

2018
V1

THE FLOT LINE hosted by Rick Hughes
2018 TRANSCRIPTS VOLUME 1 January-June

VOLUME
1



Rick Hughes
EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES



RICK HUGHES, founder and President of Rick Hughes Evangelistic Ministries, Inc., communicates clear and concise Biblical principles for hearers to choose to use in their lives. For over 50 years, Rick has presented the truth to thousands of students and spoken at hundreds of schools and churches. He authored several books and hosts a weekly radio broadcast and daily podcast, *The FLOT Line*, all available, for free, on his website, rickhughesministries.org.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Rick was raised in a modest, single-parent home. He distinguished himself through excellence in athletics being named to the High School All American football team and set state records in the shot put and discus. The University of Florida signed Rick to a full football scholarship, but his SAT scores were too low. Challenged by a coach to overcome this failure, Rick applied himself in the classroom as he had done on the field. He seized the challenge, got a second chance, entered the University of Alabama as

a football player under the training of prestigious coach Paul “Bear” Bryant, and the team won a national championship that year. After just one successful year, however, Rick quit school and drifted down the *my way highway*. Rick emphasizes *bad decisions limit future options*, and *God gave you two ends: one to sit on and one to think with*. *Success in life depends on which end you use. Heads you win—tails you lose*. Many of Rick’s personal experiences help to vividly teach these principles.

Rick’s turning point came when he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior, by faith alone in Christ alone. This is the most important decision in your life, also. Rick’s decision opened a new path, not of football, but one personally designed for him by God. Through the ministry of Berachah Church in Houston, Texas, and its pastors, R. B. Thieme, Jr. and now R. B. Thieme III, Rick learned principles and promises of God’s Word that directed him into a life of Christian ministry. Rick’s life is proof that when you leave your own agenda behind and walk into God’s plan, you can have fulfillment and happiness beyond your imagination. “For with God, nothing will be impossible” (Luke 1:37).

RADIO

The FLOT Line broadcasts every Sunday on radio stations across the USA. Stations and times are listed on our website. Listen via radio, a station link or radio app. The goal of the show is to help you verify and identify the Plan of God for your life.

PODCAST

The FLOT Line Show daily podcast makes it easy for you to listen on your schedule and via your favorite device. Download the episode transcript from the show notes to use as a study aid.

BOOKS

A Crash Course in Christianity
A Divine Pardon
Bible Promises & Principles
Christian Problem Solving
FLOT Line Transcripts
Life’s Toughest Years
Practicing Your Christianity
Understanding Your Soul

BOOKMARKS & HANDOUTS

Faith Alone
God Loves You
God’s Problem-Solving Devices
Prayer
Spiritual Influencer
These Things: My joy in you!

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Rick Hughes Evangelistic Ministries, Inc. was founded for the purpose of communicating the Word of God to students and administrators in private schools and churches across the United States. This ministry is non-denominational in its thrust and is conducted freely without charge or obligation. No material is sold and no offerings are taken.

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I've been doing *The FLOT Line* show since July 2005. Every Sunday it airs on radio stations across our nation and in 2019 we made it available as a daily podcast. It all started when I did a radio ad for Bass Pro Shops and a show producer heard it. He contacted me, "Big Rick, you've got a great radio voice. You should take your ministry to the airwaves."

FLOT is an acronym for forward line of troops. *The FLOT Line* teaches principles from the Bible and focuses on God's 10 unique problem-solving devices. If you choose to learn and apply them, they will act as a main line of resistance in your soul, a FLOT line, preventing the outside sources of adversity from becoming the inside pressure of stress in your soul.

No testing has overtaken you but such as is common to man; God is faithful who will not allow you to be tested beyond what you are able and with the testing will provide a way out so you will be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

My intent is to give you information to help you identify the plan of God for your life. If you will choose to orient and adjust to God's plan, you will have a truly amazing future. My ministry, presenting the Gospel and communicating clear principles from the Word of God, is possible only because of God's grace. I am grateful to my heavenly Father and to my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who have provided the means and direction for me and thankful for the Lord's provision of servants whose talents and resources made this book a reality.

Remember, adversity is inevitable in life but stress is optional. You can prepare for adversity by knowing and using God's 10 problem-solving devices. Take note of Psalm 62:1-2, King David's testimony to the power of having a FLOT Line in his soul:

*My soul waits in silence for God only; from Him is my salvation.
He only is my rock and my deliverance, my strength; I shall not be shaken.*

If you have listened to any of my broadcasts, this intro is familiar. "Welcome to *The FLOT Line*. I am your host Rick Hughes. Stay with me for the next few minutes. It will be a short time of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education and all done without any manipulation." Here for you, *Transcripts of the The FLOT Line 2018*.

Rick Hughes

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Our Divine Resources

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 644 aired on January 7, 2018

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please stay with me. It will be 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education but no manipulation. We're just here to give you some information to remind you of Biblical truths and introduce you to an in-depth way of studying and learning the Word of God. My job is to educate. Your job is to evaluate what I say and if you agree, then you can orient and adjust, that's up to you. I'm going to get it accurate, and I'm going to give it straight, no games as I said. The FLOT Line is always about teaching the wonderful problem-solving devices found in the Word of God. FLOT stands for forward line of troops and this is a military metaphor for using 10 unique problem-solving devices like the military has a main line of resistance to keep the enemy out of the command center. And the enemy for you is human viewpoint thinking, it's satanic strategy, it's the evil system of the cosmic system that we live in. And by learning God's Word, by establishing a FLOT line in your soul, then you can stop the outside sources of adversity from overrunning the command post of your soul, which is the way you think. Your spiritual life is always lived in the way you think. As we continue the FLOT Line, our message today is the gift of our resources, our divine resources, things that God has provided for you and those spiritual resources are unbelievable. The spiritual life that we live and that you live has divine resources. The unbelieving world does not have that. They are, I guess I call them disadvantaged because they don't have the resources that you have. These resources for the believer must be in your soul if you're going to utilize them. **If you ever hope to glorify God to the maximum in your life, you must know your divine resources and you must use them.** Glorifying God is what we are mandated to do. Listen to 1 Peter 4:11, you see this is what our spiritual life is all about, this glorifying God. 1 Peter 4:11, *"Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God, and whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."* Then Romans 16:27, another verse that speaks to the glorifying of God, it says, *"To the only wise God through Jesus Christ, be glory forever."* So my job and your job is to give maximum glorification to God by means of our spiritual life. That's what we're suppose to do and the fact that we believe the Word of God and we trusted Jesus Christ to be our Savior and redeem us out of the slave market of sin, that's part of glorifying God. Now maximum glorification of God occurs when we, you and me, when we reach spiritual maturity and at that point we began to re-present the mind of Christ. And this is how we go through evidence testing in our life and this is how we give maximum glorification to God by learning His Word, applying His Word, using His Word through the evidence testing that we face in our life. So in order to bring God maximum glory, Jesus Christ our Lord, the anointed Son of God provided a tutor for us or what we call a mentor and it's in the form of the Holy Spirit. **The number one divine resource for you and me is the Holy Spirit**

and the number two divine resource for you and me is the completed canon of Scripture. We call it the Bible and it is the thinking of Christ in written form. 1 Corinthians 2:16 says, *"We have the mind of Christ."* So in regard to the Lord Jesus Christ giving us this divine resource of the Holy Spirit, this is what He said in John 14:16, *"I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever, that is the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it does not see Him nor does it know Him. But you will know Him because He abides with you and He will be in you."* *"Abiding with you,"* He was speaking to the disciples when He said that. The disciples had the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit with the endowment ministry, but come the Church Age, come Pentecost, He would be in them and He is in you and I today. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 1:13, and we are mandated to be filled with the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 5:18. So the Lord Jesus Christ went on to say, *"I have a lot more things to say to you but you cannot bear them right now."* Verse 13 of John 16, *"But when He [that's the Spirit of truth] comes, He will guide you into all truth."* There's the tutor, there's the mentorship, *"He will guide you into all truth, because He will not speak of His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak and He will disclose to you what is to come."* Listen to verse 14, *"He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and disclose it to you."* So God is glorified by means of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life as He tutors us and mentors us. And without the filling of the Holy Spirit, that's problem-solving device number two in the FLOT line of your soul, the believer, that's you and I, we would not be able to metabolize the divine resources that we have available. **In other words these resources are taught in the Bible, taught in the Scripture, and they have to be learned if they're going to be utilized.** I mean if you don't know Him, you cannot use Him. If you want to get to Albuquerque and you don't have a map, how are you going to get there? Well the Word of God is a map, it's a divine resource, it's a tool. It's not a good luck thing, it's not something you leave in the windshield of your car during the week and take it out on Sunday morning. It is a textbook designed by God to be taught to you by a well qualified pastor who is prepared, who knows the languages, and who's able to communicate line by line, word by word, verse by verse. And so we are to learn God's Word and these divine resources, if we don't learn them, how can we use them? The mystery doctrine of the church is a great resource. **It is "Christ in you the hope of glory," Colossians 1:27, that's a resource, Jesus Christ lives in you.** This is the same Christ that indwelt the tabernacle of the Old Testament where the Jews called Him the Shekinah Glory. The glory of God resided in the tabernacle and 1 Corinthians 3 says He now resides in you, that your body is the temple of Jesus Christ. That's what the Holy Spirit does. He pitches a tent so Christ can camp out in your body. And then the whole concept of growing and learning has to come from, for example, 2 Timothy 2:15, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."* That means not getting it wrong, not getting crooked, not getting twisted up. And then 2 Peter 3:18, *"Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory,"* there it is again, maximum glorification of God, *"both now and forever."* As you grow, you bring glory to God

through Christ. There is no growth without studying and growing. You must study to grow and this is not a daily devotional, ten minutes a day. This is not once a week listening to a 30 minute sermon by your pastor. If you ever intend to grow spiritually, you must take in the Word of God on a consistent basis. As for me, I do it on a daily basis. I listen on a daily basis to my pastor teach the Word of God to me by means of a DVD or an MP3. You say, "How could I do that?" Well, my particular pastor has over 1,000 hours already taught on the life of Christ and you can access these, they're free, they're available. So there's a thousand hours worth of catching up you've got to do and every thousand hours you catch up, you'll be a thousand hours behind, unless you did two a day. I try to listen every day, take in the Word of God every day. It's often where I get motivated to bring a message to you by listening to what he teaches to me. I'm not a pastor. I'm under the authority of a well qualified pastor and just like you, I have to study, I have to grow, I have to learn, I have to apply. But I only can do this by renovating my thinking. **We are mandated to renovate our thinking and that is, if we're going to utilize these resources God has for us, we must change the way we think.** We must be able to reflect the mind of Jesus Christ which is called divine viewpoint if we ever want to use our divine resources. So where does it say that in the Bible? It says it in Philippians 2:5, "*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*" And then in Romans 12:1-3 here's where Paul wrote, "*I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, [that's dedicated to the Lord] holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And don't be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" That means you must move out of the way the cosmic system thinks. You must move away from human viewpoint thinking to divine viewpoint thinking and that is learning the mind of Christ. In the New Testament, "*Being transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" Again, Philippians 2:5, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*" Why? "*So that we may prove what is good, what is acceptable, and what is the perfect will of God.*" And then he goes on in verse 3 of Romans 12, "*For I say, through the grace given to me, to every man that's among you, do not think more highly of yourself than you ought [this is a warning to stay out of the arrogance complex of the soul] but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*" "*Soberly*" is humility. **God wants you to think in terms of humility, not arrogance.** So as you take His Word, as you learn His Word, as you reflect divine viewpoint through your life under the concept of humility, then you begin to bring maximum glorification to God. In 1 John 5:11-13 we have another divine resource, a wonderful resource called eternal security. 1 John 5:11-13, "*This is the record, God has given to us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He that has the Son has life and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things I wrote unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may have confidence in the name of the Son of God.*" You can know it. You don't have to hope it, you don't have to try, you don't have to want, you can know it. In John 10:28, "*I will give them eternal life and they will never perish, neither will any man be able to pluck them out of My Father's hand because My Father who gave them to Me is greater than all*

and no man can pluck them out of My Father's hand." In Hebrews 13:5, "*Christ said, 'I will never leave you. I will never forsake you.'*" Let's get some principles on this: (A) Eternal security is a doctrine that cements the believer's eternal future. You don't have to worry about your future, it's locked in, it's done, it's taken care of. (B) God will not cancel your eternal life. What He gives, He does not take back. And (C) He's given us plus R, that's His righteousness. We have minus R, our righteousness, but He's given us His righteousness through Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17, "*He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we may be made the righteousness of God through Him.*" So He gave us this righteousness through Christ and He is not going to cancel that gift and then condemn you to hell because you committed some sin that's grievous to you or to others, it's not going to happen. You didn't earn your salvation and you can't earn it to keep your salvation. "*For by grace are you saved through faith, it's a gift of God not of works.*" Why would He give it to you as a gift and then require you to earn it to keep it? And (D), our relationship with God does not depend on our integrity. It does not depend on our morality. It does not depend on our virtue, but rather, it depends on His very holiness and His integrity. And we know that He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, immutable. Immutability, He does not change. He's not going to change His mind. He knew about you in eternity past. He knows about you today. He knows your weaknesses. He knows your strengths. He's not going to kick you out of the family because you fail. And (E), you cannot lose your salvation because it's strictly the work of God. You did nothing to gain it, you do nothing to maintain it, it's the work of God and He will not cast you off or say, "You can't have it," even if you fail in the Christian life. You still are going to go to heaven. You may be minus some rewards but you're going to be there. (F) The enemy, that's a.k.a. the devil, loves to threaten you with the idea that you will lose your salvation. This is how he often manipulates guilt and shame on people. He's able to get him to do crazy things to try to make it up to God or try to promise God they won't ever do that sort of thing again and then when they do, well then they feel like, "That's it, there's no hope for me," and they have no joy of their salvation. So Satan is a master at manipulating you with this guilt and shame in your life and it's for this reason that we are warned by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6 when he speaks of putting on the armor of God. He talks about putting on the helmet of salvation, that helmet protects your brain, it protects your mind, it protects what you think, because this is where Satan attacks you. **Satan attacks your thinking, this is what he does.** He attacks the way you think and if he can get you to doubt God as he got Eve to doubt what God said, if he can get you to be angry with God as he himself is in fact, if he can get you to mistrust God, if he can get you to doubt God, well then he is going to vindicate his argument with God. He does not want to go to the Lake of Fire. He constantly says God is unfair for condemning him to the Lake of Fire. And yet he himself chose to assume the throne of God. So, (G) this does not imply that you or I will succeed as winner believers by executing the Christian life. Winner believer, what do I mean by that? I mean a person who goes from spiritual autonomy to spiritual maturity, starting with spiritual self-esteem. When you reach spiritual maturity, when you go through evidence testing, you give maximum glorification to God, you

will be a winner believer. Evidence testing is when you're called to the witness stand and you have to get up there and defend yourself in front of Satan. This is what happens to believers in evidence testing. We go through the valley of the shadow of death, we go through it alone. It's evidence testing to see whether or not we believe what God said and if you're ever going to be a winner in the plan of God, you must have the right attitude toward the Word of God or toward Bible doctrine. If you don't learn it, if you don't use it, if you don't grow, you're going to go to heaven but you're going to be minus rewards. You're not going to hear that, "*Well done My good and My faithful servant,*" and that's what we're all looking for. What I'm looking for of some of you today, some of you wherever you may be, in California, Wyoming, Denver, maybe across into Texas or Mississippi, or all the way through Maryland, or New York, anywhere this show is played, over 25 stations this morning, in Tennessee for example. If you are that winner, you are the person that will deliver this nation with an invisible impact. You are the person that will have an historical impact. You will be a member of the pivot, just like Gideon chose 300 simple men to defeat the Midianite Army, you can be one of the chosen ones, God will use you. But He only uses prepared people. Remember what He said, "*I'm looking for a man to stand in the gap between Me and the people to make up the hedge.*" But He said in Ezekiel, "*I could not even find one.*" Can He count on you? Can you be that invisible hero? Can you have that historical impact in your life by being a mature believer, a person who consistently studies God's Word on a daily basis, a person who stays filled with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis, a person who uses the faith-rest drill which we're about to talk about, that's what God's looking for, and me too. **Now another divine resource is obviously prayer, instantaneous communication with our Heavenly Father.** But we don't use prayer in order to hire God to do something we want done, that's not possible. Prayer is not designed to get us out of trouble. It is strictly designed to express our helplessness in time of need and our appreciation and adoration in time of blessing. So if we fail in prayer, my pastor once said, "Failing in prayer is like sleepwalking through life, you never even know what happens." So as a believer priest which you are and which I am, we have a priestly function and it's called prayer. We can pray for others. We can pray expressing gratitude and appreciation to God, that's called adoration. And we can pray for others in intercessory prayer and we can pray for ourselves as we express our needs to God, that's called a petition. It's a wonderful thing, the divine resource of prayer, instantaneous communication with God Himself, right straight to the throne room of God. But failing to be filled with the Holy Spirit when you pray means you will not get an answer to your prayer and your prayer will be an ineffective prayer. The Bible is clear in Psalm 66:18, "*If I regard sin in my heart [iniquity in my heart] the Lord will not hear my prayer.*" He will not hear me, why? Because the Holy Spirit is quenched, because the Holy Spirit is grieved, because He cannot intercede for you as He would and Romans 8 talks about, "*He intercedes with groanings that sometimes cannot even be uttered,*" or understood. It's the ministry of the Holy Spirit to take your prayer before the throne of God and it's the ministry of Jesus Christ our great high priest to intercede for us before God. We have to be filled with the Holy Spirit if we want our prayer life to be effective and there's only one way

to do that and that is that we must use rebound which is problem-solving device number one on the FLOT line of our soul. *“If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us.”* That's the secret to being filled with the Holy Spirit. **Anytime you sin, you quench the Holy Spirit and you grieve the Holy Spirit. But when you rebound, when you confess your sin to God, then you resume your spiritual journey because you are filled with the Holy Spirit, controlled by the Holy Spirit once again. And remember that all prayer must be addressed to the Father, in the name of the Son, through the filling of the Holy Spirit.** A well-meaning prayer addressed to the Holy Spirit, or a well-meaning prayer addressed to Jesus Christ the Son is not going to be answered. Prayers go to the Father in the name of the Son in the power of the Spirit. **Another divine resource that we have as believers, as the advantaged ones of God, is the faith-rest drill or using faith as a problem solving device.** Using faith means we stand on the promises of God as a spiritual resource and it's one of those 10 problem-solving devices that I talk about, problem-solving device number three found in the Scripture. It begins with you believing God when He makes a promise to you. For example Proverbs 3:5, *“Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.”* And then in 1 Peter 5:7, *“Cast all your anxieties on Him for He cares for you.”* These are promises and you can utilize these promises in time of adversity or affliction in your life. There are three stages to using the faith-rest drill and the first obviously is the faith mechanics of mixing the promises of God with your own faith. So you take out one of those 7,000 promises found in the Bible and you mix it with your faith. And then, the second thing you do is that you go to a Biblical rationale. You say, “What's a rationale?” It's a set of reasons or a logical basis for a course of action or particular belief. You have a logical course of action. You reverse your concentration, you think about the faithfulness of God, you think about the justice of God, you think about the omniscience and omnipotence of God, and you come to a conclusion. That's the third step, you arrive at a Biblical conclusion and you relax in your circumstances. That's what it means to pick up the shield of faith, stand behind the promises of God, not to worry, not to sweat, not to be upset, but to trust in Him completely because He has provided all the divine resources you need. And then obviously, **I want to close with the divine resource of rebound.** Rebound handles our problem of sin. I mentioned it already, I'll mention it again. You will sin, you have a genetically formed old sin nature that you got from Adam and you will sin, God knows this, whether it's a mental attitude sin or sin of the tongue, or even an overt sin. But there is a way to be cleansed from that sin and that is by using 1 John 1:9, the rebound technique. When we confess our sin to God, then the Holy Spirit is free to control us and fill us once again. But if we ignore our sin and hide our sin, then we grieve the Spirit and we quench the Spirit and we can never utilize our resources or advance in the Christian life. I hope this is making sense. I hope you're learning something and understanding what these resources are for you. And I hope you'll stick with me and come back next week, same time, same station, same place. So until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Wise Person

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 645 aired on January 14, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stay with me. It's a time of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education, but absolutely no manipulation. We're just trying to give you accurate information to help you verify and identify God's plan for your life, to remind you of Biblical truths and introduce you to an in-depth way of studying and learning God's Word. It all starts with the good news that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God has redeemed all of us out of the slave market of sin. Our debt to God has been paid. **You are free of the penalty of death and free of the power of sin by receiving Christ as your Savior, accepting the offering He made on your behalf.** It's a free gift complements of God, Titus 3:5-7, *"Not by works of righteousness which we've done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord, that being justified by His grace we should be made heirs, all to the hope of eternal life."* Made heirs according to the hope of eternal life, that's a promise from the Word of God. A great promise! The FLOT Line is all about learning God's unique problem-solving devices and using them as the main line of resistance of your soul. Your soul involves your mentality, how you think. It involves your volition, how you choose. It involves your conscience and your self-consciousness. These are all parts of your soul and God created you as a living soul. But we are created spiritually dead because we're identified with Adam's original sin. *"For by one man sin came into the world and death by sin and now death is passed on to all for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,"* Romans 5:12. We are born spiritually dead but are made spiritually alive when we believe in Jesus Christ and we receive Him as our Savior. That's the new birthday. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *"If any man's in Christ Jesus, he's a new creation. Old things are passed away and all things become new."* As a new person we have a new way to think, we identify with the mind of Christ. We learn to think like He thought just as Philippians 2:5 tells us, ***"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."*** **This is learning to think divine viewpoint, not operating under the old way of living which is human viewpoint.** There's a different way to live, there's a different way to think, and it involves learning and applying the Word of God into your life using those problem-solving devices found throughout the Scripture. We've been able to identify 10 unique problem-solving devices that we use as the main line of resistance in our soul or the forward line of troops, the FLOT line, it's a military metaphor. It's showing you that there are 10 unique problem-solving devices that you can learn and apply and glorify God with and they will resist the outside sources of adversity before they overrun the command post of your soul and turn into stress. Overrunning the command post of your soul means that you get into worry, you get into fear, you get into guilt, you get into whatever. You don't have to live like that. **There is a way to live, a unique way to live, called the Christian life. Whoever lives it is a wise person the Bible tells us.** And the Bible goes on to say in Proverbs 10:8, *"The wise heart*

will receive commandments but a babbling fool will come to pass.” You have a heart and I'm not talking about that thing that beats in your chest, I'm talking about what's between your ears. Your mind and your heart are both receivers inside of your soul. The mind, or as the Bible uses the Greek word *nous*, N.O.U.S., the mind receives information and the heart, or the *kardia* in the Greek New Testament, is where we store that information, where we respond. And so when God wants to check you out, He looks at what you're thinking. That's why the Bible says in Proverbs, *“As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.”* So the wise heart is a person who has positive volition, a person who has a tendency to listen and to hear and to obey the Word of God. The stupid heart, let me use that word if you don't mind, the fool, *“The wise heart will receive commandments, but a babbling fool will come to pass.”* The fool the Bible speaks of is detached from reality due to his own arrogance. In his own mind he justifies why he's right and everyone else is wrong. He lies to himself, self-deception, self-justification, and self-absorption. They all lead to self-destruction eventually. **Most people that wind up destroying their lives and destroying any opportunity for having happiness in life do so because of their own arrogance. It is our number one enemy in the Christian life.** We have to be very careful not to fall into the trap of self-justification, self-deception, and self-absorption. The wise person that Proverbs speaks of receives and retains the information. You know there's a difference between going to church and hearing what is taught and going to church and hearing and applying what is taught. First of all, you can't apply what you don't know and you can't know what you don't remember. So if you go there and just sit there like a bump on a log, don't even write anything down, you're not going to retain very much of what the pastor said. You may remember a couple of lines. You may remember a cute joke. You may remember some emotional analogy he gave you, most of the time you're not going to remember very much at all. Out of the thousands of radio shows that we've done, how much of them do you remember? Do you take notes? Do you ever write anything down? Do you ever review your notes? That's what it means to retain the instruction, to go back over and to look at it and remember it and not just forget it once you hear it and go away and forget about it. This is not like eating a meal where you eat it and walk away from the table and say, “Oh, ‘burp’, I'm full now. I'll go take a nap.” No, growing in grace is learning and applying the Word of God and it requires repetition. So the wise man who allows himself to repeat and learn is a man who has authority orientation. **A wise man orients to the authority of the Word of God to start with and hopefully orients to the authority of a well-qualified pastor.** I have people write me, a lady wrote me recently and said she didn't need a pastor because they can be wrong. Well that's obvious, any pastor can be wrong, but God the Holy Spirit will alert you when a pastor tries to mislead you, I've seen that happen before. If you're under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor, I mean this is what God gave the gift for in Ephesians chapter 4. The gift of *poimen kai didaskalos* in the Greek New Testament is pastor and teacher and his job is to study and teach the Word of God, not to be a cruise ship director, to study and teach the Word of God. Your job is to learn it and apply it and glorify God in your life as a result of it. So Proverbs 1:5, *“Let the wise man hear and increase in learning.”* If you don't

hear you can't learn. *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* So the wise man that we are talking about in Proverbs 10:8, *"The wise heart will receive commandments,"* this is a person who receives and retains instruction. The wise man is the believer, you, me, any believer who receives the good news and the fool is the one who rejects the free gift of eternal life. It's a shame but people reject it every day. They say they got a better deal, they've got something better going on. There is no better deal than the fact that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, paid for your sin. He alone satisfied the justice of God and by faith in Him, you can have eternal life. What kind of better deal is there? There's not. So the wisdom of the Scripture, we call it divine viewpoint, we call it thinking as Christ thought and all Scripture, all of the Bible is divine viewpoint and when you reject the Scripture then you're rejecting divine viewpoint. So what you think, what's in your mind, what's spinning around between your ears is related to what you say or what comes out of your mouth. So if you want to know what a person is like or what a person thinks about, just listen to what he talks about. That's where the real person is, between their ears, and what's going on in their mind will eventually come out in their words. So the Word of God has a lot to say about what comes out of your mouth. I want to talk about that for just a minute, Proverbs 15:28, *"The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things."* The heart of the righteous, this is the wisdom of the believer who has received and retained the Word of God on a consistent basis. If you don't receive and retain the Word of God on a consistent basis then you don't have anything to ponder, you don't have anything to consider, to evaluate. **Divine viewpoint demands that you guard your lips from speaking hastily and that you guard your lips from being impulsive in your speech.** James 1:19 talks about this, it says, *"Be quick to hear, but slow to speak and slow to anger."* The person that's not wise, the babbling fool, is not slow to speak and is not slow to anger. He's always the first one to run his mouth. He's always the first one to tell everybody what he thinks ought to be done. He's always the loudest and the first about anything and it's never about the Word of God, it's always about him and what he wants to do. The psalmist talks about that, *"I will guard my ways so that I may not sin with my tongue,"* in other words I will muzzle my mouth. A friend of mine who's a pastor once said these words, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue," and it's true. **Psalm 39:1, "I will guard my ways so that I might not sin with my tongue."** When unwise people have no inclination for the Word of God, they are always quick to slander, they're always quick to malign, to criticize, backbite, to run down. These are the type of people that you must avoid in your life. The mouth of the believer, you and me, is not for slandering and maligning and criticizing and backbiting and lying. That's not what it's for. The mouth of the believer is for proclaiming gratitude for God's mercy and for giving thanksgiving for His grace. In Proverbs 6:16-19, if you've never read that I advise you to take a look at it because there are seven sins God hates and they're all mentioned right there. Oh, you want me to say it again? You want to read that one don't you? Proverbs 6:16-19, seven sins God hates and first of all God doesn't hate. That would be a sin, to commit hate. But this is a way that we explain what the justice of God does not tolerate and one of the things the justice of God will not

