you eat you take in here, where does it go? It goes through your digestive system and exits the body. It is gone. And do you know what? It helps our bodies. Some of it hurts it. We need to be careful what we do and don't eat. But listen. What he is talking about here is false doctrine, not meat, is what defiles. God has ordained every creature which is made for food to be good and proper for our use and it is to be received with a thankful heart and in gratitude to God who gave it to us.

Notice **verse 5**. "*For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.*"²⁶ The word "*sanctified*" here it does not mean made holy. Do you know what it means? It means it is set apart. The use of such things is set apart by the use of God's Word and prayer as we thank God for it and if we ask him to use it in a way that is honoring to him. All that shows us is that a true believer finds his righteousness, his holiness, his sanctification and redemption and his entitlement to heaven in Christ alone, not in what we eat or don't eat.

And then notice **verse 6** and we will quit right here. "*If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.*"²⁷ I like this statement here. He says, "*A good minister of Jesus Christ.*"²⁸ You know who a good minister of Jesus Christ is? It is one who continually reminds those in his charge that all things are secured by virtue of the blood and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Look at one last verse. Look over at **2 Peter 1** and we will quit right here. As he makes this statement, "*nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine,*"²⁹ what is that referring to? That is referring to the gospel and all its particulars and all its implication. Those implications and those particulars nourish our heart, strengthen and encourage us and give us assurance of our guarantee of salvation based on the blood and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And he says, "*These things, if you preach these things you will be a good minister of God.*" Look here at **verse 1** of **2 Peter 1**. Or look at **verse 12** first. "*Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things.*"³⁰ Now do you see that? Peter and Paul are in agreement. Their one goal in preaching the gospel is put people in remembrance of these things. I want to know what these things are. I am going to show you in closing.

²⁶ 1 Timothy 4:6.

²⁷ 1 Timothy 4:6.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ 2 Peter 1:12.

*“Though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance.”*³¹ Of what? **These things.**

*Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.*³²

Now what are these things? Look back up at **verse 1**. *“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ.”*³³ Here is these things, folks. *“...to them that have obtained like precious faith with us.”*³⁴ **How did we obtain it?** *“Through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”*³⁵ *“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you...”*³⁶ You who? Who have been placed in a knowledge of these things.

*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According [here is these things now] According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto you. [Who? Those whom Christ redeemed] exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*³⁷

I will tell you this much. A good minister of the gospel ought to seek to attain and maintain before his hearers Christ alone. It is a hard thing to preach the gospel, but I tell you it is a simple message to preach. Paul said, *“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”*³⁸

I have been with you 20 years almost. I have actually been with you 20. I will be your preacher 20 years in just a few short weeks and I think if you go back and you search over what I preached to you of the last 20 years—and I don’t say this to pat myself on the back, because it doesn’t make me saved—but I have always and I will always as long as God gives me breath, put you in remembrance of these things. Christ and him alone.

*“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us.”*³⁹

³¹ 2 Peter 1:12-13.

³² 2 Peter 1:14-15.

³³ 2 Peter 1:1.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ 2 Peter 1:2.

³⁷ 2 Peter 2:2-4.

³⁸ 1 Corinthians 2:2.

³⁹ Titus 3:5.

If we do that every time we come together, we have truly worshipped our God. We have given him the glory and praise and honor due unto his name as we look to Christ and him alone. God help us to be men and women who ever and always keep the Lord Jesus Christ and his precious work of redemption as the focus of our lives.

Ok, let's stand together and we will finish. I appreciate your presence this morning. The Lord bless you and keep you until we see you Wednesday night. We start back Wednesday night, ok? 7:30. We do have Wednesday night service.

Our most gracious heavenly Father, Lord God of heaven and earth, how we thank you and praise you once again for the blessed gospel that you have so graciously provided us. Bless now, Lord God, these feeble words to our heart and our mind and our understanding. Cause your Word, Lord God, your written down Word to always abide in our heart and our mind. May we always be focused upon Christ and his righteousness alone. Dismiss us from this place with your love. Protect. Watch over all of those that have been mentioned in prayer. Keep these dear brethren in our hearts and in our minds as we pray for their healing and for their needs, Lord God. Dismiss us from this place with your love. We will be careful to give you all the praise, glory and honor that is yours alone to have. Amen.