tolerate is a lying tongue. Proverbs 6:16 -19, you can see there are three sins of the tongue and three mental attitude sins and one overt sin. Look at them, read it for yourself and you'll get the idea. So we must guard our lips that we don't sin with our tongues. We must not lie. We must not slander. We must not malign. We must not criticize and yet we do it every day. The sins of the tongue are mentioned in several passages throughout the Bible. For example in Romans 2:1, *"Therefore you are without excuse, every person who keeps on judging other people, for in that you judge another person you actually condemn yourself, because you who are judging actually practice the same thing."* In order to have a wonderful life, in order to maintain a wonderful relationship with God where He blesses you on a consistent basis, you cannot allow sin to sidetrack you and one of the sins that can sidetrack you is the sin of the tongue. It's allowing your mouth to say things you don't need to say. **The blindness of the arrogant person does not allow him to see what he actually is. It doesn't allow him to see that he's committing the worst of all sins when he maligns or slanders or judges someone of committing some sin.** There's a lot of discipline associated to sins of the tongue. Matthew 7:1-7 talks about this divine discipline that goes along with judging other people and it warns us, *"Not to judge so that we would not be judged."* And it says in that passage, *"For the measure that we measure will be measured back to us again."* My pastor calls that triple compound discipline. You get your discipline for sinning, you get his discipline or whatever you accused him of, it's taken off of him and given to you, and then you have self-induced misery because you couldn't keep your mouth shut and you go back and you think, "I wish I hadn't have said that." It's so easy to fall into the trap of criticizing, maligning, slandering, backbiting, talking about, lying about another person. So the arrogant person doesn't see it, he only sees what he thinks he is. He doesn't see what he really is. He doesn't look into the mirror of the truth of the Word of God. So he looks into his own distorted mirror and sees a distorted version and he has an unrealistic personality. He thinks he should be treated in a way he's not worthy of being treated. **In self-righteousness, the one who judges another person actually assumes the role of replacing God as the Supreme Court judge in Heaven.** They take God's place, they figure they can do a better job than God and so they judge and they create false standards and these sort of people will seek to intimidate you and get you to uphold their false standards. False standards are called legalism. The legalist will tell you, you cannot be a good Christian and smoke a cigarette, you cannot be a good Christian and drink a glass of wine, you cannot be a good Christian and go dancing, you cannot be a good Christian and watch any movie that's anything under a G. They will try to legislate what you should or should not do and the Bible doesn't say any of these things. The Bible doesn't say don't smoke, it says don't harm your body and your body is the temple of God. First of all, sin is the greatest contaminator in the body. 1 Corinthians 3 talks about your body being the temple of the Holy Spirit and you can sin by eating too many pieces of chicken just like you could sin by over smoking, over drinking, over anything. Anything that takes command of you is a sin in your life. And so when you create these false standards which the legalist does, he's trying to manipulate you. He's trying to get you to live to his standards of what he believes

the Bible teaches you should do. These sort of people you need to get away from because they will never allow you any privacy in your life. They will always be like the proboscis monkey who has a nose two feet long and sticks it where it doesn't belong. Some self-righteous believer who sticks his nose into your business and then will run his mouth and complain about you and malign you to someone else, is not the person you need to be hanging around. This is nothing but legalism, that's all it is. It claims respectability and they will malign you and this is what organized religion thrives on. Organized religion thrives on this. It thrives on manipulating people, trying to get you to do a certain thing and act a certain way in order for you to quote, "Be a holy person." And it starts with your money, how to give your money, how to solicit money from you and if you're not giving money you're not a good person. Listen, God talks about giving in the Bible in a lot of places but the main thing is, you give as God has prospered you. And people that want to intimidate you with their concept about giving and how much you should give, I've even heard of churches that send accountants to people's businesses telling them how much they should be giving. I'm not making that up. That's crazy. I learned from my pastor years ago, if God's in it, God will pay for it. So keep your mouth shut, don't ask for money, just do your job and let the Lord handle the rest of it. That's the way we like to operate on this radio show and we wouldn't be here today if God didn't provide the funds, the finances for us to pay the radio stations to broadcast this show because they don't give us this time free. God's in it, He pays for it, it's that simple. **We as believers must evaluate ourselves in light of what the Word of God teaches. Look into the mirror of the Word of God to evaluate yourself.** That's the way you live up to the standards of the grace righteousness of God in your life. If you are that wise person that we talked about in Proverbs, you know when we began, we gave you Proverbs 10:8, "*The wise heart will receive mandates [commandments] but a babbling fool will come to pass*" and **Proverbs 1:5, "Let the wise hear and increase in learning."** This person that I'm talking about, the wise person, will guard his tongue since verbal sins are usually motivated by mental attitude sins such as jealousy and bitterness. You're not allowed to get into that, that's a sin, that's destructive. In James 3:14, "*But if you have a bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast and be false to the truth.*" Bitter jealousy means that Deacon Jones can't stand Deacon Smith. They've done business with each other and they shafted each other in a business deal and they hate each other and yet they're in the same church. They don't get along and they're jealous of each other. If there's anyone in your church that's jealous of you or you're jealous of them, that's a terrible sin because this is how Satan uses circumstances to divide and conquer people. Divine discipline can come from these unconfessed sins of jealousy and selfish ambition. **Sins of the tongue are some of the most deceptive sins and often we are not even aware we're doing them.** I mean if someone asked you, "What do you think about brother so and so?" Or "What do you think about her?" "What do you think about him?" The best answer that you can give is, "What do you think?" and you'll find out what they're trying to do. Are they angry at that person and they're trying to get you to take their side? Don't ever fall into the trap of answering a question like that. What do you think about someone? That's between them and

God. It's none of my business. It's not my place to judge them. It's not my place to second-guess them. It's not my place to give them advice unless they ask for it. There are a lot of people I would like to give advice to, but they didn't ask for it. If they didn't ask for it, who am I to assume that they want it? So the wise person will guard his tongue since those verbal sins are usually motivated by mental attitude sins. And divine discipline, as I said, accompanies unconfessed sin in your life. The sin of the tongue is one of the most deceptive sins. There are three categories of the sin of the tongue that I'd like to run by you this morning. The first one is the **whining category, complaining**. Even though God's grace is abundantly bestowed the believer, you or me, we still complain about everything. Always a little pity party, always the raw deal, always what so-and-so said about me, always what so-and-so did to me, always complaining, always whining. Paul the apostle had learned this in 2 Corinthians 12 when he asked God three different times to remove the thorn in his flesh and every time God said, "No I won't," "No I won't," "No I won't." "*My grace is sufficient for you.*" Paul learned, and he's told us as he wrote that Scripture that he would rejoice in his suffering so that the grace of God might be made much more manifest. There's the slander category. Whining, complaining, number one sin of the tongue. Number two, the **slander** category involves gossip and maligning and judging people. And number three, the **falsehoods** category. That's you lying, you fabricating, using duplicity, perjury, it is you telling something that is not true about circumstances or about people. In Romans 16:17-18 the Bible says, "*I urge you fellow Christians, keep your eyes on those who cause dissension and occasions for stumbling contrary to the doctrine which you've learned and avoid them. For such types are not the servants of our Lord Jesus Christ but are slaves to their own emotion and furthermore by their smooth and flattering speech, they deceive the minds of the ignorant.*" That's pretty straightforward isn't it? 1 Peter 3:8, let's wrap it up with this., "*Finally, be of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren and be plentiful, be courteous, not rendering evil for evil or railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing, knowing that you are thereunto called that you should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life and see good days later, refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile. Let him eschew evil and do good, let him seek peace and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against those that do evil.*" Doing evil is saying things you shouldn't say, sticking your nose where you shouldn't stick it. That's not you being wise. That's not you learning the Scripture, learning what the Word of God says. God didn't put you here to judge people, to malign people, to criticize people, to run people down. God put you here to glorify Him. It doesn't glorify Him when you get into pettiness like this. Sure you've gotten a raw deal, people have said things about you and wronged you. You're never authorized to get even or seek revenge. **You're never authorized to complain and whine to someone else about the raw deal you got. Take it to the Supreme Court of Heaven, it's open 24 hours a day.** God is aware of what's going on and He alone can solve the problem for you. I hope you're listening and learning. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for being with me on The FLOT Line.

Contentment

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 646 aired on January 21, 2018

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. This show is designed to remind you of Biblical truths and to introduce you to a unique way of studying and learning God's Word. My job is to help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life and if I can do this, then you have the freedom and privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. The FLOT line is a main line of resistance in your soul, it's a military metaphor. You can learn God's 10 unique problem-solving devices and use these to stop the outside sources of adversity before they become the inside source of stress. That's why we always say adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. **Adversity is what circumstances do to you and stress is what you do to yourself.** You don't have to have worry, fear, have anxiety, be depressed or have guilt. These are all indicators that you are failing in your situation. You don't have to live like this. The Christian life is a unique life and the Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated how to live this life. Our job is to teach you how you can number one, become a Christian, how you can receive Christ as your Savior if you want to and number two, if you do in fact receive Christ as your Savior, how you can grow spiritually, how you can build this main line of resistance, this FLOT line in your soul. Let's start out by reminding you that Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"It is by grace that you are saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is a gift from God, not of works lest any man should brag about it."* In Titus 3:5-7, in the New Testament written by the apostle Paul said, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord, that being justified by His grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* That's a great promise from God. *"These things are written [1 John 5] so that you may know that you have eternal life."* You can know it. You don't have to hope, you don't have to try, you don't have to wish. You have Christ, you have life because He said, *"I will never leave you. I will never forsake you."* He said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no man comes to the Father but through Me,"* and by believing in Jesus Christ and receiving Him as your Savior, you walk into the most unique life the world has ever known. It is called the Christian life and that's what this radio show is about, trying to teach how the Christian life works, how the Christian life operates. Not a system of emotion, not a system of ups and downs, but a way of thinking as the Bible teaches us in Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* We have to learn to think divine viewpoint and that's why our Lord, we're going to talk about this today, how our Lord gave some mandates about what we should think and how we should think. It's really a wonderful thing for us. The question that was once asked by my pastor and I'd like to ask it to you today says, is it possible through the power of God to come to the place in our lives where we have the most fantastic happiness, the most fantastic tranquility and contentment, and at the same time have a personal love for God? The answer is absolutely yes. **Personal love for God and sharing the happiness of God are where tranquility, contentment and happiness come**

from. They all come from personal love for God and the issue is, how can you love someone that you don't know? If you want to have this life that I'm talking to you about the first thing you have to do is to become acquainted with God through Jesus Christ because He said, *"I am the way."* *"Through Me man enters in and finds green pasture."* When you come through Jesus Christ, you come to meet God the Father and when you meet God the Father then you come to understand the lifestyle that He has set apart for you called the Christian life. **Paul wrote about this lifestyle in Philippians 4:11-13. He said, "Not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned in whatever state I'm in to be content." This is key, "I have learned to be content."** Paul said in verse 12, *"I know both how to be abased and I know how to abound and everywhere and in all things I'm instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need,"* and then in verse 13, a verse that so many people like to quote. I even see athletes put this on their helmet if they're football players or tattoo it on their arm. It's this verse in Philippians 4:13 that says, *"I can do all things through Christ which gives me strength."* Yes, you can, you can. You can live this phenomenal life free of worry, free of guilt, free of anxiety through Jesus Christ by assimilating His mind. That's why Romans 12:1-3 says, *"Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think [like a self-pity sort of thing] but think in terms of humility as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word."* That's why Christ said, *"Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me."* He said, *"My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* In 1 Timothy 6:6&8 we have these words. *"But godliness with contentment is great profit, for we brought nothing into this world and it's certain that we will carry nothing out and so thus having food and clothing, let us therefore be content."* **Contentment is capacity for living.** It's a wonderful thing. If you are content then you don't need something to make you happy. People that are content have this capacity. God can fill up your cup if you're content but if you're not content, regardless of what God puts in your life, you're never going to be happy. It's never going to fulfill any need in your life. You see, the secret to capacity for life is having contentment, being content with what He gives you. Having a stable mental attitude leads to having stable emotions in your life and contentment is a stability way of thinking, it's a stable mental attitude. **Contentment is problem-solving device number nine on the FLOT line of your soul which is sharing the happiness of God.** Yes, sharing the happiness of God is a wonderful problem-solving device. A lot of people have temporal happiness. They put their happiness related to people and circumstances, but that's not sharing the happiness of God. Sharing the happiness of God is what Jesus said, *"My joy I leave with you."* In Hebrews 12, *"Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame."* I mean it wasn't fun to go to the cross but on the cross He was in the center of the will of God. This is the key to it. **The greatest happiness you will ever experience in your life is when you know you're in the center of the will of God for your life.** That's where contentment and peace come from. So, contentment of your soul equals capacity for living and when you're satisfied, well then the Lord can bless you and these blessings, this prosperity that He may put in your life will not become a distraction to you. There are a lot of things the Lord would like to give you but you

can't handle it yet because it would distract you. I get tickled at people that want to win the lottery because they think winning the lottery is the key to happiness and it's not. It's not the key to happiness because we know that unhappy people take their unhappiness with them wherever they go. I mean, we buy things we don't need to impress people that we don't even like and so what is the deal here? What is contentment? It is a lifestyle that is happy, far exceeding anything anyone ever understood or ever knew about before. It's this happiness in your life that comes with peace and contentment. In Philippians 4:6-7 the Bible says, ***“Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God and the peace of God which passes all understanding, will keep your heart and mind through Christ Jesus.”*** The peace of God is this contentment. That's what it is and it passes understanding, the world doesn't comprehend this. It's not an advantage for them, it's your advantage and you have two things here. This verse says “heart” and “mind.” If we go to the Greek New Testament, these words are your *kardia*, we get cardiac from this, and *nous*, mind. What we have here is that when you hear God's Word, it comes into your mind and sets up but you have to transfer it from your mind to your heart where you store it and use it and this requires a faith transfer. You hear it, you learn it, and you apply it. When you do this, then the peace that comes from God, this great happiness in the middle of extreme circumstances is beyond the understanding of anyone else. They don't understand it, they can't comprehend how you can be so cool. How can you be so relaxed? How can you be so free of stress? It's because you're using God's problem solving devices like for example the faith-rest drill. Why should you have this fantastic contentment in your life, what's the reason for this? Because Philippians 4:19, Paul said, *“My God shall supply all of your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus.”* This is something that God will give you. **Every detail of your life has already been provided for. The real question you have to face is will you seize the provisions that God made available to you or will you insist on doing it your way?** You know that song, *I Did It My Way*? I think Frank Sinatra sang this. Well you can do it your way. Many of you are doing it your way and your head may be getting a little banged up from beating it against the wall. It's much easier to do it God's way. Therefore John 14:21, *“He who has My commandments and keeps them, that's the one that loves Me.”* In John 14:23, *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word and My Father will love him.”* If you note the difference there between experiencing God's love and being in God's love. The difference is *“He who does not love Me does not keep My Word.”* Listen, there's no doubt God loves you. The Bible tells you this in John 3:16. *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,”* but there's a different type of love here. There is an experiential love that God pours out blessing in your life as a result. Listen again, *“If anyone loves Me,”* that's personal love for God. That's motivational virtue, that's problem-solving device number seven and eight. So if you have personal love for God, it says you will keep His Word. So again listen, John 14:23, *“If anyone loves Me [personal love for God] he will keep My Word [he will be obedient] and My Father will love him.”* This is different than the love that comes through Jesus Christ at salvation, the love for the world, the lost world. This is a family love.

This is the royal family of God, you're in the royal family of God. There's nothing that God the Father doesn't want to give you and pour out into your life but it's based on what? Obedience. *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word."* This means obedience, obey the Word of God. How can you obey the Word of God if you don't even know it? In John 14:24, *"The Word that you hear is not Mine [Jesus said] but it's the Father's who sent Me."* He told those disciples that the words He was saying were coming directly from God the Father. **God the Father revealed Himself to the world through His anointed Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. It is our job as believers in Christ to reveal Him to the world so that they can come to know God the Father.** It's an amazing thing. Divine viewpoint was communicated by our Savior to those disciples. They had no idea they were going to write the New Testament. They had no idea they were going to be apostles. He was beginning to tell them in John 14 in the upper room discourse that a new dispensation was coming. There is not going to be a kingdom like they thought there would be. He told them that He was going to be crucified and killed, murdered. He explained this to them and they were just not really grasping this and so He was giving this information to them, divine viewpoint. This is what you need to understand and it took a while for me to grasp it. God doesn't think like I think. I think in terms of emotion. I think in terms sometimes of appreciation for emotional stimulation, but listen to what the Bible says. Isaiah 55:8, *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," sayeth the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.'*" So God doesn't think like we think, much higher thoughts that He thinks. For example, the word grace, God thinks in terms of grace, undeserved favor. We don't think like this. We think in terms of works, earning it, being appreciated for what we did and if we do good deeds and we do nice things that God will appreciate us and let us come to heaven. That's not how it works. God loved us in eternity past and provided for us a way to heaven through Christ our Lord, so He doesn't think like we think. He doesn't think in terms of revenge motivation. He doesn't think in terms of competition with other people. He doesn't think in terms of emotional stimulation. You have to understand this. **Realize we have an opportunity to think a different way, different than how the world thinks. There is no contentment in the world. There is no capacity for life in the world.** The more they get, the more they want. The more they want, the more they get. It's impossible. We have a hope the world doesn't have and we have a peace that the world can never experience. We have a contentment that is available to us that is the door to capacity for living. The door that opens that God pours in His favor because it won't destroy us, we can handle the prosperity. We're content with what we have, it doesn't make a difference if we have a lot or a little, that's not what we are about. When you have tranquility and when you have contentment, these are a major part of your life and then when you have these two things, just these two things, tranquility and contentment, then people can no longer hurt you. People can no longer cause you to react or get angry. You'll be able to see things objectively because you will have divine viewpoint. This means you will be thinking the mind of Christ and you can maintain a relaxed mental attitude through whatever circumstances you face in your life. **The**

only way to have any spiritual contentment is to keep the Word of God. The only way to keep the Word of God is to learn the Word of God. God the Father communicated it to the Son and God the Son communicated it to the disciples, those apostles to be, and they recorded it for us. Now God the Holy Spirit empowers us so we can understand it and we can metabolize it in the wisdom compartment of my soul and your soul. Listen to what our Lord said in Matthew 11 about tranquility and contentment and capacity for life. Listen to Matthew 11:28, ***“Come to Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” This is a divine invitation.*** Do you want to have a lifestyle free of pressure, free of anxiety? Here it is, *“Come to Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me,”* learn. Learn, there's the key word. *“Learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart [that's humility] and you will find rest for your souls because My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”* You know, *“Learn of Me,”* literally translates in the Greek New Testament of the *koine* Greek language, *“Learn from Me.”* This is the job you have to do as a believer in Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ was the mentor to the disciples. He taught them the Word of God. He told them what He was saying came from God. Then He told them that when He left He was going to send another mentor and that would be the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the mentor of New Testament believers like you and me and it's His job to teach us God's Word under the system that God set up. What is the system? Ephesians 4:11-17, *“And He gave some apostles and some prophets and some evangelists and some pastors and teachers,”* by the way, that's one word. We know that, the *poimen kai didaskalos*, pastor and teacher. That's the Granville Sharp rule, it's not two definite articles there, it's one person, the pastor teacher. In verse 12, *“For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ until we all come in the unity of the faith, and have a knowledge of the Son of God that brings us to a mature man, a perfect man after the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”* In other words, the job of the Holy Spirit is to reveal the Word of God to you through the spiritual gift of the pastor teacher. As you comprehend this information and if the Holy Spirit verifies it to be real, true, legitimate information, then you assess this information into your soul and you begin to replicate the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then verse 14, *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men whose cunning craftiness, they lie in wait to deceive us.”* So that's exactly what the plan is, that's the way the plan works. *“But speaking the truth in love, we grow up into Him in everything, even the head Christ Jesus from whom the whole body is fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part making increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”* This is a metaphor of a body and it's saying that the body of Christ is one body, one way of thinking, one idea, one goal, and that's to replicate the life of Christ and to glorify God as a result of all of this. That's our objective. That's why we have these different spiritual gifts. So when we learn God's Word via the insight of the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the teaching ministry of a well-qualified pastor, then we begin to build a main line of resistance in our soul, this FLOT line in your soul. That's what it's called, the forward line

of troops, and then this FLOT line allows you to have complete happiness in your life. **When you have this happiness, this plus H, this is problem-solving device number nine. When you have it, then you have the contentment with circumstances and people that no one else has.** By the way, I have a small book called, *Christian Problem-Solving* that lists all ten of these and if you'd like to have it, just contact me with the internet on the website, rickhughesministries.org or send me an email, rick@rickhughesministries.org, we'll send this booklet to you free of charge, never ask you for a dime and never send you anything else unless you request it. If you don't know all ten of these unique problem-solving devices, this book is available to you. The objective is for you to grow spiritually by means of the ministry of the Holy Spirit who communicates the Word of Jesus Christ. These are the words that are in the Bible that were recorded by the apostles written down for you and when we learn the things that He said, He said they came from the Father. He told the disciples that, *"It's not Me speaking, it's the Father speaking."* We are learning the mind of Christ, we are learning, we are simulating what the Father wanted the world to know, and then we become Christ-like. **We replicate His life because we learn His Word and this is where the capacity for living comes from.** This is where the love and obedience come from. *"If you love Me, you will obey Me,"* He said, *"and My mandates are not grievous."* **Using the faith-rest drill, one of these problem-solving devices, you standing behind the shield of faith, this allows you to have tranquility in your life, contentment in your soul, even during the times of the greatest pressure you will ever know.** This tranquility I'm talking about will keep you calm. It will keep you relaxed. It can even keep you from becoming a religious crusader ruining the lives of other people as you stick your nose into their business. You see, every human has a right to their own privacy and God didn't send any of us to straighten other people out. The laws of establishment give us the right to exercise our freedom un-coerced. This means that we are not allowed to be criminals, no. We are not here to bully people either. We don't have the right to judge other people, to malign other people. Romans 14 says, *"Who are you [verse 4] that you judge another man's servant? To his own master he stands or falls and yeah, he will be held up for God is able to make him stand. [In verse 10, Romans 14] But why do you judge your brother? When you judge you set yourself at nought against him, for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."* Gossiping and maligning and judging, these are all intrusions into the privacy of another believer. It is not allowed in the plan of God, it's not part of the plan of God, and it definitely is not you being content and you having any capacity for life. It's you being a spiritual bully. So do you want to live the life of the spiritual bully? No. You want to grow in grace, you want to replicate the life of Christ, you want to glorify God, you want to learn His plan, you want to reciprocate His love to you back to Him again, in total reverence and respect and obedience. This is where this contentment and tranquility comes from. You can actually lay your head down at night and go to sleep and never have a worry in the world in spite of what you may face. I hope you're thinking about this because this is the way the plan of God works and this is what God has for you. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for being with us today.

Faith

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 647 aired on January 28, 2018

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes would you please stay with me? It's just going to be about 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education and no manipulation. No manipulation because this show is designed to remind you of Biblical truths and introduce you to a new in-depth way of studying and learning God's Word and it's all done without any solicitation. No manipulation as I said, just 30 minutes of teaching. My job here is to verify and identify the plan of God for your life and hopefully you will orient and adjust to the plan. You know the plan starts out with the good news that Christ, the anointed Son of God, has redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. Thus our debt to God has been paid and we are now free of the penalty of death and free from the power of sin. If we receive Christ as our Savior, we are in effect accepting the offering that He Himself made on our behalf. It's a free gift complements of the grace of God. Titus 3:5-7 says, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit which He shed upon us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord. That being justified by His grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* Now this show, the FLOT Line, is about building a main line of resistance in your soul, learning ten unique problem-solving devices that will stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress. Crisis and conflict in your life are inevitable. I want to show you today a wonderful thing that our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, taught the disciples. It's something that we all need to learn, we all need to remember and we all need to understand. It is that faith obliterates fear and replaces it with peace in your life. I'm going to say it again. **Faith obliterates fear and replaces it with peace in your life.** Now when I use the word faith, faith is a noun in the Greek New Testament pronounced *pistis*, P.I.S.T.I.S., and the verb counterpart is believe or *pisteo*. Faith is *pistis* and the verb believe, *pisteo*, same thing. **Believing is the action of faith.** The Bible says in Hebrews 11:6, *"Without faith it's impossible to please Him, for he that comes to God must believe [faith and believe, they're used together]. He that comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."* This is the key. Do you seek God? Do you seek His Word? Do you seek to know His mandates? Because the Bible says, *"If you love Me, you will obey My mandates and they are not hard."* They're not grievous, 1 John 5:3 tells us. Jesus Christ our Lord also told the disciples these very words. You can be a Christian 25 years and still be a baby believer. The maturity is based on the content of the Word of God in your soul, not based on how long you've been a member of a church or how long you've been in the royal family of God. It is based on the content of the Word of God in your soul. The life of a mature believer can be and is the greatest life the world offers since it's founded on faith. That's right, the life of the mature believer is founded on faith and it is grounded by having a relaxed mental attitude in a crisis. **This relaxed mental attitude founded on faith produces peace in a world of**

uncertainty, in a world of conflict and it's an amazing way to live. In John 14, during the upper room discourse before our Lord went to the cross, He sought to comfort His disciples because they were concerned that He was going to depart and leave them. He had told them He was going to go away. They didn't understand it, they really thought they were going to be the initiation of the Kingdom. They thought they were going into the Kingdom with Him and they would have reign and rulership in the Kingdom with Him and He told them there wasn't going to be a Kingdom right now, "I'm going to be killed." Listen to John 13:1, "*Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew the hour was come.*" This means that Judas has now gone to the religious leaders. Judas has betrayed Him and they are on their way to where the disciples are in the upper room having the last supper. "*So the hour was come that He should depart out of this world unto the Father having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them until the end.*" The hour had come. Here He was about to be betrayed. Of course they left, you remember they left and went to the Garden of Gethsemane where Judas then showed up with the religious leaders, the Sanhedrin, and also a Roman escort. In John 14:1-4 notice again now, the hour has come and He's with them and He knows this is about to happen and He says this to them in John 14:1-4, "*Let not your hearts be troubled.*" The reason I'm giving you this is I want to show you how this applies to your life. "*Let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions and if it were not so I would have told you. I'm going to prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself so that where I am, you may be also.*" There's a promise from the Lord Jesus Christ and then in John 14:18-19, "*I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more but you see Me, because I live, you will live also.*" Then in John 14:27, here is God's Word that is so powerful, "***Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you, not as the world gives, give I unto you. So let not your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***" He's leaving them. They've been with Him all these years in His ministry. He's told them He's going to be going away, and they are troubled, they are upset, they don't know what's going on. He said, "*Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*" So in John 14 we have this present passive imperative of the Greek word, "*Do not let your hearts be troubled,*" and the word troubled is an interesting Greek word. It's the Greek word and I say this because this is how it was written in the original writings, the Greek word *tarasso*, T.A.R.A.S.S.O. for troubled. This word troubled means to be agitated, to be fearful, to dread or to take away the calmness or the peace that you should have. They were at peace as long as Christ was with them and they could see Him and talk to Him but now He was going to go away and He was not going to be with them anymore. They had forsaken everything to follow Him, their families, their businesses, everything and now He says He's going to leave them. Then He says, "Don't be afraid. Don't be troubled. I'll come back to you and because I'm living, you will live also." This present imperative verb, "*Do not let your hearts be troubled,*" if you go into the morphology of this verb, you'll see it's a present passive imperative in the Greek New Testament. The reason I bring it up is the present tense is the durative present which means there's never a

time in any believer's life that you or I should ever be troubled. The passive voice says we receive the action of the verb which means that circumstances or people create the crisis or the conflict that we face, but the imperative mood in the Greek New Testament is the mood of mandate or the mood of command. This is a command from Jesus Christ to those disciples and it's reflective on us as believers today. This word troubled means to be agitated, to be fearful, to be dreading and the present imperative indicates that at no time in my life, at no time in your life should any of us be concerned that we have been forsaken or abandoned by the Lord Jesus Christ. That's what they were worried about, He was going away. Hebrews 13:5, He said, *"I will never leave you and I will never forsake you."* I promise you that Jesus Christ your Savior will never throw you under the bus. He will never abandon you. He will always keep His promises to you. You may turn your back on Him but He will simply love you from behind. The passive voice indicates that the circumstances they endured will produce the action of the verb. In other words, you receive pressure in your life from the conflict or the crisis that you face. Don't be troubled, don't be worried, don't be afraid. The Bible is clear about this. **At no time are you to assume the posture of fear or anxiety while you live in the devil's world. John 14:26 says, "Don't let your hearts be distressed or lacking in courage."** That's the new English translation of this word, distressed or troubled. This is the second time the Lord Jesus Christ instructs His disciples in the same morphology, the present passive imperative of *tarasso*, So John 14:27 there it is, *"Do not be afraid."* Do not struggle, do not be afraid, do not be distressed. He added the word, *"Do not lack in courage."* Lacking in courage, John 14:27 again, *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you, not as the world gives, I give it to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."* Don't be lacking in courage, a present active imperative this time, not a passive but an active voice. What does this mean? The present tense means there never is a time in your life that you should be afraid. The active voice says you produce the action of this verb and the imperative mood is the mood of command. The Lord Jesus Christ is commanding you never to be lacking in courage, never to be afraid. *Deiliao* is the Greek word and it means to be afraid or lacking in courage. The opposite of distress, the opposite of fear is simply peace. Remember John 14:27, *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth give I unto you. So don't let your heart be troubled, and don't be afraid."* The Lord Jesus Christ has given them the instructions they need to handle the outside sources of adversity by using the inside resources of the spiritual life. John 14:27, *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth give I unto you."* **Listen, this peace the Lord Jesus Christ left those disciples was not a lack of conflict. It was not the removal of a crisis. It's the ability to maintain a relaxed mental attitude in the crisis using the faith-rest drill.** That's problem solving device number three on the FLOT line of your soul. The peace that He spoke of is an internal peace, not an external peace. The cosmic system or the world or the cosmos, that's why we call it the cosmic system, the world can offer no internal peace. The only hope the world gives you is the hope of an external peace which means you hope that there is no crisis today or you hope there's no conflict today or you hope today goes okay. It's not the peace the Lord Jesus

Christ is talking about. As a matter fact in Isaiah 57:21 the Bible says, “*‘There is no peace,’ saith my God, ‘to the wicked.’*” The cosmic system or the world can only offer peace as an absence of conflict, but that's limited since most of the time we live in conflict and it's usually from people or circumstances or self. Most of the conflicts we face are self-induced when we mismanage our health, we mismanage our finances, or we mismanage relationships. We live in a world full of conflict and even as the disciples faced conflict and crisis, once Christ left they could still have this inner peace that He was talking about. Either you believe the promises of God or you don't. Isaiah 41:10 says, “*Fear you not for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness.*” Do you believe this? Because if you don't, you have no faith. **You see, belief is a system of faith and a lack of faith in the believer's life is a very serious flaw.** The reason I say this is because Hebrews 11:6 says, “*Without faith it's impossible to please God.*” So, Biblical faith, the faith that you need, is based on the content of the Word of God stored in your soul. Romans 10:17 says, “*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.*” **When you listen to a well-qualified pastor teach you the Bible and the Holy Spirit confirms to you that what he's teaching is true, then your faith grows if you believe and `apply the information.** The Bible uses the word *gnosis* or knowledge but knowledge is not wisdom. Knowledge is just information that you've ascertained. Wisdom is information you've ascertained, believed, and applied into your life so there's a difference between *gnosis* and *sophia*, the Greek word for wisdom. If you're going to have wisdom this means that you're going to have the ammunition you need to fuel your faith so that you can have a relaxed mental attitude in the middle of a crisis. It's an amazing thing. Biblical faith, used as doctrine in your soul, grows. “*Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the Word of God,*” so without consistent spiritual growth, the believer's faith will be stunted. Spiritual growth is mandated in the Scripture, you know this. 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us the first concept of spiritual growth where it says, “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, but rightly dividing the Word of truth.*” Diligent, this means consistent. Then 2 Peter 3:18, “*But grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to Him be glory both now and forever. Amen.*” So here's another word, be diligent to present yourself approved unto God and grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What are you to diligently do? To rightly divide the Word of truth. In Matthew 11 our Lord Jesus Christ said these words. “*Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn.*” Here's the third word, “*learn from Me,*” study, grow, learn. “*Study to present yourself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.*” “*Grow in the grace and the knowledge.*” “*Learn from Me.*” How do you learn from Christ? You assimilate the mind of Christ. In 1 Philippians 2:5 Paul wrote, “*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*” When your pastor, if he's doing the job he should do, teaches you the Word of God, he is giving you the mind of Christ because 1 Corinthians 2:16 says the Bible is the mind of Christ. So as we learn it, we live as He lived. See He lived the prototype. He was God, yes, but He was human also. He was the God-man,

undiminished deity and true humanity in one body forever. As God He had omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence but as a man He was limited in His scope. He had to learn the Word of God just like you do, as a man. As a man He depended on the power of the Holy Spirit. As a man He used the Scriptures to sustain Him. This is what you must do, the same thing. There is no shortcut to spiritual maturity. There's no way around it. If you're going to be a mature believer and give maximum glorification to God, you're going to have to learn the Word of God, develop your faith, maintain a relaxed mental attitude in crisis, and glorify Jesus Christ through it all. **Faith is essential. It's your invisible muscle the Bible says, Hebrews 11:1. It's a way of living, faith is a way of living. In 2 Corinthians 5:7, "We walk by faith, not by sight."** The mature believer doesn't need to go to the palm reader. He doesn't need to go to the fortuneteller. He walks by faith. He knows that his Heavenly Father has predetermined his course. In eternity past God the Father knew everything about you. It's all there so you don't have anything to sweat. **You don't have anything to worry about. We walk by faith, knowing that the will of God is being produced in our life as we stay filled with the Spirit, as we take in His Word and grow. As we reproduce Jesus Christ in our life, He is glorified, so it's a way of life. Faith is used for approval from God the Bible says in Hebrews 5:6.** That's how we get God's approval, by demonstrating our faith and faith is the first approach to the spiritual life. 1 Corinthians 13:13, "*Now abides faith, hope and love,*" and of course love is the most powerful of all three, but it starts with faith. **You don't even become a Christian without faith. "For by grace are you saved through faith. It's a gift of God not of works."** So it starts with faith, believing the gospel, believing the good news. And then as you grow in grace, you believe the Word of God you learn, you apply it into your life. That's how you know you believe it, you apply it, you use it, and it moves from being information ascertained called *gnosis* to information believed and applied called wisdom or *sophia*. Faith is related to God's power in Romans 1:16, "*The gospel of God is the power of God unto salvation,*" and faith is the victory that overcomes the world. 1 John 5:4-5 says, "*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world and this is the victory that has overcome the world, our faith. Who is he that overcomes the world but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*" Believing in Jesus Christ gives you victory over the world and who is the god of this world? Satan. You do not have to stay under the control of Satan. You do not have to believe the lies that he tells you. You can believe in Jesus Christ, receive Him as your Savior, be indwelt by God the Holy Spirit, be empowered by God's Word, and have the most wonderful life ever known to man, the Christian life. It's all based on your faith. **The Holy Spirit's job is to assist you with developing your faith once you become a Christian.** He helps you develop your faith. Christ said, "If I'm going to go away, don't worry. You won't be left alone. I will send a comforter, a mentor and He will guide you. He will teach you the truth." **The Holy Spirit's job is to help you develop your faith and direct your faith, indicate the object of your faith and how you should use it because faith will deliver you in a time of crisis. Faith doesn't make the crisis go away. It gives you the attitude to have great peace and patience and glorify God through the crisis.** Listen to Hebrews 11:32, "*And what shall I more say? For the time*

would fail me to tell of Gideon, of Barak, and of Samson, and Jephthah and David, and Samuel, and all of the prophets who through faith [there is the same thing you have to do, through faith] they subdued kingdoms, they wrought righteousness, they obtained promises, they stopped the mouth of lions, [Wow, really? Yes really] they quenched the violence of fire, they escaped the edge of the sword, and out of weakness were made strong and they waxed valiant in fight and they turned to fight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance that they might obtain a better resurrection and others had trials of cruel mockings and scourgings, [see, this is all early believers] and yeah moreover, they were in bonds and in prison. They were stoned, they were cut in half, they were tempted, they were slain with a sword, they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins being destitute and afflicted and tormented (of whom the world was not even worthy) they wandered in deserts and mountains and dens and caves of the earth. And these all having obtained a good report, through faith, received not the promise, God having provided some better things for us that they without us should not be made perfect.” Your faith is a most wonderful thing. You have the promise of eternal life. You have the Scripture in front of you. You have the Word of God, the Canon of the Word of God. You have the Holy Spirit indwelling you. You have a well-qualified pastor teaching you, that's how you grow your faith. Then you use your faith and that's how you have peace in the middle of a crisis. Can your faith be obliterated through prolonged periods of carnality and reversionism? Yes. What's reversionism? You may know it as backsliding. It's when the rate of forgetting exceeds the rate of learning. **If you forget more than you've learned then you start going backwards and you revert in your Christian life. And yes, your faith can be compromised and even obliterated by not pressing forward, by not growing in grace, by getting out of fellowship and staying out of fellowship.** That's the first question I have to ask you this morning. Is there unconfessed sin in your life? Are you in fellowship with God or are you in reversionism? In reversionism means you've committed sin, you haven't dealt with this sin, you haven't admitted this sin to God, maybe you tried to cover it up, maybe you tried to hide it. That doesn't work because the Bible tells us, “*The eyes of the Lord run to and fro over the whole earth.*” There's nothing you can hide from Him. One of the reasons your life is so miserable today is you are in a crisis and a conflict and you have no peace. The reason is that you don't have the Word of God, you don't have the filling of the Holy Spirit, you're not using the faith-rest drill. Those disciples, they lived some tough lives but they had peace. The very peace that Jesus Christ exhibited in the devil's world is the peace they had, the peace you can have through faith. I hope you're listening. I hope you're learning. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Faith and Wisdom - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 648 aired on February 4, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like to invite you to stay with me. It will be a brief time of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education, and we always do this with no manipulation and no solicitations. That's right, we're not trying to raise money. We're not trying to hustle you. We're not trying to ask you to join up, fess up, give up, nothing like this. This show is simply me trying to give you some information about God's plan for your life, so that I can verify and identify the plan and hopefully you will orient and adjust to the plan. It's this simple. The plan always starts with the good news that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God has redeemed you and me out of the slave market of sin. Our debt to God has been paid. We're now free from the penalty of sin and the power of sin by means of faith alone in Christ alone. When you receive Him as your Savior, you in effect accept the great offering that He made on your behalf, the free gift from God, complements of God. Titus 3:5-7 says, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, which is shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord, so that being justified by His grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* As a believer in Jesus Christ you have a fantastic future in front of you. In order to live this life God has prepared for you you need to use what is called in the Greek New Testament *pistis* or the verb *pisteuo*, the English word faith or believe, one of the two. Faith is required to live this phenomenal life that God has given to us through Christ our Lord. We enter the Christian life through faith. Ephesians 2:8 says, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith, it is a gift from God not of works, lest anyone would brag about it."* We get in by faith and we live by faith and that's what I want to talk to you about today. Before we get there, let me give you one key thought that I want you to remember. **Wisdom is a process, not an inheritance.** The word for wisdom in the New Testament is the Greek word *sophia*. I refer to the Greek or the Hebrew because that's how it was written. The New Testament was written primarily in the Koine Greek, the language of the people and the Old Testament in Hebrew and Aramaic. I'm not an expert in either one but I know enough to do research and look them up, that's for sure. I know that wisdom is the word *sophia* and I know that knowledge is the word *gnosis*. We have gnosticism, people that worship knowledge. Knowledge is wonderful. It's a great thing to have knowledge. When you make this knowledge divine wisdom, then you have something very powerful because wisdom on the launching pad of your soul gives you the ability to make tremendous decisions. **Faith is how we begin the process of acquiring divine wisdom.** Isaiah 41:10 says, *"Fear you not for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; yes I will help you; yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness."* We see right away, right off the bat that no believer is to live in fear. We have this mandate in the Hebrew, *yare*, "Fear not, do not be afraid. I am with you." This is a wonderful thing about the Christian life. Jesus Christ lives in you. God the Father

lives in you. God the Holy Spirit lives in you. You have nothing to be afraid of, so if there's something in your life you're fearing right now, if there's something that is possessing your thoughts and causing you great trepidation and fear, get over it. It's a sin, it's wrong, you're letting your emotions control you. Hebrews 11:6 tells us, *"Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he that comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."* Let me suggest that you replace your fear with faith, did you hear that? Listen, your heavenly Father knows exactly what you're going through. He knew it in eternity past and He knows it now. He's omnipresent. He's omniscient. He's with you now and He knows now exactly what's going on in your life. God hasn't thrown you under the bus. He hasn't turned His back on you although you may have turned your back on Him. He'll love you from behind. He still loves you. He hasn't given up on you and if you can still breathe, then God still has a plan for your life. Here are some principles I want you to remember. 1. Under no circumstances is the believer in Jesus Christ to be frightened by the adversary. That's the devil and the circumstances that he allows into your life to intimidate you. 2. Every believer has a divine promise of security and peace in the middle of frightening situations. As a matter of fact I'll show you where Jesus Christ our Lord said, *"My peace I give you"* (John 14:27), and it's an amazing promise. Every one of us has this divine promise of security that He's not going to abandon us. He said, *"I will never leave you, I will never forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5), This is peace. 3. **Christ's promises must be learned if you intend to access them and use them. There are over 7,000 promises in the Bible.** We have a book *Bible Promises* and if you'd like to have it just write to us and do not send money. We are not asking you for money. We are offering you something that will help you, a book on the promises of God. That's all they are, there is no commentary. It's just promises of God, promises for different situations that we highlight for different circumstances. You have to learn them if you intend to use them. It's like having money in the bank and you don't know what bank it's in and so how are you going to write a check? If you're going to access the promises of God, you've got to know what they are. 4. **Promises learned and promises deployed on the FLOT line of your soul are used in the faith-rest drill.** This is one of our FLOT line mandates. Remember The FLOT Line is the name of our show and it's made up of 10 unique problem-solving devices beginning with rebound, how to handle sin. I confess my sin. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all wrongdoing"* (1 John 1:9). The second one, how do I handle my genetically formed sin nature, and this is I stay filled with the Spirit. *"If we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh"* (Galatians 5:16). This is problem-solving device #2 and this is allowed by the first one. When we rebound, we are filled with the Spirit. Problem-solving device #3 is the faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God, using the promises of God. 5. **Short time trusters will never enjoy the benefits of security and happiness in the devil's world.** You cannot be a short time truster. A short time truster is somebody who wants to make God the magic genie in the eight ball and wants God to pop out and make the problems go away. Rub that eight ball really hard and maybe God will pop out and grant your wish. That's a short time truster

and it doesn't work this way. Short time thrusters always live with dread on the horizon because they never have a relaxed mental attitude. This peace that I'm telling you that our Lord Jesus Christ gives to us is called a relaxed mental attitude. In Matthew 8:18 the Lord instructed the disciples to get in the boat and go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee with Him. By the way, three of them the Bible highlights wouldn't go, they made excuses. The others got in. Listen to Matthew 8:24, "*A tremendous storm came up.*" I'm talking about a bad storm. I've been on the lake in some bad storms in my bass boat and I don't like six and seven foot swells, they scare me. These guys didn't have a bass boat. They were in a small boat. They didn't have automatic bilge pumps. "*And His disciples came to Him and woke Him up saying, 'Lord, save us, we are dying.'* He said to them, '*Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?*' [that's a short time truster] *Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea and there was a great calm*" (Matthew 8:25-26). Now, let's relate this to your life. Do you really think God puts you in a situation where you could be killed? Jesus Christ loved His disciples, He didn't take them out there to drown them in the Sea of Galilee. But they put their eyes on the storm and not the Savior. They didn't look at the solution, they looked at the problem. **You have got to learn to look at the solution, not the problem. The solution is the confidence and the security found in the Word of God.** God was in business before you got here and obviously He's going to be in business long after you're gone. If you want to function in a life of peace with a relaxed mental attitude you're going to have to learn sooner or later a storm will hit your life. Do you hear me? It's coming someday. When you're young you talk about, "Where are we going to the movies this weekend? Where are we going to do this? When are we going to do that? I wonder what Billy Bob is doing over there at Joe's house?" But when you're old like some of us, then we start talking about, "Who's sick and who's dying, who's got what?" As a matter of fact I told my friend the other day, "Quit talking about sick people, talk about the Word of God. I want to talk about something uplifting not something depressing. Sooner or later a storm is going to hit your life. What you do in these circumstances will reflect the security that you have in your soul. Do you have any security in your soul? Do you have any promises of God to exercise your faith? You see, this is where the peace comes from. **When you have the promises of God in your soul as wisdom, not only have you learned them as knowledge, *gnosis*, but now you've made them part of your lifestyle. Now you have the peace that the Lord Jesus Christ promises.** Listen to the Word of God in Proverbs 1:7. This is where it all begins. "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise [or they reject] wisdom and instruction.*" Does this sound familiar to you? The Hebrew word here for fear in this passage is the verb *yira* and this word indicates two mental attitudes. The fear of the Lord *yira* is reverence and respect. These two mental attitudes represent fear of the Lord - reverence and respect. You must learn this about God the Father. In Psalm 86:9-11 the psalmist wrote, "*All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and they shall glorify Your name. For You are great. You do wondrous deeds and You alone are God. Teach me Your ways, O Lord, and I will walk in truth and unite my heart to fear Your name.*" This is universal reverence of God. In Psalm 2:11,

“Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling,” This is reverence and respect manufacturing joy. Did you hear this? Listen again, it's interesting, Psalm 2:11, *“Serve the Lord with reverence and respect and rejoice with trembling,”* Let's get some principles here. The majority of the Proverbs written like the ones that I just read to you were written by King Solomon the son of David. He wrote many other Proverbs that were not included in the Scripture according to 1 Kings 4:32. *“And he spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs that he wrote were one thousand and five.”* God blessed Solomon with great wisdom in a supernatural way. 1 Kings and 2 Kings, two books in the Old Testament, record and interpret the reigns of all the kings of Israel, all the kings of Judah except for Saul, and they start with the planning of Solomon on David's throne and they go through the reign of Zedekiah. They cover the united monarchy, the divided monarchy, and the surviving kingdom of Judah. We really don't know who wrote these two books but they are written to record history and to teach us the lessons of history. We learn from history that we learn nothing from history because we repeat it. This shouldn't happen. We record history to teach the lessons of history. One thing to learn about Solomon and think about, is that as wise as he was, as amazing a man as he was, he blew it all in the end. 1 Kings 11:1-4, *“King Solomon loved many strange women together with the daughter of Pharaoh, the women of the Moabites, the Ammonites, the Edomites, the Sidonians, and the Hittites, of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, ‘You shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.’ Solomon clave [that means he remained faithful or stuck close] unto these women in love and he had 700 wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines [that's the lower status ladies, lower than the wives] and his wives turned away his heart from God. And his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord as was his father David.”* Divine discipline followed with national disaster in Solomon's life. The original blessing of God on Solomon that we had was found in 1 Kings 3:11-12 where God gave him tremendous wisdom. *“God said unto him, ‘Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself to have a long life, you have not asked for riches, you have not asked for Me to take the lives of your enemies, but you have asked to have understanding and to discern judgment, so I have done according to your words and I have given you wisdom and an understanding heart, so that there has been none like you before, and neither will be any after you like you.”* 1 Kings 4:29, *“God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much and largeness of heart even as the sand that is on the seashore.”* But one thing God did not do was He did not take away his sin nature lust pattern. You have one and I have one, a sin nature lust pattern. What is that? Every one of us is related to Adam's original sin and we have a sin nature. Every sin nature has a lust pattern. Some people lust for money. Some people lust for power. Some people lust for alcohol. Some people lust for drugs. Some people lust for sex. I don't know what your lust pattern is but when you get out of fellowship with God and you turn your back on the Lord, you're going to go after that lust pattern and this may be why you're so miserable today. *“And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country and all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than all*

men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the nations around about the world. And he spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs were one thousand and five. And he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springs up out of the wall. He spoke of beasts and of fowls and of creeping things and of fishes. [I like that one, I like to fish. Maybe Solomon liked to fish] And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom” (1 Kings 4:30-34). Do you want to know what his wisdom was? **Wisdom is divine viewpoint thinking.** It's recorded for you in the Bible. You have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16 says the Bible is the mind of Christ. That's the wisdom of Solomon. **Solomon recognized that the beginning of wisdom had to center on his reverence and respect for the Lord.** You respect His power. You respect His judgment. Solomon wrote Proverbs with the intent of giving a course of instruction to you and to me, a course of instruction in wisdom. **Divine wisdom is our advantage.** It's preparation for life and instruction for living life in the devil's world. Here's a principle you should always remember. Without preparation, there is no execution. Solomon prepares us if we listen, learn, and apply it into our life. Solomon didn't write all the recorded Proverbs by the way. Chapter 30 was written by another man named Agur from the land of Mash between Palestine and Babylonia. Proverbs 30:1, *“These are the words of Agur”* and chapter 31 was written by King Lemuel. He wrote the words that his mother taught him and interesting enough, Proverbs 31:10-31 is very famous describing the godly woman. Read it. Regardless of who wrote the final two chapters in the book of Proverbs, it's obvious the Holy Spirit included them in the completed canon of Scripture and thus they are divinely inspired and they are for our benefit. Because Matthew 4:4 clearly says, *“Man cannot live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”* In **Psalm 119:105, “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”** That's what the Word of God is. We cannot live on bread alone. Everybody likes a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Everybody likes a bologna sandwich but we have to live on something else. Every word that proceeds from the mouth of God is what we feast on. By understanding the process that Solomon talked about in Proverbs, gaining wisdom, having divine viewpoint, then we can understand the foolishness of the human viewpoint that saturates the cosmic system, the devil's world. Socially and politically, it's out there. We call it today diversity, atheism, humanism, socialism, communism, progressivism, they're all designed to rearrange and change the American way of thinking. The cosmic system is full of it. Here's the principle, don't forget this, **Satan is in a war for your thoughts. He wants to control the way you think.** Why? Because Proverbs 23:7 says, *“As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.”* You have a choice. You can think human viewpoint which is the cosmic system's way of thinking or you can think divine viewpoint which is the Biblical way of thinking. In the cosmic system all things evil have now become good and all things good have now become evil. This is the mantra of the progressive. But in our society, in the believer's heart, all things evil are still evil and all things good are still good. Evil is the genius of Satan. Evil takes the Word of God and puts a little bit of twist on it so

it sounds right, smells right, looks right, but it's not right. No, Satan will tell you a lie and it will be so close to the truth that you believe it, but it's not the truth. He has the doctrine of demons in 1 Timothy 4:1 and preachers that are in pulpits. They sound good but it's not the Truth, the Bible, it's human viewpoint thinking. By giving you the information that I'm going to give you in these radio shows, it's my hope that I can equip you with a bank of values called divine wisdom. **Wisdom will give you the discretion to make good decisions based on divine viewpoint thinking.** Without the humility to receive instruction, nothing in your life will ever change. You will never have any contentment in your life since you have no consistency in learning and acquiring the divine viewpoint of God's Word. No contentment for you, no peace for you because you live in the devil's world and you've bought into the cosmic system. You think the thoughts that he wants you to think and you never have the confidence and the security that comes from knowing that Jesus Christ controls history, that God was in business before you got here, and He'll be in business when you're gone. Remember the Word of God is *"Alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit and of the joints and the marrow, and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12). That's what the Word of God is, alive and powerful. As you hear it, learn it, and apply it, we like to call it LAG - learn, apply, and glorify. **As you learn and apply God's Word through faith and acquire wisdom, you will find yourself moving to great confidence and stability in your life, to a place of great peace, no fear.** I hope you're learning and you'll stay with me. Come back please, next week, same time, same place. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Faith and Wisdom - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 649 aired on February 11, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and again today, I'd like to invite you to stay with me. It will be just a short 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, all done without any manipulation. Just teaching God's Word, hoping to verify and identify the plan of God for your life so that you will hopefully orient and adjust to the plan. The plan starts with the good news that Christ, the anointed Son of God, has redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. Our debt to God has been paid and we are now free, free of the penalty of death and free of the power of sin. By receiving Christ as Savior, we in effect accept the offering that He made on our behalf, the free gift of God complements of grace. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it's a gift from God, not of works, lest any man should boast about it."* Paul writes in Titus 3:5, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us."* It can't be any more simple than that. The greatest decision you could ever make is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. The FLOT Line is a show teaching you God's problem-solving devices. We've identified ten of them that make up a main line of resistance in your soul. We call this the forward line of troops, the FLOT. The concept is that if you will learn these 10 problem-solving devices then you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. This is why we always say, adversity of course is inevitable, stress is always optional. The Christian life is in fact the most unique life in the history of the world. We never have to have any stress, we never have to worry, we never have to be afraid. Trust in the phenomenal Word of God understanding that God was in business before we got here, He will be in business when we're gone. He has it under control. The concept is we must learn His Word. I told you last week there's a big difference between knowledge and wisdom. **Knowledge is something you understand and wisdom is something you believe and apply in your life. All wisdom for the believer comes from the Word of God.** Matthew 4:4 tells us, *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."* You say, "I've never heard God speak to me." However, the Lord Jesus Christ said, "I am telling you what God the Father told Me to tell you. If you've heard Me, you've heard the Father" (John 14:10). The words that are recorded in the New Testament are the words of Jesus Christ recorded by the disciples and it's called in 1 Corinthians 2:16, *"The mind of Christ."* In the Old Testament, *"Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"* (Psalm 119:105). That's the Torah, the Old Testament Law that they understood, had read and believed. **They lived by faith just like we must learn to live by faith in our spiritual life. This is the process of gaining wisdom, divine viewpoint.** Not human viewpoint, the cosmic system, which saturates our world socially and politically. Concepts like diversity and atheism, humanism, socialism, communism, progressivism, they're all designed to reconstruct politics and change the way America thinks. Why? Because Satan is in the thinking business. He wants to control what you think. It's a war

for your thoughts every day and a lot of times you don't even realize you're being assaulted. As you listen to human viewpoint, as you listen to the logic and the rhetoric of the political world system, you need to understand this is not the Bible. This is not God's Word. As a matter of fact, everything that use to be evil has now been turned into good and everything that use to be good is now looked upon as evil. If I can give you this information that I'm trying to teach you, my hope is I can equip you with a bank of values in your life called wisdom. **If you have this wisdom, you will have the insight and discernment to make good decisions based on what the Bible says, divine viewpoint. Without humility to receive instruction, nothing is going to change in your life.** You've got to have some humility. Humility is equivalent to teachability. You cannot teach an arrogant person anything. Humility is required to learn and to receive instruction because if you don't have some instruction, if you don't have some humility, nothing's going to change in your life. You will never have any contentment in life because you can never be consistent long enough to learn anything, to acquire any divine viewpoint thinking. A lot of divine viewpoint is in the book of Proverbs where our study carried us last week and where it will carry us this week. The book of Proverbs according to *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* authored by Walvoord and Zuck, there are five different reasons that the writers wrote the book of Proverbs. I recommend you read Proverbs, it's amazing. The first reason for the writing of the book of Proverbs is for the reader to attain wisdom. I'll verify the Scripture that goes with it for you in just a minute. Wisdom and knowledge are what we call spiritual ammunition, attaining divine viewpoint. The only way you can get divine viewpoint is by what I call The Four C's. What are they? Communicate - you sit and listen to a well-qualified pastor communicate the Word of God to you. Capture - this is where the Holy Spirit picks up what the pastor teaches and helps you to comprehend it. Comprehend - this is *gnosis*, it's knowledge, you understand. Comply - wisdom and applying the knowledge you've comprehended. The Four C's: Hearing the Communication of the Word of God; Capturing the Word of God in the frame of reference of your soul; Comprehending what that pastor teaches, and Complying with the information he gives you. I know that no pastor is perfect. Pastors can mislead you. You must be very careful to make sure that you sit under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor, a pastor that is accurate, not someone that is going to play with your emotions or try to tease you and trick you into worshiping with emotional worship, but someone that has spent time studying, can stand in the pulpit and teach more than five or ten minutes, without having to use humor, poetry, and whatever else. I like going line by line, word by word, verse by verse. This is called the ICE technique, isagogical, categorical, exegetical. I know these are big words. Isagogical means you study the Word in the time in which it was written, what did it mean then as compared to what it means today. Categories means that you extract from that verse any categorical study like, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son*" (John 3:16). You've got God, love, world, and Son. There are four doctrines right there you could study, the doctrine of God, the doctrine of love, the doctrine of the world, and the doctrine of the Son. Can you imagine? I could teach over a year just on these four things alone, developing categories from each. Then exegesis

means you go line by line, word by word. Take the word, break the word down, what did it mean, where did it come from, how was it used, what's the original word in the Greek New Testament, and that's how you do it. A pastor that teaches like this is going to be required to study. He can't do this and run around to the hospital visiting people. He can't do this playing merry-go-round. He has to have time to study and any pastor that is going to be worth his salt will spend time every day studying the Word of God. Unfortunately, in organized religion they are not allowed to teach very long. I mean, 30 minutes on Sunday morning after they get through all of the nonsense and then maybe 30 minutes on Wednesday night, maybe 30 minutes on Sunday night if anybody shows up Sunday night. You're getting at most an hour and a half a week. Now, if you sent a kid to the first grade for an hour and a half a week, they're never going to graduate. They're never going to get out of there and that's why we have a lot of believers that are spiritual infants. You cannot become a mature believer on only an hour and a half of teaching a week. You say, "Well, I'll do my morning devotion. I'm going to buy that book that guy wrote and I'm going to read my morning devotional." Well, this is fine but this is not studying the Word of God under a qualified pastor. That's just a little thing to kick-start you in the morning and that's okay. This is not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about sitting down maybe with an MP3 or a DVD and listening to a pastor expand and teach the Word of God to you. Yes, this is available to you free of charge if you don't have a local qualified pastor to study under. There are people out there that offer these things. If you don't know where they are, let me know, I'll connect you. The reason Proverbs was written is for us to attain wisdom and knowledge, spiritual ammunition, divine viewpoint which comes from communicate, capture, comprehend, and comply. Another reason to study Proverbs is to gain insight, meaning an accurate understanding of a person or a thing. **The writer of Proverbs wants to give you insight and direction for acquiring a disciplined and prudent lifestyle.** Spiritual self-discipline is critical if we are ever going to grow up spiritually and a prudent lifestyle means that we care for the future based on our decisions. We make decisions in our life that glorify God and are prudent about what we do. By understanding Proverbs, the parables, the sayings, the riddles of the wise, we can live skillfully. Listen to Proverbs 1:2-3, "*To learn wisdom and moral instruction, to discern wise counsel, to receive moral instruction and skillful living in righteousness, justice, and equity, to impart shrewdness to the morally naïve, and a discerning plan to the young person.*" Let's get some points here. Successful living requires accurate instruction. **If you don't get accurate instruction, you can't live successfully.** You'll do all the right things but you will do them in the wrong way. Remember, God has a plan and this plan is called the protocol plan of God. This means a right thing must be done in a right way. There's a right way to pray and a wrong way to pray. There's a right way to worship and a wrong way to worship. You can do the right thing in the wrong way and it's wrong. How will you find out about this? At the Judgment Seat of Christ when it's evaluated. It will be burned up according to 1 Corinthians 3:11-16 as wood, hay, and stubble. The right thing, yes you went to church, but you did it in the wrong way, without the filling of the Holy Spirit. The right thing, yes you prayed, but you did it in the wrong way, with

unconfessed sin in your life. Remember Psalm 66:18 says, *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”* That's the right thing in the wrong way, prayer. Giving, is it right to give? Yes. Is there a right way to give and a wrong way to give? Yes. So you have to learn these things. **You'll understand the protocol plan of God by getting accurate instruction from a well-qualified pastor.** I keep emphasizing this, a pastor who will not manipulate you. He will not through legalism try to coerce you into doing something that's not Biblical. This happens all the time. People are coerced by pastors. They say, “You know brother, if you're really a Christian, you wouldn't smoke that cigarette.” Well the Bible doesn't say anything about smoking cigarettes. It says don't harm your body. You can harm your body by eating too much chicken, I know, I've done this myself. When we start specifying sins because they're our favorite sins like, “Brother, you know if you were a Christian, you wouldn't go to that movie because you can only go to G rated movies,” this is not what the Bible says. Yet you will find this consistently in organized religion, people trying to manipulate the lives of other people and coerce the lives of other people by putting them into chains and bondage. We have the liberty to do a lot of things but we don't use our liberty to violate the protocol plan of God. Successful living requires accurate instruction. **Without instructing your children in God's Word, then you will allow them to venture into the devil's world unprepared.** They may be recruited by a cosmic evangelist who lies in wait if they're curious. “Curiosity killed the cat,” is that the saying? Many believers that have lived under missionary parents or pastor parents or good, well-qualified moral parents have gone off to college and been suckers for their curiosity and they wind up in drug abuse, sexual abuse, financial problems because their friends are cosmic evangelists and they lure them into the cosmic system. **Wisdom comes from instruction which develops awareness in the attitude of the believer with humility, awareness of circumstances and people.** You need political awareness, social awareness, spiritual awareness, and all of this comes from having divine viewpoint in your life. If you don't have some divine viewpoint, you'll be a sucker for what some politician tells you. **Jeremiah 7:15 says, “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and who makes flesh the strength of his arm.”** Remember this. Jeremiah, the great prophet of God, faced a nation of negative volition. Listen to what he wrote in Jeremiah 4:22 and see if it sounds familiar to you, *“For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are stupid children and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil but to do good, they have no knowledge.”* Good in a reprobate nation becomes evil and all evil then becomes good such as what is happening in a morally corrupt nation like America. Let's see, can I read this again and put America in it? “For Americans are foolish. They have not known Me. They are stupid children. They have no understanding. They are wise to do evil but to do good, they have no knowledge.” This is exactly what Jeremiah faced in the Southern Kingdom as Judah was about to be destroyed by the Babylonians. In Jeremiah 6:10, *“To whom shall I speak and give warning that they may hear? Behold, their ear is uncircumcised and they cannot listen. Behold, the word of the Lord is unto them a reproach and they have no delight in it.”* I would say in America today a lot of Americans have no delight in the Word of God, no interest in hearing the Word of God.

Their ears are not open to the Word of God. Part of it is because of what's been presented in the past. People have been abused by legalism and organized religion and they are now immune to the teaching of the Word of God. Part of it is there are organizations that constantly oppose the teaching of the Word of God in any public venue. You can't talk about God, can't have a cross, can't have a Bible on your desk, can't pray, I mean come on, can't give the gospel in a school anymore because it violates somebody's rights to tell them that Jesus Christ paid for their sin. Pitiful, that's what we have become today. The Word of God teaches thinking skills as well as spiritual skills. You can't live in the devil's world if you can't think. You have to have some comprehension. You have to have the ability or the capacity to function under spiritual IQ and this requires some perception, cognition, metabolization of the Word of God inside your stream of consciousness. These are all big words. **Perception means you listen to the Word of God. Cognition means you understand it. Metabolization means using faith you apply it in your thinking, in your stream of consciousness.** Your stream of consciousness is like a river. It flows 24 hours a day and what's in your conscience is suppose to be great norms and standards that will protect you, guide you, and direct you in your life. It starts off with your parents teaching you these things. You must have thinking skills and memory skills. This is retention in your stream of consciousness. The issue here is the rate of learning must be greater than the rate of forgetting. If you study consistently, you need to review your notes. If you don't review them, if you just write them in a notebook and put them on the shelf, and I've done this, I know this for a fact, then the rate of forgetting is greater than the rate of learning. You have to learn daily and you have to review what you've learned in your memory so that you can process it and pull it up or else the wheel tracks get silted in. You'll know there's something there. You'll say, "I remember there's a verse but I don't know where it was. I remember the pastor said something about that but I just can't remember what he said." The wheel tracks in your memory center are now silted in and you can't get back to the memory, can you? And you need to know God's problem-solving devices. **The Word of God teaches problem solving as thinking skills. This is why we have 10 problem-solving devices which are a grace gift from God. You must acquire the ability to solve your own problems.** You can't depend on your aunt or your uncle, or your grandmother or grandfather to solve your problems. The last thing you need to do is run to the preacher. You should know the Word of God and you should be able to solve your problems. If he's taught it to you from the pulpit and you listened, comprehended, and complied then he equipped you to solve your own problems. How can you glorify God depending on someone else to solve your problems? This is like taking a test and having to lean over and ask the kid next to you, "What's the answer? I don't know it." You're going to be tested. You've got to be able to solve your problems. Decision-making is another thinking skill. This means you must understand the issues of life and decide on a course of action. Exactly what is God's will for my life? What does He want me to think? Where does He want me to be? What does He want me to do? This is critical for your life. If you don't understand this, then you wind up in the wrong place doing the wrong thing and you just short-circuit yourself from God's blessing. Many people do this. They get a

promotion, they get a job, they see a great opportunity, and away they go. They leave their local church, they leave the place where they were growing spiritually, they move off to a new city, to a new job, and they abandon their study of the Word of God. It doesn't take long until they crash and they burn. Stick with the source of feeding. Stay in the corral. We are sheep, we need a shepherd. If you don't stick with your shepherd you'll wind up in trouble. From God's Word we get memory skills, comprehension, problem-solving, decision-making, and awareness. Awareness is extensive knowledge of God's Word and the ability to interpret the situation that you face so that you can make an accurate application to every circumstance in your life. You will know what the Word of God wants you to do. You know the Word of God says to do it, and you have peace about it when you do it. The fear panic syndrome can rearrange the way you think in your life if you're not careful. This is where we have to issue a warning to all believers. **You cannot afford to fall back into emotions in an extreme crisis because if you do, then your soul, your way of thinking, will be rearranged like the typography of the earth after an earthquake.** Listen to 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3, *"We sent Timothy our brother and fellow worker for God in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen you and encourage you about your faith so that no one would be shaken by these afflictions that they face. For you yourself know we were destined for this."* Shaken, that's just like the earthquake shakes and the typography of the land is rearranged. When we go through a crisis in our life, if we're not careful, if we move into emotions, then our whole way of thinking changes and we get in trouble. We cannot afford to do this. Paul did not want the Christians in Thessalonica to lose their spiritual balance. He didn't want them to lose their stability as a result of the trials they were facing experiencing the criticism and hatred of the Jews who opposed the Christian faith. When you face critical tests in your life, if you go into emotions over sickness and health or finances, you can be rearranged when you come out the other side because you don't think like you use to think. Instead of going to the Word of God, you went to your emotions and it's a dangerous situation. In the game of life you're only going to get one shot at it, that's all. That's why you need as much Biblical information as possible because without the information, you will never understand your options in your life. **With positive volition and using God's grace provisions you will reach His desired will and purpose for your life.** What is this? **John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not the peace the world gives. Let not your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."** Phenomenal advice from our Savior, a wonderful way to live. I hope you're listening, I hope you're learning, and I hope you'll come back with me next week. I'm Rick Hughes, thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Volition

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 650 aired on February 18, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like to invite you to stay tuned. It will be 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, education and we always do this without any manipulation. We're just trying to give you some accurate information, information that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life and you have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan, that's up to you. This show titled The FLOT Line is designed to remind you of Biblical truths and introduce you to a new way of studying and learning God's Word. It all starts with the good news, that Jesus Christ the anointed Son of God has redeemed us out of the slave market of sin so our debt to God for our sin has been paid and we are free of the penalty of sin and the power of sin through Jesus Christ our Lord. If you receive Christ as your Savior, it is in effect the single most significant decision you'll ever make and God accepts the offering He made on your behalf. The free gift from God is eternal life. The Bible says in Titus 3:5-7, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord. Being justified by His grace that we should be made heirs according to the hope [or the confidence] of eternal life,"* and that's the most wonderful promise in the world. *"For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it's a gift from God not of works lest any man should boast."* Who doesn't like a free gift? The free gift is made complements of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross where He alone paid the penalty for our sin. We couldn't do it. We could never satisfy the justice of God but He did because, *"He who knew no sin [the Bible says] was made sin for us."* Remember the FLOT line is made up of 10 unique problem-solving devices that you can learn and deploy in the thinking compartment of your soul and if you do this, if you learn these 10 problem-solving devices, then you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress. That's why we always say adversity is inevitable and stress is optional. Today as we talk about developing a FLOT line in your soul, learning these unique problem-solving devices beginning with rebound and how we solve the problem of sin. We have to rebound, we have to confess our sin. That's why the Bible says *"If we will confess our sin [1 John 1:9] then He's faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and to purify us from all wrongdoing."* That's a decision you have to make. Your life is made up of many decisions. I've made decisions and I've gone down the My Way Highway and I'm sure you've done the same thing. We are all responsible for our decisions. This is something interesting that I'd like to talk to you about today so that you can understand why we make the decisions that we make and it is basically because God gave us a volition, V.O.L.I.T.I.O.N. **God gave you volition, a chooser or a decider, and this is yours and yours alone and you are responsible for every decision you make.** Joshua gave a challenge to the people of Israel after they had gone into the Promised Land, taken the Promised Land. He was about to come to his

time of departure where he went to be face-to-face with the Lord and this is what he said in Joshua 24:15. You remember Joshua, the leader of Israel after the death of Moses, Joshua went into the battle of Jericho and so forth. **Joshua said this in Joshua 24:15, “Choose you this day who you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” This is something that you must do also. You must decide who you will serve.** Now you can serve the flesh, we have this for sure. The flesh has all sorts of lust patterns and all sorts of desires, lust for money, lust for sex, lust for power, lust for approbation, lust for drugs, lust for whatever, and you can serve this lust pattern if you want to or you can serve God. If you've made a decision to believe in Jesus Christ my advice would be to serve God. This is exactly what Joshua was telling the people of Israel. You choose this day and quit beating around the bush, quit walking the border. You know, either get with it or get out of it but quit playing the game, as so many Christians today play the game. It's the nod to God crowd, “Hello God, Goodbye God, See you next week God.” That's the conventional Christian and he makes a caricature out of Christ by living like this. God gave you a volition and here are some principles that I'd like to give you. **God gave each of us a completed soul and in the format of this soul is your volition.** You have a body. People have short bodies, tall bodies, skinny bodies, fat bodies. You know, I have a friend who can eat anything and he doesn't gain a pound. I can smell chocolate cake and gain three, so I mean that's not fair is it? God gave each of us a body and He gave us a soul and in our soul we have mentality, the ability to think, logic and reason and we have volition, the ability to choose, to decide. He did not make us into little automatons. He gave us a conscience, this is where we program the conscience of our young children so they won't self-destruct and we give them good norms and give them good standards that they can live by in their life. God gave you in your soul a mentality, a volition, a conscience, a self-consciousness, you're aware of yourself. This is something a dog doesn't have. A dog doesn't have a self-consciousness. If a dog looks at himself in a mirror, he doesn't know he's looking at himself. You would. You'd say, “That's me, I know me.” So God gave us a completed soul and in the format of this soul is volition. **Volition can be negative, that's minus, or it can be positive, that's plus. Negative volition is, “No, I will not.” Positive volition is, “Yes, I will.”** When Joshua says, “Choose you this day whom you will serve,” he says either you're going to say yes or you're going to say no but quit beating around the bush. **In a lost man's life, that's a man who has not accepted Christ as his Savior, a man that does not have eternal life through Christ, negative volition is refusal to accept the gospel or the good news that Jesus Christ was a sacrifice for our sin.** He doesn't believe this, he rejects it. Some people are called agnostics, *ag* meaning no and *nostic*, meaning knowledge, he's a no knowledge. Some people in their own arrogance like to call themselves atheist and they declare there is no God even though they didn't go to every planet in the universe. They didn't go to every place in the universe and make sure God wasn't there. For you to say “There is no God” you've got to be God yourself, because you've got to check out every inch of the universe, because if you miss God and He's there, you're in trouble. What you're saying is, “I don't believe there's a God,” and that's the same thing that it takes to become a Christian, faith. You have faith

that God does not exist as an atheist and you have faith that Christ died for you as a Christian. That's why the Bible says, *"For by grace are you saved through faith."* So a lost man has faith in his negative volition and he refuses to accept the good news of the sacrifice of Christ for our sin. **In the believer's life, negative volition is refusal to learn and obey God's Word even though we have been told to do this.** We've been told to *"Study to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."* My pastor's been teaching a particular passage in John 15:25 about abiding in Christ and if we don't abide in Christ, we have negative volition. We're not growing, we're like the vine that is withering on the branch, that's what he's been teaching. That's a great analogy from the Bible, a great metaphor for a believer out of fellowship with Christ and refusing to learn God's Word. *"Study to show thyself approved unto God,"* as the Bible says and *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,"* as the Bible says, but you have a lot of excuses. "I'm busy, I'm raising children, I'm on the go, I don't have time to do this," then you have negative volition. I know people that listen to the teaching of the Word of God in their car as they go to work every day. As a matter fact you can access these radio shows on your cell phone and play them through your car's Bluetooth if you have that because it's all on the internet or you can sit down at night with a cup of coffee and get a Bible study DVD or you can get up in the morning like I do, early 5:30 in the morning, and listen to a DVD taught by a well-qualified pastor where you can learn God's Word and hopefully apply it into your life. If you refuse to learn it and you use an excuse like "I don't have time, I'm too busy," then what you're doing is you're going on negative volition to God's mandate for you. **Under the Biblical law of volitional responsibility, that's a bigger word now, volitional responsibility means you're responsible for your decisions. Under this law, you must take responsibility for your own decisions. Here's the application. We have the ability to make ourselves miserable by making bad decisions in regard to people and circumstances.** Did you hear me? We have the ability to make ourselves miserable by making bad decisions in regard to people and circumstances. Volitional responsibility, what does this mean? It means that each one of us must take the responsibility for our decisions and not blame other people for our misery or the suffering that we are enduring. We all make decisions every day about our activities but we base these decisions on our motives and our desires. I made a decision yesterday. It was Monday and I decided I wanted to go fishing on Monday so this was a desire, this was a motive to go catch some fish and I did. I had a wonderful time. I made this decision. I made a decision this morning, what would I wear when I came to my office? You make decisions too. Then I made a decision about studying God's Word this morning. Did you? I'm not talking about a little short devotional. I'm talking about sitting under a well-qualified pastor, getting your Bible, getting a notebook, and letting him feed you God's Word. **In Galatians 6:7 the Bible gives a warning, "Don't be deceived, God will not be mocked. Whatever a man sows, that he is going to reap," and that's volitional responsibility.** The Bible says, *"If you sow to the wind, you're going to reap the whirlwind,"* and this happens in a lot of lives, people that ignore the Word of God and make consistent bad decisions because they don't

pay any attention to how God warned them. You see, the Bible has a warning. God doesn't want to make your life miserable. He wants to make your life enjoyable. He wants to give you great benefit and great blessing in time. But when you go against His will, when you go against His plan as a believer in Jesus Christ and refuse to learn His Word, then you don't know what your options are. You don't understand the geographical will of God. You don't understand the viewpoint will of God. You don't understand a lot of things and so you are short-circuited, you're disadvantaged because you didn't learn the Word of God. You can't even use the faith-rest drill effectively, problem-solving device number three, if you don't at least know some of the 7,000 promises in the Bible. That's why, by the way, we put together a promise book and if you'd like to have one, let us know, we'll ship it out to you free of charge. You've got to know these promises because that's where the strength of your faith comes from. One of the causes of our bad decisions in life is subjective arrogance. Subjective arrogance, where we overestimate our abilities and we fail to see ourselves in the light of reality. You think you're something you're not. You know, an arrogant person has an unrealistic self-image. He looks in the mirror and he sees what he thinks he is. He doesn't see what he really is and if he has these unrealistic self-images, he has unrealistic expectations. In other words, he wants to be treated in a way he's not worthy of being treated and he will make many bad decisions due to his subjective arrogance. The first bad decision is the decision related to the gospel. Listen to what the Bible says in John 3:36, "*He that believes on the Son has everlasting life and he that believes not the son, shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him forever.*" There's positive volition and negative volition in this verse. "*He that believes on the Son [that's positive volition at salvation] has everlasting life.*" "*He that believes not [that's negative volition at gospel hearing] shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*" **Another principle is bad decisions in relation to the laws of establishment, believers and unbelievers alike can make these. The laws of establishment are what God set in motion for the orderly function of the human race such as volition, marriage, family and nationalism. Here's what the Bible says in Romans 13:1-2. "Let every soul be subject to the higher powers," that's positive volition. You must submit to the authority of the rulers of your land.** This goes on to say, "*There is no power but of God. The powers that be are ordained of God. Therefore [verse two] whoever resists the power, resists the ordinances of God, and they shall receive to themselves judgment.*" Now, let's back up. "There is no power but of God? Are you telling me that God could have stopped Donald Trump from being President had He wanted to?" Yes. "Could God have stopped Obama from being President if He wanted to?" Yes. "Did God allow both of these men to sit as President of the United States of America?" Yes. And so when this says, "*There is no power but of God,*" if you say, "God made a mistake, God should not allow this man to live, God should not allow this man to be President," then you're saying that you're smarter than God. The next verse says, "*Whoever resists the power [that's the person that God put there] resists the ordinances of God and they will receive judgment to themselves,*" because they'll make bad, bad, bad decisions. Here's a little word of advice for any Christian that's listening to me. Stay out of political commentary. You can vote for who you want to vote

for. You can believe in who you want to believe in but the Bible clearly says in Jeremiah 17:5, *“Cursed is the man that trusteth in man who makes flesh his strength.”* No politician can change the course of the history of America. Only you can. **If you have positive volition and if you grow to be a mature believer and join what's called the pivot of mature believers, then you will be the strength of the nation. You will have an invisible impact as a mature believer in the future of this country and blessing by association will come from your life.** This doesn't have anything to do with who the President is or is not. It has to do with you. Now, if he's the President, God allowed him to be President, but human viewpoint doesn't believe this. Human viewpoint thinking is called a position of weakness. You know, the cosmic system or the devil's world that we talk about, it gives out false information freely and quite frankly, the majority of people that hear it, take the bait. I mean when I go fishing, I use a bait. Sometimes I use a top water bait and tease and trick the fish until they eventually strike it. The cosmic system has bait and Satan will tease you and trick you until you take the bait. Hunger for truth in this nation, hunger to understand God's plan, good old USA, that sort of hunger where people are hungry for the Word of God is few and far between. I have been in the ministry going on 50 years and I do not see a lot of positive volition, a lot of hunger for truth. This doesn't mean I don't see organized religion, organized religion has a tremendous following for sure, but the majority of those who attend a local church usually just go through the ritual and there's not really any reality to it after they leave on Sunday. Jeremiah the prophet of God faced a generation of negative volition and listen to what he said about this, *“For My people [Jeremiah 4:22, God speaking through the prophet Jeremiah] are foolish. They have not known Me. They are stupid children and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil but to do good, they have no knowledge.”* My pastor has said, and I like the way he said it, in America today everything good has now become evil and everything that use to be evil has now become good and that's true. In Jeremiah 6:15, God speaking again through the prophet Jeremiah, *“Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed. Neither could they even blush. Therefore, they shall fall among them that fall at the time that I visit them. They should be cast down saith the Lord.”* Hosea the prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel said it like this, *“My people [God says through Hosea] are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you rejected knowledge, I will reject you and you will no longer be a priest for Me because you forgot the laws of your God, and I will forget your children.”* **Solomon wrote in Proverbs 1:7, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise this wisdom and instruction.” That's negative volition and it is predominant and prevalent in America today. Your positive volition to the Word of God will determine the course of your life.** Jeremiah 17:10, *“I the Lord search the heart, I test the conscience to give to every man according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doing.”* In other words, God knows what you're thinking, He's omniscient. God is omniscient, He's all-knowing. He knows exactly what you're thinking. He knows your motives, your intentions, and what your desires are and the things that come into your life are the result of the decisions that you make and the motives that caused you to do it. Now if you want to make

the right decision, if you want to have a life full of happiness, prosperity, a wonderful life, then take in some divine viewpoint thinking by learning the mind of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 2:16, *“Who has known the mind of the Lord so He can instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”* In Philippians 2:5, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”* That's a pretty big statement. How can I take the mind out of Christ and put it into me? Well, I've got to have an attitude of humility to start with and without humility you're not teachable. **Humility is teachability.** So if you have some humility, which means you orient to the authority of God, you orient to the authority of the Word of God, you orient to the authority of your pastor who teaches you God's Word, then you develop your faith by hearing God's Word taught on a consistent basis. No one will ever grow to spiritual maturity getting 30 minutes a week. No one will ever grow to spiritual maturity coming twice a week. You must eat every day. You can't grow if you don't feed every day on the Word of God, it's the same thing. You must grow, why? Romans 10:14, *“How should they call on Him whom they have not believed and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard and how shall they hear without someone preaching to them?”* Romans 10:17, *“So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”* **As you listen to the Word of God taught by your pastor, your faith increases and develops if you have positive volition and you believe it and you apply it into your life.** Now, you can go through life just playing church and you will never grow up spiritually. Hebrews 5:11-14 says on this topic, *“I have a lot to say, it's difficult to explain since you have become sluggish in hearing. For although you should in fact be a teacher by this time, you need someone to teach you the beginning elements of God's utterances because you've gone back to needing milk, not solid food. For everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced in the message of righteousness because he's an infant, but solid food belongs to the mature whose perceptions are trained by practice to discern both good and evil.”* Solid food is serious, sound Bible teaching. Milk is entertainment, a little dab will do ya. A lot of suffering comes to Christians because they are confused, they lack any serious Bible knowledge. In the military you have military doctrine of how to win a war. We have Bible doctrine, how to win the war in the spiritual life as well. **Many people are ignorant of Bible doctrine. They're ignorant about Biblical principles. If you are suffering from your wrong decisions that you've made in your life, then no prayer in the world is going to help you except rebound. That's the only solution found in the Word of God. Now God designed a system for you to protect you because you live in the devil's world and this system begins with the Bible. He provides a spiritual gift called the pastor to explain how this thing works but you must submit to the authority of that pastor your shepherd if you ever hope to find any meaning and any fulfillment in your life.** You just keep going on down the My Way Highway and I guarantee you, you'll be miserable for what short time you will be here with your search for happiness in people and circumstances and you'll never find it. That's why Luke 11:28 says, *“Happiness belongs to those who hear the Word of God and keep it.”* That's the secret. I hope you will come back next Sunday. If I can help you, don't hesitate to contact us. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Eternal Security Review

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 651 aired on February 25, 2018

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. The FLOT Line is designed to remind you of some truths you probably already know, maybe even introduce you to a different way of studying and learning God's Word. As I said, no manipulation here, just 30 minutes of education, that's my job. Give it to you straight up, clear, lucid so you can understand. The first thing we all have to understand is it starts with the good news that Jesus Christ the anointed Son of God redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. Our debt to God was paid for and we are now free of the penalty of sin as well as the power of sin in our life. If we receive Christ as our Savior, we are in effect accepting the offering He made on our behalf. It's a free gift for us complements of the grace of God. That's why Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"For by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man would brag about it."* Titus 3:5-7 says this, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord, that being justified by His grace [not works, by His grace] we should be made heirs according to the confidence of eternal life."* **Eternal life is a wonderful thing to know you possess. To know that you do not have to worry about where you are going when it's your time to depart, and it will be your time sooner or later.** The Bible says, *"It's appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment."* All people have to die. The reason is simple. This body won't operate in the presence of God because it's contaminated with a sinful nature. The Bible tells us, *"For by one man sin came into the world and death by sin and now death is passed on all for all have sinned and the wages of sin is death."* That's not just physical death, that's spiritual death. We are born physically alive, yes we are, but we are born spiritually dead due to the assignment of Adam's original sin to us at birth. We are born into a sinful condition and we have to be born again. What happened is at birth our human spirit is spiritually dead. We're physically alive, we have a soul, we have mentality, we have emotions, we have conscience, yes, volition yes, but we are spiritually dead, separated from God until we receive Christ as Savior. When this happens, the moment we do, what the Bible tells us in Romans 10:13, *"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* If you've done this, that's the moment you entered into the eternal relationship with God. But the \$64,000 question that people always ask is, **can God cancel eternal life if I mess up?** You know, it's possible you may be listening to me today and be incarcerated. You've messed up a little bit, you have a debt to pay to society and you're in the process of paying that debt now. Does God cancel your eternal life because you've messed up whether you've been caught or not? No, God doesn't cancel your eternal life. **Once God gives eternal life to you, He doesn't and can't pull it back. We're going to study this today, the doctrine of eternal security.** How you can have complete confidence in what God gave you at the moment of salvation and how you can comfortably know that even if you mess up, He's not going to demand that you give it back

to Him. Let's start with John 10:28-29. The Bible says, *"And I give unto them eternal life."* This means you will live forever in a resurrection body. You will live forever in the presence of God the Father in a resurrection body, in the new heavens and the new earth that will be created according to 2 Peter 3. It says the universe will be destroyed and this earth will be destroyed and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. The new earth won't even have a sea the Bible says. That's where we will spend eternity and that's after the millennial reign of Christ when we will be here with Him for a thousand years as He sets up His kingdom, the kingdom of David, on the throne of David actually in Jerusalem. We're back with Him for a thousand years and we will have eternal life. The minute you leave this body, the minute you exit this body, you are not dead. There's no way you're dead, you're just transferring. You're going to be face-to-face with the Lord. This body goes back to the ground, back to dust to dust, to ashes to ashes, but your soul and your spirit will enter a new body, a resurrection body, and that's the body you will live in forever and that's the perfect body. ***"I give unto them eternal life [John 10:28-29] and they will never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father which gave them to Me is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand."*** So we know right away that Jesus Christ our Lord has given to you eternal life by faith alone in Christ alone. Paul put it this way to the Roman jailer, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved,"* Acts 16:11. When you make a decision to believe in Christ and receive Him as your Savior, you enter eternal life. John 3:36 is clear about this. *"He that believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life, and he that believeth not, the wrath of God already abides on him."* If you've made this decision, no one can take it away from you. In 2 Timothy 2:13, here is a verse you should find confidence in, *"If we believe not, yet He abides faithful, He cannot deny Himself."* What does this mean? Well a lot of times children will accept Christ as Savior when they're young but as they get older and they develop their mental faculties, they begin to doubt their salvation. They begin to buy into some humanistic philosophy, some atheistic philosophy, and now they say, "Well, I don't even believe God exists anymore. Maybe when I was a kid but not now." *"Even if we believe not, He abides faithful, He cannot deny Himself."* How does this work? Well it means this, that when you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, the Bible puts it this way in 2 Corinthians 5:21, *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us in order that we might be made the righteousness of God through Him."* Remember that God is absolutely righteous, perfect righteousness, and He's absolutely just and so the justice of God judged Jesus Christ on the cross with all of my sin. When I come to the cross and believe in Christ and receive Him as my Savior, His righteousness is given to me. He took my sin and now He gives me His righteousness. We look at it this way, if God is absolutely righteous, in order for me to have a relationship with God, I must be absolutely righteous. The only way I can be absolutely righteous is have Christ's righteousness given to me. *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us in order that we may be made the righteousness of God by means of Him."* **Once that +R, God's righteousness, is accredited to my account because I received Christ as my Savior, God is not going to take it back.** He's not going to say, "I want My righteousness back

and I'm going to kick you out of My royal family now. Even though I said you are heir to all that Christ is heir to, now that you messed up, you can't be heir anymore." He's not going to do this, that's not the way God operates. He's immutable, He does not change. How could He change His mind about you? It's not going to happen and so 1 John 5:12 says, *"He that has the Son has life and he that has not the Son of God has not life."* In order to have eternal life you must possess Jesus Christ as your Savior. *"Not by works of righteousness which we've done but according to His mercy He saved us,"* the very verse I gave you at the beginning of this study in Titus 3:5-7. Now let's look at a case study in the Bible of someone who probably should have lost it you would say. You know some people say, "If there's anybody that should lose their eternal life, it's this guy," but he didn't. This is a case study from 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, just reading out of the standard King James Bible, *"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you."* Fornication, there are several words in the Bible that we have, fornication and adultery. You should know what this is. The word for fornication is the Greek word *porneia*, P.O.R.N.E.I.A. and this absolutely was a four letter word in Greek vocabulary. Fornication is two people having sex outside the boundaries of marriage and adultery is one of a married couple is having sex outside the boundaries of marriage. Fornication can include a lot of different things such as homosexuality, bestiality, pedophilia, pornography, whatever. It's all that junk and so, *"It is reported there is fornication among you, and such fornication [now here's the shocker Paul said] is not even named among the Gentiles."* In other words, the unbelievers don't even do this. This is so horrible and so sick and perverted that lost people don't even do it and now he tells them what it is. This is in the church in Corinth, a member of the church in Corinth, *"That one should have his father's wife."* Did you get that? A member of the congregation is fornicating with his stepmother. 1 Corinthians 5:2-4, *"And you are puffed up, you have not rather mourned that he that did this deed may be taken away from among you, for I verily, as absent in body but present in spirit, have judged already as though I were present concerning the one that did this deed. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ when you're gathered together and in my spirit with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ to deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord."* Did you hear this last sentence? *"So that the spirit would be saved in the day of the Lord."* Here's what's going to happen. He's going under dying discipline. There are three stages of discipline. You should know this. There's warning discipline where God warns you that you're out of line. This might not hurt, this just may be a Bible verse or a preacher or a sign or something you read. But then there's also intense discipline and this one hurts. This is when God has to take you out behind the woodshed and wake you up a little bit. This is all taught in Hebrews 12:6, *"Those whom I love, I chasten and I scourge with a whip."* Sometimes God has to bring pain into your life to get an attitude adjustment. This attitude adjustment is humility rather than arrogance. Warning discipline, God warns you. Intense discipline, God brings suffering into your life to correct your course before you self-destruct. And then there's dying discipline and this is where the verse says in Hebrews 12:9, *"We have had earthly fathers that corrected us and we respected them, how much more shall we respect God*

and live?" And in Proverbs 15:10, *"He that hates the reproof of God shall die."* It's possible as a Christian that God the Father could take you out way too soon. You're still going to heaven, you still have eternal life, but you certainly made a mess of this life and you will not have the rewards in heaven that others may have. That's exactly what's happening here. He's going out under the sin unto death. He's going to be turned over to Satan, "Okay, you can go ahead, you can ravage him." The Bible says in 1 Peter 5:8, *"Satan goes around like a roaring lion seeking who he can devour,"* and Satan's going to devour this individual, but Paul said, *"The spirit would be saved in the day of the Lord,"* 1 Corinthians 5:5. Yes, his body will go back to the ground. Yes, he is going to die too early but since he had believed in Jesus Christ, his soul and spirit will go to heaven. He will not hear, *"Well done My good and faithful servant."* He's not going to hear this but he does have eternal life. Why? Because number one, he didn't do anything to gain it. If you can't do anything to earn it, then how can you do something to lose it? Doesn't this make sense? If you cannot do anything to earn it, then how could you do something to lose it? It can't be one way or the other. You've either got to do something to earn it and keep it or you don't have to do anything to earn it other than believe and there's nothing you can do to lose it. Principles: 1. God in His grace does not cancel our eternal life. What He freely gives, He does not take back. 2. If you got it freely then had to work to keep it, then you really never actually had it to start with. Did you hear me? If you got it freely, that's eternal life, and then you had to work to keep it, then you never really actually had it to start with. You were just hoping you had it. If you were just hoping you had it, that you could hold onto this without really messing up, so that's what this means. If you got it freely and had to work to keep it, you never really actually had it to start with, you were just hoping you had it and you were hoping that you could hold onto it so you wouldn't mess up. 3. This fact does not ensure that you are going to be successful in executing the Christian life. **The fact that you're not going to lose your salvation does not guarantee that you will live a successful Christian life.** Without learning the protocol plan of God, you will never, ever live a successful Christian life. You will have eternal life. You will go to heaven but you will miss out on the phenomenal blessings of abiding in Jesus Christ while you're in this world. Remember He said, *"If you abide in Me and My Word abides in you, then you can ask what you will and I will pour it out on you,"* John 15:7. Listen, if you abide in Christ, this means you stay filled with the Holy Spirit. *"If My Word abides in you,"* this means you learn His Word and apply it in your life and change the way you think. You start thinking in terms of divine viewpoint not human viewpoint. And 4. the fact that the righteousness of God is given to us means that it would have to be taken away from us in order to lose our salvation and that's not going to happen. 2 Corinthians 5:21, *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us that we could become the righteousness of God through Him."* I've quoted this verse several times. That's why you're going to heaven, because you have the righteousness of Jesus Christ given to you. 5. You cannot lose your salvation since it is strictly the work of God and not your work. Remember, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works"* Ephesians 2:8-9. 6. Knowing this fact does not give you a license to go out

and raise Cain. This fact that I'm telling you, that you can't lose it should motivate you to want to know your Heavenly Father in a more intimate way if He loves you this much. If He loves you so much that He's not going to turn His back on you when you mess up, then your security is indeed assured. In Romans 8:38-39, *"I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor powers nor things present nor things to come nor height nor depth nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord,"* and this means you messing up. You are royal family of God. You have been brought into God's royal family through faith alone in Christ alone. In Romans 8:16, *"The Spirit bears witness Himself with our spirit that we are indeed the children of God."* You might not act like it. You may act like you're a child of the devil. I've seen many Christians who are saved, turn around and walk away from the plan of God. They went down what I affectionately call the My Way Highway and they decided that they didn't really need to learn God's Word. They were suckers for the lure of the world. Whatever Satan throws at them, the lies that he throws up, the deception that he throws up, much like the decoy in the duck field, they get lured in. They are like the ducks flying into the decoy thinking, "Look, look, there are some ducks, let's land here," and "boom, boom, boom," they get shot down. How many of you have been decoyed and deceived by the devil? Decoyed and deceived into thinking that people or circumstances can make you happy when in fact that's a lie to start with because the Bible says in Luke 11:28, *"True happiness belongs to those who hear My Father's Word and keep it."* *"My joy I give to you,"* Christ said, John 14:27. *"Who for the joy that was set before Him,"* the Bible says in Hebrews 12:2, *"endured the cross, despising the shame."* The greatest joy you will ever have in your life is fulfilling the plan of God, knowing that you're doing exactly what God created you to do. You are re-presenting Jesus Christ, you're reflecting Christ in your life. That's what you're suppose to do. When you abide in Him, you reflect Him. It's a wonderful thing to get up in the morning and look in the mirror and say, "I need to shave," or "I need to put on some makeup," and you look at yourself and make yourself presentable. Well, that's how you take care of your body but what about taking care of your soul, the inside? Taking care of your soul is taking in the Word of God every day. Taking in the Word of God every day, doctrine for our soul, is what keeps our soul presentable, just as shaving and combing our hair, brushing our teeth, putting on your makeup keeps you presentable to people that you come in contact with. Principles: We are children of God. Once we're born into our human family, we cannot be unborn to our human family. Once you're in the royal family you cannot be unborn from the royal family. Family does not guarantee you're going to turn out perfect, it just means you have a chance to make something out of yourself. Some children of God do fantastic and some children of God slide back into sin where they came from. They actually live their life back again like an unbeliever and you can't even tell that they're really a Christian. You couldn't even really tell that they're saved. Just because you wind up being a total jerk does not mean that God is going to turn His back on you. He may just have to love you from behind. The illustration, parable, that Christ gave about this is found in Luke 15:11-24, here's the way it goes. *"Then He said, [that's our Lord*

speaking] *A certain man had two sons.* [I always call them Frick and Frack, the older and the younger] *And the younger one [ole Frack] he said to his pop, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that fall to me.'*” He wanted his inheritance now. You know, normally the older son would inherit two-thirds, the younger son one-third. Frack wanted his one-third now. *“So the father divided his livelihood with them,”* and it says, *“Not many days after the younger son gathered together everything that he had and he took a journey to a far country, and there he wasted his possessions with riotous living”* What did he do? Well, I can assure you he fornicated a lot, he got drunk, he carried on, he did crazy stuff. He blew all his money, he had no money left, and I would be willing to wager that there's an invisible friend that went along with him, probably encouraged him to do this. The Bible says in Luke 15:14, *“When he spent it all [here comes divine discipline] there arose a severe famine in the land and he began to be in want. And then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country [he had to take a job to feed himself] and the citizen sent him into the field to feed pigs and he would gladly have filled his stomach with the slop the pigs ate because nobody gave him any food. And when he came to himself he said, How many of my father's hired servants [this is an attitude adjustment because of divine discipline] have bread enough to spare and I'm dying from hunger? I will arise and go to my father and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I'm not worthy any more to be called your son. Just make me a hired servant.'”* This may be you. Maybe you went down the My Way Highway and your life took a horrible turn. You are miserable. Go back to your Heavenly Father and confess your sin, 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all of our wrongdoing.”* *“And he arose [verse 20] and came to his father and when he was still a great way off, his father saw him.”* Look, I can imagine one of the slaves said, *“There's a beggar coming up the driveway, should I run him off?”* The father took a look and said, *“No that's my boy.”* He's probably dirty, hasn't had a bath, no shoes or clean clothes. *“The father saw him and had compassion and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.”* **This is exactly what God will do for you. He loves you so much.** *“And the son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight and I'm no longer worthy to be called your son,' and the father said to the servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him and put a ring back on his hand, sandals back on his feet. Get the fatted calf over there and kill it. Let's have a party and be merry for my son was dead, but he's alive again. He was lost and now he's been found.' and they began to be merry.”* He wasn't dead physically, he was not advancing in the plan of God. Both of these boys were sons. One was lascivious and the other legalistic. The sin of self-righteousness is just as bad as the sin of wanton debauchery. One left home on the My Way Highway and the other was already on the My Way Highway living at home with his father with unrealistic expectations about who he was. So this is the question, where are you? Who are you? Have you abandoned God's plan for your life? He still loves you. All you have to do is come home to the Father, confess your sin, and He will be faithful and just to forgive you. He didn't take your eternal life away but you sure may be miserable today because of how you're living. Next week, same time, same place. Thank you for listening today.

America The Dying Nation

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 652 aired on March 4, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I am your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes stay tuned for some inspiration, education and no manipulation. Just information that is designed to help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. It all starts with the good news that Christ Jesus, the anointed Son of God, redeemed all of us out of the slave market of sin. Our debt to God has been paid and we are now free of the penalty of death and of the power of sin if we receive Christ as our Savior accepting the offering that He made on our behalf. It's a free gift complements of God. Ephesians 2:8-9, *"You are saved by grace through faith and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, not of works lest any man would brag about it."* Titus 3:5-7 repeats it, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord, so that being justified by His grace [there it is again] we would be made heirs according to the confidence of eternal life."* It all starts with the greatest decision any human being could ever make and this is the decision to believe in Christ as Savior. Why is this important? Because *"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things are passed away and all things become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). You can start a new life today. In spite of the mistakes, in spite of the problems, in spite of the difficulties, you can begin over today. It's the most wonderful thing in the world to know when you go to bed at night that you have a clean, fresh slate with God and you have the privilege of building on this a new life in Christ Jesus. Now I'd like to talk to you today about something that I taught many years ago to a big meeting with administrators, educational people that I was talking with and this is still a topic that's true today. I try not to get into politics on the show and this is not going to be very political but there are some things that I need to say in regard to America, a dying nation. It doesn't take a genius to see that we are split and torn apart at the seams. It doesn't take a genius to see the trouble that lies ahead if we continue to go down the road we're going down of hatred, bitterness, and animosity toward one another. In the middle of the political spectrum there is all of this partisanship and America is actually a torn country. Proverbs 23:7 tells us, *"As a man thinks in his heart, so he is."* Proverbs 27:19, *"The heart of the man reflects the real man."* Jeremiah 17:9 says, *"Our heart is deceitful above all things."* It's a heart problem in America. **America has a serious heart problem, not where we need a doctor, we need the Lord Jesus Christ to change our hearts. You know, a nation is only as great as the virtue of its people and the integrity of the ones that govern the people.** Margaret Thatcher, the famous Prime Minister of Britain from 1979 to 1990 said this, "History taught us that freedom cannot long survive unless it's based on moral foundations." John Adams, the second president of the United States, said these words. "Our Constitution is designed for moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other type." Quoting Martin Luther the great German theologian, concerning schools in Germany, "I fear that our schools will become the

gates to hell if we take God out of them.” Somebody said concerning the recent school shootings, “Where was God?” The answer was obvious. We kicked Him out a long time ago. We told Him He is not welcome in our public schools. What do we think is going to happen? In 1993, many years ago, there was a leading cultural indicator of what's going on in this country put together by William Bennett at the Heritage Foundation. He said, “Since the 60s the population has increased [probably almost 50% by this time, it was 41% in those days]. The gross domestic product has tripled [more than that now] and total social spending on all levels of government rose from about \$142 billion to \$787 billion, fivefold [that was in 1993, I don't really know what it is today but it hasn't gone down.] And here's the shocking thing, during the same 30 year period from 1960 to 1993 violent crime increased over 500%. There was more than a 400% increase in illegitimate births. There was a quadrupling of divorce, a 200% increase in teenage suicide [more than that today], a 75% drop in SAT scores and today 30% of all births are illegitimate.” And this was in 1993. It's worse today, I'm sure. We are the best in the world, correct? Isn't America the greatest country in the world? Sure, we are tops in abortion, tops in divorce, tops in unwed births, and we're near the bottom in elementary and secondary achievement scores, so yeah, we're first in a lot of things that aren't very nice. William Bennett went on to say, “There's a coarseness and a callousness and a cynicism, a banality, and a vulgarity to our times and worst of all it has to do with our children.” Since social media has come along, it's out of control. It's unbelievable the way Satan has been able to manipulate Americans, manipulate moms and dads to allow their children to get involved in social media. They can find anything at any time of the day, anywhere, anytime. You know, we've lost our gratitude in America. We've become so occupied with our personal success. You know, sometimes we give a token response to God, like the nod to God crowd, “Hello God, goodbye God, We'll see you next Sunday God, I hope you enjoy my 10%,” this sort of stuff. This attitude of gratitude is not there and it doesn't really cause most Americans any concern about what's going on. I mean, who's to blame for this sort of trend, this preoccupation with the gifts and the slandering of the Giver? Is it the liberal laws of our land? Is it the politicians? “Oh, I know,” someone said. “It's the music and entertainment industry.” Other people may tell you, “It's the drugs and alcohol,” and someone else may say, “It's all the abundant materialism in America.” Well the solution is much simpler than those things. **The problem is we have failed to execute the mandates of God. In Hosea 4:1-6 a dying nation's condemnation is given by the prophet Hosea, “There is a lack of knowledge of God in the land,” and this is what's happening in America today.** The spiritual life is not explained and it's not exploited by people in the pulpit, and it is not executed by moms and dads. In Hosea 4:1- 6, no one is hungry. They are all full, full of prosperity, living the good life, concentrating on the gifts not the Giver. This is what's happening in America. **We're distracted by all of our prosperity. There may be a short-term acknowledgment of God and temporary appreciation but there's no love affair with God nor His Word.** This is the critical thing, too much ritual, not enough reality. Let me be the first to tell you that ritual without reality is totally meaningless. There's an absence of zeal for things

of God. There's a complete lack of exploitation of the spiritual life in this country. You know when the late novelist Walker Percy asked what was concerning him most about the future of this country, he said these words, "Probably the fear of seeing America with all of its great strength and beauty and freedom gradually subside into decay through default and be defeated, not by the communists, but from within by weariness, boredom, cynicism, greed, and in the end helplessness before its great problems that will consume it." And William Bennett, Secretary of Education from 1985-1989, said, "What affects us most is corruption of the heart, turning away in the soul. Our aspirations, our affections, and our desires are turned toward the wrong things and only when we turn them toward the right things, toward the enduring things, noble things, spiritual things will we get any better as a nation." In Revelation 3:15-16 God puts it this way, "*I know thy works, you are not hot and you are not cold. Since you're just lukewarm I will spew you out of My mouth.*" In Revelation 2:4, "*You left your first love.*" Micah writes in Micah 3:4, "*Then they shall cry unto the Lord and He will not hear them. He will hide His face from them at that time as they have behaved ill in their doings.*" There will come a time in America when we are going to need Him and no one is going to get an answer to his prayer. David A. Clark was named the Sheriff of the Year in 2013 and the Law Enforcement Leader of the Year in 2016, a pretty amazing individual. This is what he says about America and he talks about children and marriages and homes in an article that I just was sent. This article was published under the special report called, *Changing the Culture is a Matter of Faith not Politics*, and this is what we need to change the culture in America. This is what Sheriff Clark says, "Proverbs 3:5-6 explains how life is made easier by trusting God instead of trusting in your emotions. Here's what it says, '*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, don't lean to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your path.*' Believe me in all my years of law enforcement, the people I've encountered would benefit from listening to some Biblical wisdom, especially as it pertains to marriage. One in eight children with married parents live below the poverty line compared to five in ten who live with just a single mom. The government can't fix what's wrong with us as human beings. We need a spiritual solution as poor, less educated Americans turn their back on faith at a far greater rate than the wealthy, educated Americans and the culture begins to split wide open. In this nation, those who work hard to finish school, get married, stay married are very rarely poor. Food stamps, Medicaid, soup kitchens, good intentions, or even hundreds of billions of dollars of government money cannot raise the people out of poverty. It's time politicians acknowledge the limitation of government and the role of religion." Very true, and I agree with this except our politicians are never going to acknowledge this because they have been intimidated by the anti-God society. The Freedom from Religion Foundation sues anytime anybody in a government office or a place of responsibility from the military to the police department take a stand for Jesus Christ, put a Bible on their desk, put a "We Believe in God We Trust" sticker on their car, there's a lawsuit coming down the pipe and especially if a teacher were to read the Bible to the students or the teacher were to talk about God to the students. My wife was a teacher for many years and retired as a teacher. She was told by

the administration that if she brought up anything about God to the students or talked about God to the students that she could be dismissed. **What are some of the indications of a nation that is dying? One is crisis in government and unrestrained lawlessness.** There are certain parts of cities that you cannot even go in alone. In America today, we are a third world nation in some cities. I've been in parts of Houston, I have been in cities in Louisiana and Alabama, I have ridden with police officers and seen it for myself, people walking around at 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning, pushing babies and carriages. I asked the police officer, "When do they go to bed?" His answer to me was, "They just got up." He said, "You can come down here in the morning at 10 o'clock, you won't see a soul. They are up all night and sleep all day." Unrestrained lawlessness, the things that I saw that night were amazing. There's a crisis in government. There's a split in government. There's a hatred, there's a vilification, slander, lying, it's unbelievable, people trying to regain the power that they've lost. We have an undisciplined economy where credit cards are consuming us, swallowing us up whole. We sink ourselves into credit card debt. This is an indication of a dying nation. I hear ads constantly on the radio and you know this as well where the advertiser says, "It's not your fault that you have all this credit card debt. They take advantage of you so call us and we'll help you get rid of your debt and you don't even have to pay it all back," and this is a lie. You do have to pay it all back. The rise of bureaucracy which is government interference, the decline in education where average SAT scores and ACT scores are many, many points lower than they use to be, our cultural foundation has weakened in America so that everything that use to be good in this country is now evil and everything that use to be evil is now being turned to good. My own pastor made this point very clear to me. You can look at the trends of history and you can see it. **The respect for tradition begins to die off in a dying country.** No longer do we respect the service of our military members. No longer do we respect Easter or Christmas or anything like this. Traditions that made America great begin to go by the side. Cultural foundations weaken, respect for tradition dies, materialism increases. You know, the strange thing about it is unhappy people take their unhappiness with them wherever they go. You can't avoid it. Do you know why you're unhappy? Because you haven't learned the secret to happiness. You know, our Lord told the disciples in John 15:11, "*My joy I give to you so that your joy may be full.*" There was never a day in the life of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ that He was unhappy. He had adversity every day, He had conflict every day, but He was always happy. The disciples had to learn how to have happiness in the middle of adversity. Paul wrote about the secret to contentment. He said, "Whether I've got a lot or whether I've got a little, it doesn't really make any difference" (Philippians 4:12). This is not the secret to happiness, things that you have or don't have. **The real secret to happiness as Luke 11:27-28 says, "Happiness belongs to people who hear My Father's Word and keep it."** This is the secret to happiness, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). Jesus said in John 15:7, "*If you abide in Me and My words abide in you,*" you can have some great happiness but we've ignored this. We're not interested in this. Even our churches have become little brief sessions, a lot of singing, a lot of emotion, and only a little bit of teaching.

Unless we get back to teaching the mechanics of the plan of God, unless we're able to expose our children to the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and give them the guidelines that God sets forth concerning marriage, family, nationalism, freedom, it doesn't take a genius to see we're losing the country. America is in great trouble. You may have heard me say on this radio show before, there's a train wreck coming and I can hear the whistle blowing already. What can you do to change it? You can become a spiritually mature believer. You can, *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,"* and you can be part of the solution with an invisible impact, a historical impact in this nation. **As a member of the pivot, you can deliver us in times of disaster.** God is looking for a few good men. I always think about the passage in Ezekiel 22:30 where He said, *"I look for somebody to stand in the gap and make up the hedge before the people and I could not even find one."* Can our God count on you to make up the gap? Can He count on you to stand in the hedge and defend Him, stand for His Word, live by His principles, grow in grace? You know, immorality increasing is another indication of a dying nation. Immorality is rampant today. You don't need me to go into what all it is but you can read it for yourself in Ephesians 5:3-18, it's rampant. It's not endorsed by God, it's used by Satan to lure our young people into a life of sin and bondage. Immorality increases, yes. Human life begins to be devalued in a nation that's dying. Today there are groups of criminals within this country who are initiated by a one sucker knockout punch or a one-shot kill just to prove that they have what it takes to be a member the gang. It is nothing for someone to be shot, to be murdered, to be pounced upon, and to be beat in some places, major cities or not so major cities just so someone can prove that they are worthy to be in a particular gang. Human life is devalued. People are murdered and folks laugh about it. People are murdered and their cars are stolen and they're shot and they're robbed and the criminal laughs about it because most of the time, even if he's caught, he gets away with it a lot of the times because there's not any room to put them in the jail. It is a crazy life because our jails are packed full. Here's another sign, the military begins to be dismantled. Politicians complain about spending too much money on the military and not enough money on the social programs. Of course they want more money to go to the social programs so those who receive the social programs will vote for them. This is how they maintain their power, they need more people to vote for them. They don't really care about those people. They only care about themselves. They care about the power they possess and the money they possess, but in order to manipulate the voters, they must use these things as bait in their lives and so they oppose the buildup of the military. Thank the Lord we have a president that's working toward building our military up today. We are the most unique nation in the history of the world. We are the most unique species in the history of the world. Who is? **Christians, we live a unique lifestyle, it's not a normal lifestyle. We actually have the ability to live a life without worry, without fear, without intimidation, we can live like this.** The Christian life is the life that our Savior Jesus Christ bequeathed to us. He gave it to us. He lived it, He demonstrated it, and He passed it on to us. He told us that the Holy Spirit would come and He would teach us and lead us. As you grow in grace by doing what the Bible tells you to do,

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* *“Take My yoke and learn of Me”* (Matthew 11:29). As you grow, as you study, as you learn, then your whole self is changed. You begin to have new goals, new aspirations, you think differently. You begin to be oriented to what we call divine viewpoint thinking. Thinking with the mind of Christ as Philippians 2:5 instructs you to do, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”* You’re different, you’ve accepted Christ, you’re growing in grace, your whole attitude is changing, and you’re being challenged at every place, every corner, every time you turn a street, you’re challenged. Satan is well aware of you. He’s well aware of your potential. He’s well aware of your growth assets. He will do anything he can to distract you. Again I remind you. **You are the solution to what’s going on in this nation. Your spiritual life will deliver us or your lack of spiritual life means that you will not be a member of the pivot.** You will not be a member of this group of individuals that sustains this nation. You will have no historical impact and no invisible impact. You will not live the professional spiritual life as you should. **Yes, we have the most unique assets through the Bible. We have the filling of the Holy Spirit. We have the canon of Scripture that’s alive.** *“The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword”* (Hebrews 4:12). We have qualified men who are pastors that have been given the gift if they will use it and study and prepare and teach. We have a unique lifestyle where we don’t have to have any stress, where we have a great virtue in our soul by means of grace orientation. We treat people in grace and Biblical orientation. We use the Word of God in our soul. These are problem-solving devices. We have a unique set of problems, yes, but we have wonderful problem-solving devices. That’s what The FLOT Line is teaching you, God’s problem-solving devices so that you can in fact live this most wonderful life using the problem-solving devices, replicating the life of Christ, representing Christ to your friends, to your neighbors, and glorifying God with every thought, every decision, every action that you take. This is what God is looking for, a few good men or women. This is what God is looking for because without this, you can kiss this nation goodbye. It’s obvious, we’re on the way out and there will come a time when we will plea and cry for God to help us and He won’t hear us. Proverbs 1 and 2, you can read these two chapters and see it for yourself, it’s coming. **Now is the time for us to change. Now is the time for us to repent, change our mind, and get back to the good things that established this nation to begin with.** It’s my prayer that you’re listening. It’s my prayer that you’re paying attention. I ask you to pray for this great nation, to pray for our president, for our leaders, to pray for our governors, to pray for our teachers. Pray that God would spare us before we destroy ourselves as we ignore His Word, as we ignore His plan, as we wander down the My Way Highway. It is a dead end for sure. We are a dying nation. I hope you’re paying attention. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Patience

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 653 aired on March 11, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like to give you a cordial invitation to stay tuned. Stick with me, about 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education and we always do this without any solicitation. The FLOT line, the forward line of troops, F.L.O.T. is a military metaphor. It's all about you building up inside your soul an invisible, defensive barrier called a FLOT line made up of 10 unique problem-solving devices. When you learn these Biblical problem-solving devices then you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress because we know adversity is obviously inevitable, but stress is actually preventable. It's optional, you don't have to have stress. That's what's so unique about the Christian life. It's a unique way to live with no worry, no fear, no guilt, no bitterness. It's a different way to live and so I try to remind you of these Biblical truths and introduce you to this new way of studying God's Word, digging in and learning God's Word without any type of manipulation. It starts first of all with the great news, the wonderful news that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, has redeemed all of us out of the slave market of sin. This means He paid the price for our sin, paid the penalty for our sin. *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we might be made the righteousness of God through Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). When we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior, we in effect accept the great grace offering He made for us on our behalf, the free gift of eternal life complements of the grace of God. Ephesians 2:8-9, *"For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it's a gift from God and not of works lest any man would brag about it."* The death and the burial of Jesus Christ and His ultimate resurrection demonstrated to us that He is in fact the Son of God and that what He says to you is true. You can believe it. You can trust it. He's not a lunatic. He's not a liar. He is the Son of God. Titus 3:5-7 says, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration [that's making us into new people] and the renewing of the Holy Spirit [that's the Holy Spirit coming to live inside of you] which He shed on us abundantly through Christ our Lord and that being justified by means of His grace [not works, grace] we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* There it is, it's a wonderful free gift from God. Today we want to take a look at something that's very critical for Christians, critical for us to understand. There are two doctrines that most Christians never really hear taught. One of them is arrogance, sins of arrogance and how arrogance goes from self-justification to self-deception to self-absorption to eventually self-destruction. Very few pastors ever really preach on arrogance. They may preach on sin but not the sin of arrogance. The other one that you rarely hear any pastor, any evangelist, anybody teach is patience. **Patience is a wonderful virtue taught in the Bible.** It's a great virtue and I'd like to talk to you about this today and to challenge you in regard to your lack of patience. In Psalm 37:7 we have these words written by David, ***"Rest in the Lord."*** Rest means having a relaxed mental attitude. This is one of the great

things about the Christian life, having an RMA, a relaxed mental attitude. If you have a relaxed mental attitude that means you're thinking divine viewpoint. You're orienting to the grace of God. "Rest" and then we have the prepositional phrase "in the Lord." "Rest in the Lord" and then "wait patiently for Him." Rest and wait, two fantastic verbs here. "Wait patiently," that's the faith-rest drill, that's a promise of God. That's one of our promises of the 10 problem-solving devices. Problem-solving device #3 is the faith-rest drill. By the way, we have a book that lists all 10 of these problem-solving devices for you. It's called *Christian Problem Solving*. It's absolutely free. Contact us if you want it. Rest and wait, two keywords for you. Have a relaxed mental attitude and wait for Him on faith. I'll read it again. "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him. Fret not thyself because of him who prospers in his way because of the man who brings wicked devices to pass." David is saying don't worry about the evil man. Don't worry about what he does. Let the Lord handle it. Just rest and wait on God to handle the difficulties and the adversities that you face in your life. If I read it in the New Living Translation it says, "Be still [this means don't run ahead of God] Be still in the presence of the Lord and wait patiently [there's the word again] for Him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes." The Old Testament Hebrew word for patience is *chuwl*. **By definition the word patience is the capacity or the habit of enduring evil, enduring adversity, enduring pain with some sort of fortitude. It's you having forbearance under stress, under provocation or under indignity.** To deal with this the Bible uses three different words in the Greek New Testament. Remember, the New Testament was written in Greek, the Old Testament was written in Aramaic and Hebrew. The three different words for patience in the New Testament are very interesting and that's what I'd like to run by you right now because anytime you see the word patience in the Bible, it's going to be one of these three words in the New Testament, one of the three. If you just go to the index of your Bible, look up patience and see all the verses that have patience in it. We only translate into one word in the English, patience, but it means something different in the Greek so let's take a look at it. The first word for patience, I'll go to Hebrews 12:1, "Because seeing that we are also compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that doth beset us, and run the race that is easily in front of us, run the race with patience." In other words, run the race and be able to handle the circumstances that we face. Listen to it again, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us [or the circumstances we face]." "Run with patience" there it is again. The word patience in this verse is a Greek word pronounced *hupomeno*, actually *hupomone* but it's from the Greek word *meno*. It's a compound verb, *hupo* means under and *meno* is to abide, so it's to abide under. This has to do with, listen, the circumstances you face in your life. **You must have patience with circumstances, you must be steadfast. You must be consistent. You must have endurance and that's the key to living the Christian life.** You can't get knocked off balance. You can't get knocked out of shape. You've got to be able to be stable, firm, and secure in your Christian life,

hupomone, Hebrews 12:1. Then we go to another verse, another word that we see is *makrothumia* and that's a compound word from *makros* that is the word long and *thuma* which is temper. This word is translated **longsuffering and means to have longanimity, to be patient with people.** *Humpomone* is patience under circumstances and *makrothumia* is being patient with people. I was studying this word patience and found that a couple of famous Biblical scholars in the 1800s, Abbott, Smith and Trench, stated that the *humpomone* word expresses patience with regard to adverse circumstances and *makrothumia* expresses patience with antagonistic people, so it's the same as I just told you. One is patience with people, *makrothumia*. One is patience with circumstances, *hupomone*. Then you've got to ask the question, how does my patience grow? There is one more word for patience, we'll get to that here in just a second. **How does your patience grow? In trials the Bible tells us in Luke 21:15-19 where you develop patience over your emotions in testing. You don't let your emotions take control of you.** You have patience over your emotions. **Your patience grows in undeserved suffering, 1 Peter 2:20, where you respond, not react to the pressure.** See anytime something happens, a trial or some undeserved suffering, you can react with anger, frustration, bitterness, or you can respond by waiting and being patient. Rest and wait, have a relaxed mental attitude. Wait patiently using the faith-rest drill. Respond with an RMA using the faith-rest drill. If you don't, then you're going to get into panic palace and you're going to try to handle it yourself. If God puts you under testing, it is designed to teach you patience in circumstances. **The development of patience in the spiritual life, James 1:4, is needed to reach spiritual maturity. You can't be a spiritually mature believer until you become patient with people and with circumstances.** In 2 Thessalonians 3:5, *"The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ."* **"Patience of Christ" is divine viewpoint thinking. It's having the same mind that He had.** If there was anybody that was ever patient, it is the Lord Jesus Christ dealing with the disciples. We know them as the apostles. We know them as amazing men of God but to tell you the truth, He probably knew them as a bunch of knuckleheads. I mean you've got a group of fishermen, a couple of tax collectors and whatever else He had in the middle of all that mix and they were hardheaded. They didn't get along with each other. They competed for attention and wanted the best seat in the Kingdom when it came. The Lord was very patient with these men, developing them and bringing them along, teaching them the divine way of thinking, to have the same mind that He had. Paul eventually wrote back to Timothy in Colossians 1:9-11, *"For this reason, we also, since the day we heard it, don't cease to pray for you and ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."* Now he's actually writing this letter to the church at Colossi and listen to this last verse, *"Strengthened with all might according to His glorious power [this is the Holy Spirit combined with the Word of God in your soul] for all patience and longsuffering with joy."* Paul uses both words here, *hupomone* and *makrothumia*. *"Strengthened with all might [that's the Holy Spirit and God's Word resident in your soul] according to His*

glorious power for all.” *Hupomone* and *makrothumia*, patience with circumstances and patience with people. The last two words “*with joy*,” not complaining, not being bitter, not griping, The next word we want to look at for patience is the word *anochē*, it’s translated forbearance. **Forbearance means to hold back, a delay of punishment. It’s a quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or punish. It’s the opposite of anger and it’s associated with mercy.** Listen as I describe God having forbearance, *anochē*, 1 Peter 3:20, “*God waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared in which eight souls were saved by water.*” God waited, God had forbearance, *anochē*. Romans 2:4, “*Or despises thou the riches of His goodness and the forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads to repentance,*” Paul wrote. Forbearance, *anochē* and longsuffering, *makrothumia*. This is God being patient with people, patient with me and you, not getting frustrated when we fail, not getting frustrated when we sin, not giving up on us, not throwing us under the bus, not turning His back on us, but patiently loving us. Do you despise the riches of His goodness, His forbearance, His longsuffering, His patiently waiting on us dealing with all us weirdos? Don’t we know the goodness of God leads to repentance as the verse says. Here are some principles. **1. Patience avoids emotional sins and frustrations.** If you have divine patience you won’t be letting your emotions run your life, control your life and you won’t be getting frustrated. **2. Patience maintains confidence in God’s perfect timing, not your timing, His timing.** See, God has a right time and a right place. You may make it up but it might not be His time. It’s true in prayer. You can ask what you want, but it might not be the right time that God wants to give it to you. **3. Your faith will be tested and through it your patience will increase.** This is what God does, He tests us, He teaches us, this is how we grow and we have to patiently wait on the answers. We have to patiently seek His will. **4. Patience is divine good production that is rewardable at the Judgment Seat of Christ.** This will surprise you but patience is divine good and it can be gold, silver and precious stones. It is actually part of the filling of the Holy Spirit, patience is. If you demonstrate patience in your life, it’s rewardable in eternity. God will reward you for this under 1 Corinthians 3:11-16, wood, hay, and stubble or gold, silver, and precious stones. That patience that you demonstrate with your wife or with your husband, with your children, with your church friends, that’s rewardable. You didn’t go off the handle, you didn’t get angry, you didn’t fly into a rage, you didn’t yell at them, you waited patiently for them to get it straight and understand it. Paul writes in Titus 2 that Timothy is to teach sound doctrine so the older men in the congregation will learn patience, among other important doctrines. I’ll read it to you, Titus 2:1-2, “*But as for you [dear Timothy in other words] speak the things that are proper for solid sound doctrine,*” not weird stuff, solid sound doctrine. That’s one of the things happening in our country today. Men and women have moved away from solid, sound doctrine and we’ve gone for the weird stuff. “*But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine so that the older men be sober.*” Now, this is a metaphor for being in good health. It means their spiritual life is free from error, it’s not talking about not being drunk. “*That they be sober [which means they be under self-control], that they be reverent [or*

dignified], *and they be temperate* [in control of their senses, curbing their desires, curbing their impulses]. These are the first three things, teach sound doctrine so the older men who have a tendency to lose their self-control won't lose it, who have a tendency not to act very dignified will act dignified, and who have a tendency to not curb their desires will in fact curb their desires. The Word of God gives you the power to obey these things, to control yourself, to act dignified and to curb your desires. Then he goes on to say, "*And that they may be sound in faith and in love and in patience.*" Sound in faith, sound in love and sound in patience. This is what Timothy is suppose to teach, God's sound, solid Word to the older man in the congregation. Sound, *hugiaino* is the Greek word, and this means healthy spiritually, not given to error. This means not letting their emotions take over and trying to tell you that a great Christian is somebody that cries and comes to the altar every night. That's not necessarily true. Christians may cry and come to the altar but that doesn't make them great Christians. "*That they would be sound in faith,*" doctrine they've learned, doctrine they've applied. It doesn't do any good to learn it if you don't apply it. You have to learn and apply if you're going to glorify. **Remember this as LAG - learn it, apply it, and glorify God.** They need to be sound in faith, sound in love, understanding what it means to abide in His love where Jesus said, "*If you abide in Me [My love] and My word abides in you, My Father is glorified*" (John 15:7). I mean this is a most amazing study. If you don't understand personal and impersonal love as part of the problem-solving devices, it's impossible for you to live the Christian life effectively while you're in the devil's world. You must understand personal and impersonal love. Personal love is your motivational virtue, why you obey God. "*If you love Me, you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard*" (1 John 5:3). Impersonal love is you reciprocating the love of God to those that you're around. You love them based on who you are, not based on who they are. It's the same way God loves you. He loves you based on His character, not yours. If you think God loved you because you're a wonderful person, you're out in left field. You were a sinner, lost, on your way to hell but He loved you so much that He sent His Son to die for you, to take your place, to be punished in your stead. By means of His death and burial and eventually His resurrection where He walked out of there alive, He demonstrated that He indeed paid the price. Understanding God's love is critical for any Christian because it's not an emotional thing, it's a spiritual thing you must know. If you don't understand it, let me know. Let me get you some material on it. Let me tell you where you can go to study it because there are some great pastors that have taught a lot on this and it will change your life once you understand personal and impersonal love. Sound in faith, sound in love, sound in patience, *hupomone*, patience with circumstances. This is the patience the older men need. They don't like change, they don't want change, they don't like this new preacher, they don't like that the young people came in and want to change the church, do this or that. You know, older people often aren't very patient because they know they don't have a lot of time left and they want to get it done and get it done now. Not every old person is willing to go out and sit under the juniper tree and fish for a bream, they want to get going. Humility, objectivity, and patience all combine to bring into focus the faith-rest drill in your life. **Humility,**

you have enough humility to listen to a qualified pastor teach you the Word of God. Objectivity, you're not subjective, you don't take everything personal. Then patiently you grow day after day, moment by moment, week after week until you replicate the life of Christ. Patience is a divine characteristic of our merciful Savior and it should be your characteristic too. Paul taught this in Colossians 1:10-12 as some of the concepts of the mission God assigns to us, *“Walk worthy of our Lord, to be fully pleasing to Him, to be fruitful, to increase in knowledge, to be strengthened with His might of all of His glory, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.”* There it is again, patience with people, patience with circumstances, and to have joy in spite of all. **The Holy Spirit is the only one who can produce this sort of patience in the form of a relaxed mental attitude which is where the joy comes from.** Arrogant people don't have any patience. Arrogant people don't have any joy. Arrogant people don't have any impersonal love. Arrogant people are going to be losers in time, not in eternity. They have eternal life, they will be there, but in time they are losing out on all the rewards. They are losing out in any opportunity to glorify God. They are losing out on any truly wonderful, genuine friendships in Christ because they're not patient with people or with circumstances. *“God is longsuffering not wanting any to perish”* (2 Peter 3:9). That's the *anoke* word I showed you. Remember this, when you read the Bible you will see the word patience and it will be one of these three words: *makrothumia*, *hupomone* or *anoke*, all right? I hope you enjoyed this and learned something today. I hope you come back next week, same time, same place. Until then, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Divine Discipline

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 654 aired on March 18, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like to ask you to stay tuned. Stay with me, a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education, and if you've listened before you know we do it without any manipulation. No solicitation, just 30 minutes of education, that's all. My job is to verify and identify the plan of God for your life. Your job, if you decide to accept it, is to orient and adjust to the plan. The plan always starts with the good news that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, has redeemed you and me out of the slave market of sin. Our debt to God has been paid and we are now free from the penalty of death. We are free from the power of sin in our life. By receiving Jesus Christ as our Savior, we in effect accept the offering Christ made on our behalf and that offering was a free gift from God complements of God's grace. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9, *"For by grace are you saved through faith. It's a gift of God and not of works lest any man would brag about it."* No one can brag about it because Titus 3:5 says, *"Not by works of righteousness which we did, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, which He shed on us abundantly through Christ our Lord."* That's us, that's you, that's me, having received Christ as Savior. Last week we talked about eternal security, how you could know for sure that you're saved, how nobody is going to take it away from you. We went through a lot of different verses, a lot of different things, and it was great to get some correspondence from listeners who said, "Thank you," that it cleared up a question they had. Let me remind you that you're not going to lose the free gift that God gave you. If you could lose it, then you had to do something to earn it. If you had to do something to earn it, it's not free. Look at it this way. If you've got to do something to keep it, then you had to do something to get it. It's a free gift from God. When you receive Christ as your Savior, when you put your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, His death, burial, and His resurrection, then you are planted into God's royal family and He's not going to kick you out. He's not going to disown you. Jesus said, *"My Father is greater than all"* (John 20:29), and *"No man can pluck you out of My Father's hand"* (John 10:29). Paul wrote and said, *"Even if we believe not, yet God still abides faithful for He cannot deny Himself"* (2 Timothy 2:13). There is something that I want to bring to your attention. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and you've accepted Him as your Savior then you may be experiencing some trying times in your life and it may not be for what you think it is. There's something in the Bible called divine discipline. **It's good to know about divine discipline because sometimes the difficulties and the pain that we experience, the suffering we go through, is God putting discipline into our lives.** Let me give you a definition of divine discipline. **Divine discipline is the sum total of God's punitive action taken by His justice and He always does it in grace because He loves you.** He does it to correct us, to encourage us, to train us, to motivate us to live His plan when we stay out of fellowship. Some people call staying out of fellowship back-sliding, I call it going into reversionism. In other words, you revert and go backwards. **When you get out of fellowship through sin, you bring suffering into your life. If we don't use the most common problem-solving device of rebound, problem-solving device number one, if we continue in our state of carnality or reversionism as we call it, then we're going to suffer.** We're going to go under

divine discipline. All of this is taught in Hebrews 12:3-11. I want you to think about this for a minute in regard to your own life and things you may be going through. In Hebrews 12:5 the Bible clearly says, *“Have you forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto sons? My son [the writer of Hebrews said] despise thou not the chastening of the Lord nor faint when you are rebuked of Him, for whom the Lord loves He chastens and He scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with His sons for what son is he whom the father does not chasten? But if you are without discipline [or chastisement] of which all are partakers, then you are a bastard [that's in the Bible by the way, so don't faint], you are a bastard and not a son. Furthermore we've had fathers of our flesh who corrected us and we gave them reverence. Shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits and live?”* This is teaching divine discipline. **Divine discipline always comes in three stages. The first stage of divine discipline is called the warning stage. This is where God will warn you that you're out of line and He will seek to get your attention. It might not be painful, it's the warning stage. The second stage is the painful stage, intense discipline, and this is when the Father has to take you out behind the woodshed to get your attention and it's not fun. The third stage of divine discipline is dying and this is called the sin unto death. This is for the believer who is incorrigible and uncorrectable. God can and does have the option to remove him and bring him home to heaven before he screws up the life of everybody else he's in contact with.** When we get out of fellowship through sin, then we bring suffering on ourselves if we don't rebound and recover from the sin. I want you to make a note that **divine discipline must be distinguished from the law of volitional responsibility. You know the law of volitional responsibility says, “As a man soweth, so he reaps” (Galations 6:7). You may have suffering in your life from self-imposed, self-induced, self-indulged forms of misery, things that you did, decisions that you made, bad decisions that you made, and they destroyed future options in your life.** They may bring about tremendous misery that you manufactured yourself and you have to take the responsibility for this. This may not be divine discipline. The discomfort and the misery and unhappiness may only last for a short period of time. You can get out of it. You can recover. You can reconsider what you did. You can even relocate if it's necessary. Sometimes your suffering is a result of your own bad, rotten, crummy decisions that you made. If you continue in your sin and if you don't own up to the sin, if you don't confess the sin, then the Father will bring divine discipline into your life. The first would be the warning stage. This may be where you're listening to a pastor in a church and you'll think, “You know, somebody told this preacher all about me. Somebody told this preacher what I'm doing. Somebody let him in on my secrets.” No they did not. That's God the Holy Spirit speaking to you. It's God the Holy Spirit giving you a warning. It's not the preacher, he doesn't know you. He hasn't snooped into your business. It's God the Holy Spirit alerting you to the fact that you have not pulled the wool over God's eyes, He knows exactly what you're doing. You may be carrying on some sort of nefarious thing behind someone else's back. Maybe you have a business and you're siphoning a little money out of there and you think nobody knows about it. Maybe you're having an affair, you think nobody knows about it. Maybe you are lying to someone, you think no one knows about it. It is tax season and you may have a tendency to want to lie to the federal government so you don't have to pay as many taxes. Listen, God knows everything. He's omniscient, He's all-knowing. So when you persist in hiding sin in your life, you are going to be

warned by God. It may be a road sign. It maybe a book you're reading. It may be a movie you're watching, or it may be a pastor you're listening to but God the Holy Spirit will use that person, that individual, that sign, that book, to let you know you are out of line. You need to recover. You need to get back with it and use problem-solving device number one, the rebound technique. **Rebound is taught in 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing.”** The big word is “if.” We go back to volitional responsibility. “*If we confess,*” and confess is a word that’s used in the Greek New Testament. It’s not really found in the English. It’s a compound word, *homo* meaning the same and *legeo*, to say the same. Now we use *homo* in the English language, homosexual, but this is not that word. This word is confess, if we say the same. In other words God wants you to own up to what you're doing. He wants you to admit it to Him. Quit trying to hide it. Quit trying to sneak around and thinking He doesn't know about it. If you go to Him and admit it, the Bible says He will be faithful. It means He'll do it every time. He's just, He doesn't compromise His righteousness by doing this. “*He is faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you from all of your wrongdoing.*” What a wonderful way to take a spiritual bath. What a wonderful way to get yourself cleansed. But if you don't do this, if you continue to persist in your secrecy, in hiding things, then you're going to come under intense discipline and this is not going to be fun. **Proverbs 3:12, “For whom the Lord loves, He judges by punitive action therefore, like a father to a son in whom he delights.”** Just as a father may have to take his son out behind the woodshed, God may have to take you there. The whole reason is to break your arrogance because it is your arrogance that keeps you from admitting your sin. You know, arrogance always goes through self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption, and eventually self-destruction if you don't get a hold of it. You have an arrogant tendency because of your relationship to Adam's original sin. **You have a sin nature and this sin nature doesn't want to obey.** When a little child, for example the mom and dad say, “Don't do that son,” and he does it anyhow, that's his little arrogant sin nature. Nobody taught him how to be disrespectful. Nobody talk him to lie to his parents. “Did you do that son?” “No, I didn't do that.” He just lied and so you have to use discipline to correct the arrogant tendencies. If you don't use discipline, then your child gets no orientation to authority and they wind up being anti-authority in their life. Discipline is critical and the same thing is true with God. **God uses discipline to give you a different attitude, an attitude adjustment. You can have genuine humility or you can have enforced humility.** Genuine humility is you doing the right thing in the right way. Enforced humility is when God has to come knocking on the door and take you out behind the woodshed to make sure you do the right thing in the right way. The punishment or the punitive action from God is designed to train you, to teach you so that you stay off of the My Way Highway, so that you stay out of your sin. If you don't, then you're going to crash and burn in your physical life. You're not going to be able to redeem the time that God has given you. You’re not going to be able to enjoy the protocol plan of God and the phenomenal things God has for you because you got into your own personal area of sin. **There are three things we face as Christians. We face the devil, the world, and the flesh, and all three of those can lead you into sin in your life.** If we go back to Hebrews 12, the Bible tells us, “*Those that God loves.*” It’s not a matter of God not loving you. God does love you and He's trying to stop you before you destroy your life or destroy someone else's life. You're a believer and He loves you. He loves you and demonstrates this in John 3:16, “*God so*

loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life." He loves you. He loved you enough to send His Son and He loves you enough to not let you self-destruct. That's why the discipline's there. This may be why you're going through the suffering you're going through today. I talked to a young man yesterday who made this statement to me, "I think I know why I'm suffering so much," and I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "Well, I know God called me to be in the ministry and I turned it down." He said, "I did my own thing and I think that's what is happening to me, why I'm under so much discipline," suffering in his life. I don't know, that's between him and God. I can't make that shot, but I can tell you this. I have seen Christians, people that I know are born-again Christians, who turn their back on God and went down the My Way Highway and they suffered mightily and they died prematurely because they would never rebound, they would never recover. In their arrogance they would never admit that they had done something wrong and the end result was a wasted life, a painful life, a miserable life, and this may be where you are today. You see, **the purpose of divine discipline is to motivate you to recover, to get back in fellowship with God because as a member of the royal family of God, if you're not in fellowship, you can't execute His plan.** Being in fellowship means that you are controlled by the Holy Spirit and the Bible warns you, "*Don't quench the Holy Spirit*" (1 Thessalonians 5:19), "*Don't grieve the Holy Spirit*" (Ephesians 4:30). The Bible tells you in Ephesians 1:13, "*You've been indwelt by the Holy Spirit,*" and there's a mission. Jesus said, "I want to send Him so He can guide you and teach you and tutor you" (John 14:26). That's the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He cannot do it with unconfessed sin in your life. Unconfessed sin in your life quenches the Holy Spirit. Unconfessed sin in your life grieves the Holy Spirit. Don't tell me you can't keep up with all of your sins. I can hear you, "I can't keep up with all my sins." Well, who can? Once you start sinning it's like chain-smoking. You do one sin after another sin, after another sin, after another sin. Listen to the verse again, "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to purify us from all wrongdoing,*" even the ones you don't remember. That's how good God is but you have to at least admit the ones you're aware of. "*If we confess,*" if we say the same, *homologeo*, the same, *logeo*, to say, *homologeo*, to say the same, tell Him what you did. "I lied." "I cheated on my taxes." "I cheated on my wife." "I did this." "I did that." He's faithful and just to forgive you. Don't go to the front of the church and do it, it's nobody else's business. If some pastor tries to get you to come up in front of the church and confess your sins to the congregation, leave. Get out of there. That's manipulation and that's not in the Bible. You go to God and you confess your sin to God and He will be faithful to forgive you. You have to grow spiritually so you can overcome these temptations because if you don't grow spiritually, if you don't get some spiritual muscle, some spiritual assets in your life, then you're going to fall right back into the same lust patterns that got you where you are. Intense discipline is going to hurt, it's painful. Then there is the sin unto death. The sin unto death is when a believer actually goes out way too soon. You can see it for example in 1 Corinthians 5. Paul had to deal with an individual in the church at Corinth who got under the sin unto death. I think I'll turn over and read it to you so you can see it, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, he says, "*It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you and such fornication as is not even named among the Gentiles [even the Gentiles, they don't do this], a man has his father's wife.*" This is sexual immorality where a young man is fornicating with his stepmother. Then it says, "*You are puffed up and have not*

rather mourned that he that did this deed would be taken away from among you. For I [Paul said] as an apostle verily as absent in the body but present in spirit, have judged this already as though I were present, and I judged the one that did this and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you gathered together and with my spirit in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, deliver this man unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh," that's death. Listen carefully to the rest of it, "so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord." He's going to die the sin unto death but he's going to be in heaven. You see 1 Corinthians 3:11 talks about a foundation, "No other foundation can we lay than the foundation which is Jesus Christ." You know, if you build a house and put it on a concrete foundation, the house can burn up but the foundation will still be there. **The foundational faith of faith alone in Christ alone is never going to be destroyed by your sin. Your physical life may be destroyed, you will destroy yourself by your own arrogance, by your self-deception and self-absorption, but the foundation, once you put your faith in Christ, is never going to go away.** You're not going to lose your salvation, but just think about what you are going to lose. You are going to lose rewards and lose time. You're not going to leave a legacy as an invisible hero. You're not going to leave a legacy as an individual that contributed to their family in a fantastic way. You're going to leave a legacy of a loser, a loser in time and a loser in eternity, losing eternal rewards and losing time because you couldn't stay out of sin. It's an age old problem, it's nothing new. We all have to fight and deal with this every day in our life. Divine discipline is warning from God that we are out of bounds and not executing God's plan. It's you getting under the cosmic system that Satan has and then the boundaries of God's plans begin to be defined in nebulous terms where you don't really know it. God has a plan for your life and let me tell you what this plan is. First of all for you to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the single greatest decision you could ever make. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). Secondly, once you believe in Christ what comes next? What am I suppose to do? That's where the Bible says, "Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). Where the Bible says, "Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). Where the Bible says, "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me. My yoke is easy, My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Study, grow, learn. **Unless you learn how to execute the protocol plan of God, you will wind up never advancing to maturity in your life. God wants you to be a mature believer. He wants you to grow in grace and be a believer that glorifies Jesus Christ to the maximum actually replicating the life of Christ by means of your life.** If you don't learn God's Word, you cannot do this. It's impossible for you to do this and that's why the Bible clearly teaches this. Listen to Hebrews 5:11-12. "I have a lot of things to say and they are hard to be uttered because you're dull of listening." This is the person in church that can't stay awake, the person that can't keep his nose out of other people's business. "For when the time you ought to be a teacher, you've now gone back to someone needs to teach you again the basic principles of God and you are much like a baby that needs a bottle of milk and can't handle a steak [can't handle solid food]." Listen, if you're going to glorify God, you've got to be able to eat meat. You've got to be able to eat the solid food. You've got to be able to take something other than three songs and a hymn and a poem. You've got to be able to submit yourself to a well-qualified pastor that can teach you the in-depth things of God. Hebrews

5:13-14 continues, *“For everyone that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, he's just a baby. But solid food belongs to them that are of full age, those who by use of reason have determined the difference between evil and good.”* You have to understand this. If you don't grow up as a believer in Jesus Christ, if you walk the fence in fellowship, out of fellowship, in fellowship, out of fellowship, you will stay under discipline your whole life. God will constantly be knocking at the door, constantly disciplining you because He can't keep your attention. That's a sad thing to say but can God keep your attention or do you have one of those wandering minds that you can never sit still? Have you sold out what could be the most fantastic life in this world because you have some hobby or some interest that's more important to you than fulfilling the plan of God? How could you do this? Do you think that's the most important thing in your life? You're kidding yourself and therefore if you're a believer in Jesus Christ and you chase the dream down the My Way Highway, you're going to get a lot of discipline. You're going to have a lot of knocking at the door with God warning you and telling you and even taking you behind the woodshed so that you suffer. You haven't even begun to suffer yet, not that He's mad at you, not that He hates you, He loves you. This whole thing about discipline is to spare you something much worse in the future. If He can just get your attention, wouldn't you do this with your own children? When you say, “Don't touch that fire, don't put your hand in that fire. If you put your hand in that fire, you're going to get burned,” and the kid says, “I'm going to put my hand in the fire anyhow, I don't believe you,” that's what you're doing. God's warned you, “Stop.” He's telling you through this message, “Stop” and you're still so hardheaded you're saying, “I'm just going to put my hand in the fire because I want to.” All right, you've heard it, you've been warned. This is why you're having the difficulties you're having. **This is why you're going through the suffering you're going through because you walked away from the plan of God. You never grew up spiritually.** You're still a baby in Jesus Christ. Yes, you're saved. Yes, you're going to heaven, but you are not living the life God designed you to live and sooner or later you're going to have to wake up and realize this. When will you do it? When will you confess your sin to God? When will you seek after a well-qualified pastor that can teach you God's Word and help you to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Every day you put it off, every day you wait is another day you lose. **That's why the Bible tells you to keep redeeming the time (Ephesians 5:16), to keep growing in grace.** I don't know how much time God gives any of us, not you, not me, not anybody but as long as you wake up this morning and you have a breath, you have an opportunity to get with it, to get with God's plan, and to get off the My Way Highway because it's a dead end in your life. You're trying to make it work, but it won't work. It never will work. It's not God's plan for your life and that's why the discipline will get harder and more intense and unless you recover, you will be checking out of here way too soon, I promise you. I hope you're listening and I hope you're learning. **Divine discipline is designed to get you back where you belong - in fellowship with God and growing in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Misguided Person

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 655 aired on March 25, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. FLOT stands for the forward line of troops. It's a military metaphor for building in your soul an invisible forward line of troops made up of 10 unique problem-solving devices found in the Bible. If you will learn them and use them they will stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. Adversity is always inevitable but stress is certainly optional for the believer in Jesus Christ. The FLOT Line is designed to remind you of these Biblical truths and introduce you to an in-depth way of studying and learning God's Word. It's all done without any type of manipulation, no solicitation, just some education and inspiration. That's my job, to verify and identify God's plan with the hope that you will orient and adjust to the plan. The plan always starts with Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, the One who redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. The Bible clearly says in Titus 3:5-6, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord."* That's how it all the starts when we believe in Christ and receive Him as our Savior, then we have to advance forward. We have to grow. I don't know how long you've been a Christian, I have no idea, but I want this to be a time of decision making in your life, you learning and growing and committing your life to God's agenda, God's plan. It's always my prayer that God the Holy Spirit will take the messages on this radio show and cause them to gel in your soul producing spiritual fruit that will glorify God to the maximum. Hopefully our Father will be really satisfied with what we do, how we live our lives. Remember in John 14:15 Jesus said, *"If you love Me, you will obey My mandates."* Remember that we have to learn these things ourselves first. I do, I have to learn the Word of God before I ever bring it to you and often the Holy Spirit has to rake me over the coals before I rake you over the coals. I have to pray and figure out how to present these things to you and not necessarily always in the most polished way. Listen, the disciples weren't great polished professors. They were not great public speakers. Most of them were just crude, rough men who made a living the hard way. Andrew was a commercial fisherman, Peter's brother. Bartholomew, Nathaniel we call him, may be a noble man by birth but not much more information is given on him other than what Jesus said, *"There is no guile in him"* (John 1:47). James was a fisherman. James, the younger brother of Jude, was a common laborer who was a carpenter. John, the brother of James, the elder son of Zebedee, was a fisherman. Judas may have been a Jewish nationalist wanting freedom from Rome, I don't know, but he didn't make it, we know that. Jude, the brother of James the younger man who had three names, Thaddeus was one of them, was a common carpenter. Matthew the tax collector, Peter the commercial fisherman, Philip a fisherman, and Simon the Zealot, a fisherman from Galilee. So our Lord had rough men who traveled with Him. For three years they learned how to think like He thought. They learned His divine plan. He told them, "Everything the Father's told

me I've shown it to you," because He knew that they were going to have to carry on once He left. These rough men had rough endings but they changed the world. It's really not about the amount of education nor is it about your oratory ability, it's about your heart's desire to serve your Lord in spite of what the cost may be and certainly there may be a price to be paid. If we're going to serve Him, if we're going to hope to effectively represent Him, then we have to learn how to represent Christ as individuals and we have to be sure that we do it correctly. Now listen to this passage in Luke 6:46-49, Jesus said, "*Why do you call me Lord and you don't do what I tell you to do? Everyone who comes to Me and hears My Word and acts on them, I'll show you who he's like. He's like a man building a house who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rocks and when the flood occurred, the torrents burst against the house, it could not shake it because it was well-built. But the one who's heard and has not acted accordingly, well he's like a man who built his house on the ground without any foundation and the rains came, the flood burst against it and it collapsed and the ruin of that house was great.*" The question is, what do you hear when you listen to these radio shows that maybe you haven't heard before? The second question is, what will you do with what you hear? Because these shows are designed not only to give you an objective view of your life but also an objective view of the future of this great nation that we call America. **Your volition determines your destiny.** I'm going to say this one more time. Your volition determines your destiny. Volition is the decider or the chooser that God gave you. He did not make you a little automaton. He gave you a free will and along with a mentality, along with a conscience, He gave you volition so you can choose. "*Choose you this day [Joshua said] whom you will serve but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*" (Joshua 24:15). **We as believers in Jesus Christ, have the potential to have a phenomenal life. We also have the potential to destroy any chance for happiness and blessing in this life, if we fail to get with God's plan, if we have a subjective viewpoint about our spiritual life. What is a subjective viewpoint? Thinking we're something we're not.** Listen to Luke 18:9-14, this is where Jesus gave a parable to some who trusted in themselves, "deliver us from the self-righteous religious type." That's the worst type in the world. I don't like to be around self-righteous people. Self-righteous religious people are the worst. He speaks this parable about people who trust in themselves, that they were righteous and they looked down their nose at other people. You know the type, "I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't gamble, I don't dance, I don't so I'm better than you. I'm a good person." The Lord goes on to give this illustration by means of a parable, "*Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee [that's the self-righteous one] and the other a tax collector. And the Pharisee stood and prayed with himself and said, 'God [I can just hear it. I can spell it G.A.W.D., Gawd, making this self-righteous sound] I thank you that I'm not like other men. I'm not an extortioner, I'm not unjust. I don't commit adultery like this tax collector over here. I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all that I possess.'* The tax collector stood afar off and would not so much as lift his eyes to heaven, but beat upon his breast and said, 'God have mercy on me a sinner.'
[Luke 18:14] *I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other. For anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will*

be exalted.” This Pharisee had an unrealistic self-image. He thought he was something that he was not. He qualified himself as a good church member because he did the things that good church members do. Just because you're a good church member, it doesn't mean that you're going to glorify God as a Christian. It doesn't even mean that you're saved. That's why Jesus said these words, *“In that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many wonderful works?’ And He said, ‘I will tell them I never knew you’”* (Matthew 7:22-23). This self-righteous, religious Pharisee evaluated his spiritual life with his misguided judgment, his unrealistic self-image. My question is, how would you grade yourself? How would you evaluate your spiritual life if in fact you have one? I mean, would you be subjective or would you let God do the evaluating? I mean, you've got a pastor, you go to church, you've been a member of your church for a lot of years. How's this working out? Any doubts and frustrations? Any regrets? Are you growing spiritually? Are you advancing in the plan of God or are you not being fed? Are you starving to death? Are you listening to this radio show because someone's finally giving you some information that you can learn and apply in your life? Well this old Pharisee here in Luke 18 was convinced that he was doing all the right things with his misguided judgment. He convinced himself and what was his rationale? How did he come to this conclusion? Well, he prayed about it and it's a completely ineffective prayer. It was a prayer based on a misguided assumption. See, without proper procedure, prayer is nothing more than an exercise in a religious ritual where you try to convince yourself that you are in God's will and in God's plan. **Protocol is required in prayer and a right thing such as prayer, done in a wrong way, such as with misguided assumptions, is wrong.** It's not going to be answered. People constantly do this. They look into the mirror of self-righteousness and they assume that God is standing up giving him a big round of approval because they don't, as this man said, *“I don't extort people. I'm not unjust. I don't commit adultery like that tax collector over there. I fast twice a week. I give a tithe of all that I possess.”* What really makes you a good Christian? The man in this case was praying to convince himself that he was righteous before God and the reason is he weighed his life on the scales of the law. He saw he was fulfilling his pharisaical duty. Let me warn you, never assume you are impressing God because you follow certain religious rituals. Right things must be done in the right way and God's not impressed because you tithe. God is not impressed because you come to church and don't miss Sunday school. I mean it's good you give to your church and are faithful to be involved in your church's ministry but what impresses God is the righteousness of Jesus Christ credited to your account. You can't buy God off by being self-righteous and religious. The Bible says, *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God by means of Him”* (2 Corinthians 5:21). The Old Testament tells us, *“There are none that are righteous, no not one”* (Romans 3:10) because *“All of our righteousness is like a filthy rag”* in God's eyes (Isaiah 64:6). Just imagine this, the best you could manufacture, the best you could do without knowing Jesus Christ is nothing but human good. It's a dirty filthy rag and God will not accept it. Never assume you are impressing God because you follow certain rituals. You may

be saved. You may have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior but as Jesus said in 1 John 5:3, *“If you love Me, you will obey My mandates.”* What kind of mandates? *“Abide in Me and let My Word abide in you”* (John 15:7). If you don't learn the Word of God, if you don't apply the Word of God into your life, how can you abide in Christ? How can you let His love abide in you if you don't even know what His love is? You need to read John 15. My pastor has been doing a tremendous study on this and it's really close to my heart. That's why I bring it up to you. **2 Corinthians 10:17-18, “Let the one who glorifies, let him glory in the Lord for it’s not the one who commends himself that’s approved but the one who the Lord commends.”** God does the evaluating, not you. This guy was convinced that keeping the law was what gave him a righteous standing before God. His mind was set in stone because he had this unrealistic self-image. How do you have a perfect righteous standing before God? Well, as I quoted, *“He had made Him to be sin for us so that we could become the righteousness of God by means of Him.”* The perfect righteousness of Christ is credited to your account the moment you believe that Jesus is the Son of God. The moment you accept His death, burial, and resurrection on your behalf, that's the moment His righteousness is given to you. This false assumption that the Pharisee had led to a wrong conclusion and this was that he was much better than the tax collector because he observed the Mosaic Law. This is called relative righteousness such as when you compare yourself to other people in the congregation. I want you to look at your congregation this morning if you go to church and take a look around. Do you ever say to yourself, “I'm better than that one, I'm better than that one, I'm better than this one?” Don't do this. Don't ever compare yourself to someone else because you're going to come to the wrong conclusion. A big question is why do smart Christians do dumb things? The answer is because they convince themselves they are in God's will. It's easy to do. Organized religion teaches us all the time in an unspoken sort of way like pay your tithe. If you give your tithe then you think you're doing a good thing. It's fine that you give to your church, that's a noble, wonderful thing but let me remind you of something. Just because you tithe doesn't mean you are advancing spiritually in your life. On top of this, tithing was an Old Testament system of taxation and everybody in the nation gave 10% of their income to support the temple, everybody. What we do as New Testament believers is give as God has prospered us. But some people have this idea, and it floats around all the time, that **if they tithe then God's going to bless them and that's not true. This is misguided judgment. It's human viewpoint thinking. There is no Biblical rationale for making this kind of decision.** A rationale is a set of reasons or a logical basis that forms a course of action or belief in your life. If you have misguided judgment, it results in wrong conclusions and wrong conclusions equal wasted time and self-condemnation from your guilt. Now let's make it personal. How many times have you flown the coop thinking you're making the right decision based on a misguided judgment? In other words, no Biblical rationale, you just had an emotional override. You thought you were doing the right thing, it felt like the right thing, but it wasn't because you didn't have a Biblical rationale to do it. For example, have you ever convinced yourself you are in God's directive will for your life? I know a lot of people that have done just

this. **You cannot know the will of God apart from knowing the Word of God and you cannot do the will of God apart from the power to execute it.** What was it in the first place that convinced you that you were doing the will of God? Oh I know, you prayed about it. That's it, you prayed about it. You convinced yourself that you had made the right decision. You convinced yourself of the false conclusion, you prayed about it. I recently heard a school board member tell me how the high school principal of this school had decided it was God's will for him to move on to another job. How could he know it was God's will if he didn't even understand the spiritual life to start with? On what rationale did he base his decision? The Bible says in Isaiah 58:11, *“The Lord will continually guide you and satisfy your desires in scorched places and give you strength to your bones and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.”* If somebody tells you that they think it's God's plan for your life, you need to stop and consider how they came to this conclusion. **In the Bible there is the operational will of God which says what He wants you to do. There is the viewpoint will of God which says what He wants you to think. There is the geographical will of God that says where He wants you to be.** The question is, did we rationalize our decisions based on seeking some sort of happiness through the people and the circumstances that we're involved in and did we fall for the decoy of Satan that eventually leads to temporal death in the spiritual life? Anytime there's a push for you to make a decision very quickly, then you can bet God is not in this one. You know the car dealer type preacher, “Make a decision now. Come forward now. Let's make this decision. You can make this decision now and your life will be changed forever.” There's only one decision that will change your life forever and that's believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. **As far as the Christian life goes, it's a process.** Today, tomorrow, and the next day, you must take in the Word of God, you must stay filled with the Holy Spirit, you must *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18). There is no one-shot decision you can make. You may get emotional about it. You may want to surrender your life to God. You may go forward and say “I surrender all.” Maybe they sang 37 stanzas of that song and you did it. You surrendered all but you went out the next day and had the same problems and the same desires and the same failures because you acted on your emotion. If you don't act on the protocol plan of God doing the right thing in the right way, it's not going to work. It's a wrong assumption. You have to determine what is God's will for your life by growing spiritually. In the case of this Pharisee that I told you about in Luke 18, it was a matter of heaven or hell. It was a big matter. This man was going to go straight to hell because he was religious, self-righteous, and convinced himself he had no need of a Savior. That's why Satan is a master at getting you to waste your time, waste your energy, waste your effort in religious pursuits. He's a master in distracting you. He will use the decoy and he will deceive you. I have friends that duck hunt. I don't, I never have duck hunted. The dumb duck doesn't know he's fallen for a decoy since the little floating ducks out there look real and sound real and some guy's over there in the reeds, “Quack, quack, quacking” away and the duck doesn't know it's a fake thing until he's blasted out of the sky and winds up on the dinner table. He goes from a fast, flying, beautiful duck to the

skewer at dinner. That's not exactly my idea of success. It will be much better for you and for me to wait to evaluate. Listen, God was in business before we got here. He's going to be in business after we are gone. It doesn't all depend on the decision we have to make today. It's better to wait and to evaluate and pray before you make a life changing decision. **Any decision made apart from the directive will of God for your life will lead to you having a convoluted and a confused life.** And I'm talking about years and years and years of confusion. There's an old song the Kingston Trio use to sing and I compare this to Christians sometimes who get out of the will of God. It went like this, "Let me tell you the story of a man named Charlie on a tragic day. He put 10 cents in his pocket, kissed his wife and family and went to ride on the MTA [that's the Metropolitan Transit Authority] Well did he ever return? No, he never returned, and his fate is still unknown. He may ride forever neath the streets of Boston, he's the man who never returned." Right thing done in the wrong way and you may never return. That's why I tell you that your emotions ride on the current of circumstances, fear, regret, appreciation, anger, bitterness, loneliness, love, the current set of circumstances. Has the decision you made about salvation caused things to be convoluted and confused in relationship to eternity? I mean eternal security is not confusing. The Bible says, "*These things are written so that you might know that you have eternal life*" (1 John 5:12). If you don't know that you have eternal life, maybe you made a decision based on some sort of works, some sort of membership, some sort of creed that you followed. The Bible simply says, "*He that believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God*" (1 John 5:1). The Bible says, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16). "*We are all like unclean rags. Our righteousness is filthy*" before God's eyes (Isaiah 64:6). We're really not worth much. It's impossible for a self-righteous unbeliever to know he's dirty since he compares himself to other people and says, "I'm not as dirty as they are." That's relative righteousness and it is impossible for a misguided Christian to determine God's will since he or she does not use standard operating procedures before assuming some sort of emotional response. You know like "This is God's will for me, I'm convinced." That's why impetuous people make permanent mistakes and that's what you have to be careful. That's why you have to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **That's why you must not base a decision on emotions rather than on the Word of God because if you do you're going to fail to recognize the decoy.** You looked at the circumstances, "Oh those little ducks look real. They sound real. They're sitting down there in the pond and I can fly down and join them." And "bam" you're shot down out of the sky. You justify why it's okay to go down there with all those others and you buy into the lie and live your life on human viewpoint thinking. You let Satan dumb you down by distracting you from the Word of God. **You must grow in grace, you must learn God's plan,** and it all starts with the single greatest decision you'll ever make, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved*" (Acts 16:31). This is your host Rick Hughes bringing you The FLOT Line every Sunday, same time, same place. I hope you'll join me next week.

Satan's Tactics

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 656 aired on April 1, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. In the last radio show we dealt with the misguided spiritual life and how the man in Luke felt he was a Christian because he prayed and he tithed and he did all these wonderful things and he wasn't really saved Jesus said. We want to talk today about Satan's strategy in regard to you because we don't want Satan to dumb you down by distracting you from Bible class. I want you to get this information in 2 Corinthians 2:11, this is what Paul wrote, *"We do not want Satan to take advantage of us because we don't want to be ignorant of his devices."* That's a King James translation. Other translations say: *"We don't want to be exploited by his devices," "Outwitted by his devices," "Circumvented by his devices,"* so the bottom line is we don't want Satan to get an advantage over us. **If you're a believer in Jesus Christ you're in a spiritual war.** All these translations suggest there is a spiritual war that takes place in the life of a believer on a daily basis and it's called the angelic conflict. Satan would like to conquer you and use you as a witness for his defense if you let him. He doesn't want to go to the Lake of Fire. That's where he's headed and he obviously is trying to get out of it. If he can get you to compromise what you believe or get you to take a stand with him, then he can use you as a witness for his defense. **Satan's objective is basically threefold: to exploit your weaknesses or the trends of your sin nature, to outwit your objectives which always is for you to reach spiritual maturity, and to circumvent God's desire for you.** This means that he wants to put you on the sideline so you cannot fulfill God's plan. If he's going to do this, if he's going to exploit you, outwit you, and circumvent God's desire for you, he does it in three ways. **Satan has a three prong attack. First of all, he comes at you by the world.** The world is controlled by Satan. The lure of the world is used as a weapon to lure you. I told you last week how a duck hunter uses a decoy, puts the duck in the pond, it looks like a real duck. It floats out there and then the ducks fly overhead and hear "Quack, quacks" from the duck caller. They come down thinking that things are in a little happy duck heaven there and they get shot. Well the world is the decoy, it's the duck decoy offering happiness, offering security, but in actuality it cannot provide either one of these things. The Bible warns you in 1 John 2:15-17, *"Do not love the world. Do not love the things of the world because anyone who loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that's in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life is not of the Father, but of the world. And the world is passing away and the lust in it will pass away, but only he who does the will of God will abide forever."* What is the will of God? Can you answer this question? If you do the will of God, you will abide forever. Well in John 6:40 Jesus said, *"This is the will of the One that sent Me that you believe in Me whom He sent."* It's God's will that you believe that Jesus is His anointed Son. That's God's will and it's also what people debated when He was walking the earth. They didn't believe it. They didn't believe He was the Son of God even though He did the miracles to prove it. Today you must make this decision. Is this the Christ, the Son of the living God or is it not? Because the

Bible clearly says in 1 John 5:1, *“He that believes Jesus is the Christ is born of God.”* In John 3:16, *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him [there it is again] shall not perish but have everlasting life.”* The will of God is for you to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus is the Christ. He’s not a lunatic, He’s not a liar, He is the Son of God. John 6:40 clearly states this. **In Romans 12:2 the Bible says, “Don’t be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” This means you have to change the way you think.** You can no longer think in terms of being conformed to this world, the systems of operation in the devil’s world. Like you know, happiness is in people, happiness is in money, happiness is in circumstances, that’s not what God says. **Happiness is in hearing and applying God’s Word into your life.** In Romans 12:2 Paul warns, *“Don’t be conformed to this world [don’t buy into it, don’t listen to it] but in regards to that be transformed [in other words change the way you think] by the renewing of your mind so that you can prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”* Now, some things are not good. Some things are not acceptable and there is a will of God and there is not a will of God. A lot of Christians do good that’s not acceptable called wood, hay, and stubble in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 and it’s burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ because it’s all human good. It’s good you do in the energy of the flesh. Any good you do in the energy of the flesh when you’re not filled with the Holy Spirit is burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. It is not the perfect will of God for you to live this way. **The perfect will of God is for you to take His Word, learn His Word, stay filled with the Holy Spirit, grow in grace, and replicate the life of Christ. In 2 Corinthians 4:4 Satan is called, “The god of this world.” That is, he runs the show here. His objective always is to confuse the lost man, the man who is disadvantaged, the man who has not accepted Christ, the people that don’t believe.** He wants to confuse them lest *“The light of the gospel of the glory of Jesus Christ who is the image of God would shine in on them”* (2 Corinthians 4:4). Jesus Christ is the light of the world. He said this and this says it also. He’s the God-man, undiminished deity, true humanity in one body forever. God can’t die. Man will die. So God became man so that He could pay the wages of sin which meant He had to die spiritually in our place. He took our place, all of our sins were dumped out on Him so the glory of Christ, the light of the glory of Christ would shine on men and they may be saved. Now Satan has a light too. It’s never the right light, it’s a black light. Years ago I remember people having black lights on their porch to zap bugs. It would attract the bugs. It was a purple light and they would fly over into it and, “Buzz,” they’d be zapped. **Satan’s got a bug zapper and it’s the lie. It’s false doctrine. He will lure you into this if you allow him.** The principles to consider for you are this. We as believers in Jesus Christ are mandated not to love and have overwhelming desires for the world, for what the world offers. We’re mandated not to do this. What the world offers is a deceptive delusion. It’s not true. It’s for the warped soul that’s seeking satisfaction, seeking fulfillment in something that is not real, in people or circumstances or whatever. These disciples that our Lord Jesus Christ taught, and walked with Him for three years, had to make a determined decision to abandon all of their assets and follow Jesus Christ. You know when He walked up to them and

said, *“Follow Me and I'll make you fishers of men”* (Matthew 4:19), you may wonder what all was said. I mean there had to be more said than this and yes, everything that He said was not recorded, just these important words. I'm sure He told them who He was. He gave them the gospel. They could sense that He was who He said He was and they abandoned their jobs, their ships, their nets, and they followed Him. They became eventually the apostles of our Lord. They had to leave their assets to follow Him. They had to make a determined decision and you must do this too. **If you're going to follow Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior, you must make a determined decision to *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18), that's exactly what the Bible says.** Loving the world is akin to depending on what the world offers you to fulfill what you're looking for in your life and it's all a decoy. It's not real. It won't give you what you're looking for, the lust of the flesh. The Bible says, *“Don't give into the lust of the flesh”* (Galatians 5:16) and refers to using what the world offers you to fulfill the fleshly desires you have. Remember this, we all have trends of our sin nature. Some people's trend may be toward asceticism or extreme legalism and some people's trend may be toward antinomianism or extreme self-indulgence. In other words, moral degeneracy or immoral degeneracy, they're both degenerate. A moral degenerate is a self-righteous religious person who's not saved, who thinks he's going to heaven because he tithes. He thinks he's going to heaven because he joined up. He thinks he's going to heaven because he doesn't drink, he doesn't smoke, he doesn't whatever and he likes to look at you and say, “I'm better than you because I'm good and you're not good. You're one of them old drunks.” That's what really threw the Pharisees for a loop because Jesus Christ our Lord hung out with the prostitutes. He hung out with the drunks and He reached them because they wanted help. The Pharisees ignored Him, rejected Him, maligned Him, cursed Him. They didn't believe He was who He said He was. And you have to make this decision also. A moral degenerate is just as wicked as an immoral degenerate. The immoral degenerate is the adulterer, the fornicator, the drunk. The moral degenerate is the self-righteous religious person who thinks that he's doing God a favor just by showing up at church. Watch out for this. Romans 8:5, *“Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh [that's not just adultery and fornicating, that's other things] and those who live according to the Spirit set their mind on the things of the Spirit.”* In other words God wants you to think in terms of divine viewpoint, what's in the Word of God. Why do you think He said, *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). He wants you to put your mind on His things and that's what Philippians 2:5 says. *“Let this mind be in you that is also in Christ Jesus.”* Romans 8:8 says, *“Those that live in the flesh cannot please God.”* Romans 8:13, *“If you live according to the flesh, you're going to die but if you live by the Spirit, you will put to death the deeds of the body and putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”* This is true for temporal death as well as spiritual death. If you live according to the needs of the flesh as a Christian, you will die temporarily. You're not lost, you're not going to hell, but you will derail your spiritual life. It won't work, it won't function, you will be temporarily dead. If you live by

the filling the Holy Spirit and ignore the deeds of the body, then you will live the spiritual life. The antidote to the flesh, what is it? **If the flesh is there and Satan uses it to decoy you, how do you overcome it? Galatians 5:16 says, “Walk in the Spirit and you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh,”** problem-solving device number two, **the filling of the Holy Spirit.** The Bible says in Galatians 5:17, *“For the flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh and they are contrary one to another so you can't do the things you'd like to do.”* Here, listen. The Holy Spirit is the agent of protection from the enemy of self. At some point in your life you might even shock yourself. You may do something you thought you were not capable of doing and the devil loves this because you have a depraved nature. You have a sinful nature. It's always interesting to be around people and determine if they have a trend towards asceticism or a trend towards antinomianism. The people that have a trend toward this legalism, they act holy, they act self-righteous and they may in fact be, but when they do something that surprises them, then they are all ashamed. They get all bent out of shape and they think God dumped them and doesn't love them anymore. “Look what I did. I can't be a Christian. I did this, I did that.” **Christians can do some pretty dumb, evil, wicked things. It doesn't mean you're not saved. It means you let your sin nature take over and the lure of the world brought you down.** You can recover by using problem-solving device number one, rebound. Confess your sin, get back in fellowship, and you may even need to relocate. This means get out of there and get away from this situation. At some point in your life you might shock yourself and this is indicative of letting your sin nature be unbridled in your life. You don't tame it, you don't control it, you let it do whatever it wants to do. By means of rebound, that's 1 John 1:9, problem-solving device number one, we are guaranteed a protector in our soul and that's the filling of the Holy Spirit. So when we sin and rebound, the Holy Spirit protects us from ourself. We met the enemy and he is us. *“If you walk in the Spirit you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh,”* Galatians 6:16 says. Who's the enemy? The world, the flesh, and the devil. Why would Satan even worry with you? I mean if you can't get past the lure of the world, if you cannot get past the desires of the flesh, tell me why Satan would even spend one minute worrying about you because you're already defeated. You must understand this. If the dust settles in your life and you're still alive, then obviously God has a plan for you. He's not through with you so quit trying to live in guilt. You have to avoid the manipulation of guilt. You must not look at your failures. Listen, God doesn't then kick you out of the royal family of God when you fail. You look at God's grace. Look at His grace and His forgiveness and His restoration. Satan is the one that wants you to go sit in the corner and feel sorry for yourself, sit in the corner and be ashamed of yourself and let guilt carry you down. Yes, you failed. Yes, you made a mistake. God did not take you out. He's not through with you. **God forgives you. Name your sin to Him, get up, and move on.** It's like playing football. You get knocked down, you get blocked. You don't make all the plays every time and when you get blocked, you get up, dust yourself off, and get back in the game. **It's critical you understand this. You must get back in the game so you can't be manipulated by Satan.** If you're going to avoid the decoys that the flesh offers you, you know, the temptations of the world, you have to

renovate the way you think. You have to change the way you think. You have to learn what the will of God is for your life. That's where the gospel of Christ is critical because it's the illumination needed, it's the light needed to deliver the world from the decoy deployed by the dark one, Satan, the one who works in the shadows. The one who has the bug zapper, he'll zap them all if they let him but we have the real light, the light of the gospel of the glory of Jesus Christ. Let's get this straight. Satan knows you. He knows who you are. He has a dossier on you. He knows all your weaknesses. He knows all your strengths but he doesn't play to your strength.

If Satan wants to attack you, he will attack you where you are your weakest. If you're weak on Bible doctrine, if you're weak on the Word of God, he will seek to get you to question truth by presenting something close to the truth. Sounds like the truth, looks like the truth, smells like the truth, it's not the truth. It's a decoy and it is to deceive you. Therefore you are to *"Rightly divide the Word of truth,"* the Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:15. Satan has his own ministers, his own communion table, his own doctrine called the doctrine of demons, this is all in the Bible, and it will deceive you. It's a decoy. I have seen many Christians being deceived by false doctrine, moving into something that's not true, moving into a Christian life that's not true. Some of this goofy stuff you see on television, it's all a big joke. If you will put your money here, God will make you rich. You can put a seed here and then you'll get rich and people buy into this goofy stuff. Listen, I'll tell you where the seed is. **The seed is in learning and studying the Word of God. As you learn it, as you study, you grow, you develop, you mature as a Christian and you began to glorify God to the maximum in your life.** It's not about what you want. It's about what God wants for you. Satan is always looking to gain an advantage over you which means he wants to use you as a witness in his defense. That's his ultimate objective. He doesn't want to go to the Lake of Fire. He wants to impugn God's justice by highlighting all of your failures for his defense. In other words he'll say, "Look at Rick. He claims to be a Christian, God. Look at what he did. Now why are you going to send me to the Lake of Fire? Why not send him to the Lake of Fire?" See how he wants to do this? Now Satan's already been tried, judged and condemned. I have believed in Jesus Christ. My righteousness is the righteousness of Christ. Yes I'm saddled with a sin nature, like you. Yes I fail like you. But that's what Satan wants to do. He wants me to live in my failure so he can vindicate himself. He wants to use you and use me as a get out of jail free card by means of our personal failure, by means of the failure of the church. He's seeking to avoid going to the Lake of Fire and we know how he attacks us. How does he attack your church? What about your church? Could he destroy your church? I have seen Satan destroy many churches. How does he do it? Well the first thing is get the congregation to doubt the leadership of the church or in other words, **Satan will attack and discredit the pastor. How does he do this? If he can deflect the message of the pastor he will discourage the congregation.** If the congregation gets discouraged, they will disengage with the church and then they deviate from sound doctrine and the congregation is divided. Satan will have his man and he will be in there ready to plant the seed of the lie and divide the congregation. This is how he does it, doubt the leadership of the pastor. Deflect the message of the pastor. In other words, the

message doesn't become important. The man becomes important. That's just backwards. **The message is important not the man.** When people start looking at the man and quit looking at the message, then they get discouraged in the congregation because they see the pastor has feet of clay. Then if they disengage from church or quit going to church, they will get sucked into false doctrine. Satan's just waiting on them to peel off so he can suck them into something else. The congregation is divided, it happens over and over in many, many areas. Attacking the pastor is always done by getting people to doubt his leadership. You know, being a pastor doesn't imply the existence of leadership, that's not what it is. It's not about the gift of popularity, people don't like leadership. Sin natures don't like to be led and denominational churches run preachers off every year because people don't like the way they lead. Great leadership is demonstrated in a great crisis so at least once in a pastor's life, he's got to face a great threat at least once in his ministry. Paul himself was accused of sedition in Acts 24:6-7. *"He even tried to profane the temple [they said] and we seized him and wanted to judge him according to our laws, but the commander of the Roman army came and took him by violence away from us."* The result of great leadership in a local church by a pastor is great motivation by the congregation and your motivation should always be found in personal love for God. That's your motivating virtue in your life. The Bible says in 1 John 5:3, *"If you love Me, obey Me."* That's simple enough isn't it? What is your motivation to obey God? Do you love Him? How can you love somebody you don't know? How can you love a God you don't understand? Listen to Luke 6:46. *"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things that I tell you to do?"* Personal love for the pastor is a motivation that stems from him being faithful to study and teach God's Word, not that he is your friend, calls on you, holds your hand and makes clucking noises. **What's important is your pastor studies God's Word and teaches it to you.** You have confidence in his authority as a communicator of the Word of God. All pastors have the same mandate, *"Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may promote you at the right time"* (1 Peter 5:6). It's critical that you understand this because this is how Satan will try to destroy the church and destroy you along the way. To attack the leadership, to get people to doubt his authenticity, to deflect away from his message to his person, and discourage the congregation because he doesn't hold everybody's hand and pat them all on the head. The next thing you know we have a divided church, a divided congregation that now deviates from sound doctrine. Maybe this has happened to you. Maybe it's happened in your church. Maybe this is something you've been through. I hope it's making sense to you because it's the way it works. You have to be on the lookout. You have to be aware of what Satan is up to. Don't let it trap you into this pit of the sin nature controlling a congregation or a local church. There is a lot more to say but unfortunately I'm running out of time. I hope you've been listening this morning and I hope you will continue to listen every Sunday morning, same time, same place. Until then, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Life's Toughest Years - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 657 aired on April 8, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stay with me. It's going to be 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, and we do it without any type of manipulation. No games, no gimmicks, no solicitation, no asking you for money. We're just here trying to give you some information that will help you verify and identify God's plan for your life. If you can do this, you have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to this plan. It's always up to you but The FLOT Line is about giving you some information designed to remind you of Biblical truths and introduce you to an in depth way of studying and learning God's Word, establishing in your soul a main line of resistance, a FLOT line, a forward line of troops. The FLOT line or the main line of resistance is made up of 10 unique problem-solving devices. When you learn them, when you use them you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. This is why you'll hear me say, adversity is inevitable but stress is always optional. It's up to you. It's your life, you've got one shot at it. Every decision that you make is critical because you are held accountable for these decisions in your life. We make bad decisions that limit our future options. But the best decision, the greatest decision you could ever make is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. *"For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it's a gift from God not of works lest any man should boast"* (Ephesians 2:8). The free gift is yours to take, mine to take. I took this gift when I was 22 years old. I believed in Jesus Christ, received Him as my Savior. Nothing weird happened, I didn't see angels, I didn't hear any harps. I prayed to God and I told Him I wanted to be saved and this indeed happened. It took a few weeks to realize what had happened and I had to learn a few things about what had happened in my life. This was a while ago and as I grew in grace and knowledge of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I found a great pastor who taught me God's Word. As I sat under his ministry and learned from him, I took good notes and applied these notes in my life and sought to live the Christian life to the best of my ability. God brought a wonderful lady into my life. We met and married and had four children. Raising children is one of the toughest things any person can ever do. It's funny, you have four different children with four different personalities that grew up in the same house and they were all under the same rules, but they turn out totally different. You would think they would all be alike since they were all in the same house under the same rules with the same parents but they're not. I want to talk to you about some of life's toughest years. I see it happen now with my grandchildren, toughest years, growing up and being what folks use to call a teenager. This is kind of an archaic term today but being a young person you go through a lot of changes so I want to talk to you about this. I want to go through some of these things with you and hopefully this radio show will not be an indictment on your life, but it will be an encouragement to you. Perhaps you may wind up wanting to get some of these messages for your kids to hear. If so, let us know, we'll get them to you. We want you and them to adjust to

God's plan. I have a pretty simple job, it's just to educate you and your job is to evaluate the things that I teach. I don't use emotion to try to manipulate you, I never do this. I just want to give you accurate information. I want to start today with a poem. I don't particularly like poems, I'm not a poetry reader, but anyhow I'm going to give you this poem because I think it's great. It says, "God gave you two ends, one to sit with and one to think with. Success in life depends on which one you use. It's heads you win, tails you lose." You have a brain and inside this brain is where you make decisions, the same thing for your children. All kids have a brain and they should make decisions based on what they think not based on what they feel. You can make a series of bad decisions if you make decisions based on the end you sit on. Learning what you should and shouldn't do is critical. The first thing that kids go through as they grow up is testing their boundaries. We're going to call this message, testing your boundaries, getting to the place to where you don't like the authority. You don't like people telling you what you can and cannot do and you want to test your boundaries a little bit. I didn't particularly have all of this in my life. I grew up in a single-parent home without a father. I never really knew my father. My mother was a working woman and she sent me out to live with guardians, people that she paid to watch me during the week. I would go home on Friday night and then go back to the guardian's house on Sunday night. Basically two nights a week, Friday night and Saturday night, I was with her and the rest of the time with people that I just absolutely hated. I did this until I was 12 or 13 and then I ran home. You know, some kids say they ran away from home, but I ran home. I confronted my mom and I told her I wasn't going to live with any other guardians. I was able to convince her to let me stay at our home with her. As I got into the 8th grade and then high school, sports became the father figure to me in my life. I had a great coach and this coach took an interest in me and loved me I guess like a father would love a son. He encouraged me and he did this for a lot of players. Anyhow, you find yourself testing your boundaries. You're getting a little mature and you want to make your own decisions. You don't want to be told what to do. The Bible talks about this. It is critical that young people understand this, Ephesians 6:1-4, "*Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Honor your father and your mother which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may be well with you and that you may live a long time on the earth. Fathers [and here's an admonition to dads] do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*" We start off with this first passage, "*Children obey your parents.*" You know I like to go to the Greek language and I like to look at these words as they were written originally and the word obey is a word we want to pay close attention to. We want to notice that there are children and there are parents and then there are fathers and mothers. The Bible splits them up a little later. Listen, let me read it again. "*Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and your mother,*" so we have children, parents and father and mother. The word obey is a verb. Verbs show action. I flunked English in high school because I didn't study, I didn't pay attention. I was studying football and girls, that was about it but I've learned since then. I'm doing a lot better so bear with me. A verb shows action and in the Greek New Testament we call this particular verb a word

pronounced *hupakouo* and it's a present active imperative in the morphology of the verb. Now, what does this mean? Well, the present tense verb means that this is something that as long as you're under their roof, under their authority, under their provisions, you must obey the verb. The active voice says the subject produces the action of the verb and the subject obviously is children. The imperative mood is the mood of command. Now buckle your chin straps, you're not going to like this but this is the way it goes. **Children obey your parents and when you disobey your parents, you disobey the command of God and this is called sin.** It's sin when you disobey your parents. I know, I can hear it already, "But you don't know my parents. You don't know what my parents are like. You don't know things about my parents." Okay sure, sometimes you get some lousy parents, I will agree. I mean if your mom or your dad says, "Look kid, we need you to go down to the liquor store and get some booze," don't do it. You're not suppose to obey this. I mean, if they tell you to break the law you're under a higher law. Parents are not allowed to coerce children to break the law. They can't tell you to go hold up the grocery store and bring them some groceries, that's wrong. We're not talking about extreme, weird, crazy cases. We are talking about normal stuff in life. This Greek word *hupakouo* is used by the Apostle Paul and it means that we as young people are to conform to a system of authority or a system of command. Authority is a word we don't like when we're pushing the boundaries. This is what we want to get away from. We're tired of people always telling us what to do. "Get up, go to bed, brush your teeth, make up your room, clean your bed," you know that sort of stuff. Come on, we just want to be bums and do it when we can do it. This word means we are to conform to the authority. **This is the very first test in life for any teenager, conforming to authority, facing authority. Sometimes authority is fair and this is wonderful, but it's possible that authority will be unfair and this is hard to conform to.** You know, if you have a brother or sister, have you ever been disciplined for something they did and you got the blame for it? Your parents made a decision and it was unfair and consequently you suffered because they made an unfair decision. And you got angry and bitter, slammed the door, said some words when nobody could hear you, lay on the bed and maybe even shed a tear and thought nobody loves you because of this goofy decision that they made. **This is a test in life, how do you handle unfair authority? Let me tell you what's going on. The reason God puts us through this is to prepare us for life. Let me be the last one to tell you this, not the first one, life is not fair.** You're going to get a job someday and you're going to get let go and fired for no good reason. There's going to be a downsizing. There's going to be some kind of change and "Boom," you're going to be gone. I have a friend of mine who worked for many years to establish and open a business and he even moved from another state so he could do this job, open and build this business. After the store was built and after the public started coming and the money was rolling in, management walked in and fired him one day, "You're gone." It wasn't just him. They fired fifty-two store managers across America in one sweep, walked in with police officers and said, "Give us your telephone. Give us your keys, you'll be escorted out of the building. Have a nice life, goodbye." This was unfair. This is the way life is. If you don't learn how to handle it as

a teenager, you'll never be able to handle it when it happens to you later in life. There are going to be things, and I can give you illustration after illustration, but there are going to be things that are not fair and you can react or you can respond. **You can get upset, you can get angry, you can get into emotional overload or you can respond to things that are not fair.** “Respond, what does this mean?” Well, it means you maintain a relaxed mental attitude which is a wonderful problem-solving device. You use the faith-rest drill which knows God's in charge, He didn't make a mistake. You can forgive the person who makes the mistake, especially if it's a parent. If your parents make a mistake in regard to you and ground you or discipline you for something that one of your brothers or your sister did, has it ever entered into your mind that you could forgive them for making a mistake because it's pretty hard to be a parent and figure out the who did it thing? You know, because a parent says, “Who did this?” Your sister says, “Not me,” and your brother says, “Not me,” and it's always the not me that did it. **This command, obey your parents, is designed to break the self-centered arrogance that does not want to be told what to do. This is the way God knocks the arrogance out of you.** It starts as a kid, you tell the child, “Do not touch that.” He's going to touch it. He wants to touch it. You say, “No, don't touch that,” and he's going to go for it every time. **It's just inherent in the sin nature to buck authority.** We don't like authority. We don't like to be under authority and you must learn to handle authority or you will be disoriented to life, you won't be able to handle life, and it starts with the parents. All authority starts with the parents and then it goes from the parents to the police officer, to the principal of your school and to the pastor of your church. There's always authority, your boss on your job, authority. If you harbor mental attitude sins and you get angry and you hold a grudge and you're bitter and unforgiving toward this person, you're going to have a pretty rotten life. This is not the Christian life. The Christian life starts here as a young Christian, a young teenager. **You must learn to handle authority whether it's fair or unfair.** Independence is knocking, your hormones are flowing, and you can violate the trust your parents put in you. You want to sneak out, you want to act like you're in bed and not really be in bed. Parents want to trust their children. They want to know that they can trust their children. Can your parents trust you? This command cannot be followed without some divine help. I know it takes God to give you the courage to do what it says, “*Obey your parents.*” The divine help comes in the prepositional phrase, “*In the Lord.*” This is where the power comes from. “*Obey your parents in the Lord,*” there's the power. What does this mean? This is the problem-solving device called the filling of the Holy Spirit. It's problem-solving device #2 on the FLOT line of your soul. How do I get filled with the Holy Spirit? Well, I use problem-solving device #1. Problem-solving device #1 is the rebound technique. When I sin, I go to God and confess my sin. If you're a young person and your parents make a decision that's not fair and you react and get bitter and get full of petty vindictive hatred, you are sinning. If you sneak around behind their back and go against their authority, you're sinning. I know, I've been there. You think this is the worst decision that could ever be made and surely they don't love you or they wouldn't have made this decision so you react and you sin. This quenches the Holy Spirit. If you are a

Christian, the Holy Spirit is quenched. *“Do not quench the Spirit”* (1 Thessalonians 5:19). Sin grieves the Holy Spirit and so if you want the Holy Spirit to be put back in control in your life, you have to go confess your sin to God, not to me, not to anyone else. Go to God and you say, “Father, I just blew it. I just lost my temper. I got so angry with my parents, please cleanse me.” He does it and you are filled with the Holy Spirit. The only way you can fulfill the mandate of these verses I’m talking to you about is in the power of God the Holy Spirit who sustains you and empowers you. **If you take God’s Word and learn it, use it, and put it together, then you have the amazing effect of the Christian life, God the Holy Spirit and the Bible, the Word.** This mandate you must understand. What does this mean, in the Lord? It means you are filled with the Holy Spirit. You are empowered by the Holy Spirit. You take your lead from the Word of God not to be arrogant, not to be bitter, not to react, but to respond and maybe forgive them if it was a bad decision. If it was a good decision, then you must confess your desire to override the authority of your parents. I cannot tell you so many illustrations I’ve learned over the years of traveling and speaking in schools of kids that wound up dead in a ditch in a wreck, because they lied to their parents and said one thing and did something else. It’s horrible because you don’t just take yourself out, you take out one of your friends too because you’re always trying to coerce somebody into going along with you. This is what it’s all about. It will save your life. Remember the verse says, *“Obey your parents in the Lord. Honor your father and mother which is the first commandment with a promise that it may be well with you and you may live a long time on this earth.”* **Authority orientation means you can live a long time.** You can have a great life but if you don’t orient to authority, you’re not going to be able to have a great life because you’re going to be an arrogant person full of self-pity. You’re always going to be resenting anyone who has any authority over you from the police officer to whatever, to the principal. You’re just not going to be able to handle it. You won’t like it because you’re so hardheaded and stubborn and arrogant that you want your way and you cannot even possibly believe that somebody actually may be smarter than you. Somebody who’s making this decision may be making this decision and it would actually save your life if you would just shut up and listen and do what you’re told but you can’t because you’re so arrogant, you can’t handle this sometimes. **The next mandate says, “Honor your father and your mother.”** This is not the word obey. This is a different word, honor. Notice it split them up, father, mother. The first time it had them together, parents. Here’s a big revelation for you. Parents get divorced. If you come from a divorced home like I do, maybe you do know your father and you do know your mother and I don’t know which one you live with. Honor is the Greek word *timao* and *timao* means you are to revere them or venerate them by placing a value on them. **Your parents are the most valuable possession you have. Obey is a mandate while you’re under their roof and honor is a lifetime mandate.** There’s never a day in your life you’re not to honor your parents and this means to be respectful. “Yes sir, yes ma’am,” to love your mama, to love your daddy. Maybe your dad did something bad. Maybe your dad was unfaithful to your mom and your mom divorced your dad and you’re angry at your dad because of what your dad did, or maybe it was

vice a versa. Are you suppose to forgive them? Well I don't know, did God forgive them, could God forgive them? Yeah, sure, look at the dumb things you've done. Has God forgiven you for that? You say, "Well, I'm not God," and I understand this but you are never to hold a grudge. You're never to seek to get even. You're never to try to get revenge, you leave that to God. "*Don't judge lest you be judged,*" (Matthew 7:1). You must honor them. Even though I never met my father, if I did meet him, I assume he is dead now, but if I did meet him, I would not have been angry. I wouldn't have punched him out. I would have said, "Yes sir, it's an honor to meet you." Would you do this? Could you say this to your mom or your dad even though you're angry at them for leaving and breaking up and destroying your house? Movie after movie has been made about broken homes and broken houses and this is one of the excuses people give in life for making a series of bad decisions. They say, "Well, my parents got a divorce and nobody loved me and so I turned out to be a dirty rotten rat." No, you turned out to be a dirty rotten rat because you wanted to, you made your decision, it's not because of something somebody else did. You make your own decisions. You chose, you chose to be disobedient, to be disrespectful. You chose to be arrogant. You chose to react rather than respond and you are the one that ruined your life, not someone else. There's never a time that you're not to obey your parents as long as you're under their roof even though it may be unfair. I didn't say obey them if they tell you to break the law, I didn't say this. There's never a time you're not to honor your parents even though they might even eventually get a divorce. You still must honor them, reverence them, it's critical. What is this promise about? It comes from **Deuteronomy 5:16**, "*Honor your father and your mother as the Lord your God commanded so that you may live a long time.*" A long life, a wonderful life, and it's based on your ability to handle authority and your ability to forgive and to honor your parents. People that fail to do this, fail in life. When you fail in life you don't live a very long time. It's possible that you could wind up in the grave way before your days should end because of your arrogance and your hostility toward your parents. **The secret to a full and meaningful life starts when we learn authority orientation at home.** This is how we overcome these arrogant tendencies that lead us to self-destruction. God does not want you to destroy your life. He doesn't want you to ruin your life so He put you in a home under parents, ones that He chose for you, and He gave you the opportunity to orient and adjust to those parents. I sure hope you're listening and paying attention because this is the first step in five phases that most kids go through. Maybe as a teenager you went through it or maybe your kids are going through it. **The first step is orienting to authority, learning how to obey and respect your parents.** Without this, a person goes through life scarred up, full of pity, full of hate, full of bitterness, full of vindictive implacability, always wanting to blame their failures on the unfair treatment they received in life somewhere back down the road. **You are a victim of your own decisions.** "*As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is*" (Proverbs 23:7), **this is the real you.** I thank you for listening. I pray you will come back next week. We'll continue our study and delve deeper into this issue of critical times in the lives of young people. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Life's Toughest Years - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 658 aired on April 15, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next 30 minutes please stay with me for motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education, and absolutely no solicitation. That's right, no requesting money. We're not trying to sell you anything. We're not after anything. We're just simply trying to give you accurate information, information that I pray will help you orient and adjust to the plan of God. If I can give you the truth and give it in a way that you can understand it, if I can verify it, and identify it, then you can orient and adjust to it if you want to. Your life is about making decisions, you have a volition. God gave you a chooser, a decider called your volition. As you think, so you are. Proverbs 23:7, *"As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is."* The real you is what you think and what you think are the decisions that you make every day. Having a FLOT line, a forward line of troops, inside your soul is the same thing as having an invisible army protect your mind, protect your thoughts so that the outside sources of adversity don't override the command post of your soul and create stress. It is possible that by using God's problem-solving devices you can keep the outside sources of adversity at bay. You don't have to live in worry. You don't have to live in fear. This is not the way a Christian has to live. He can live a different lifestyle. He can have *"The mind of Christ,"* as Philippians 2:5 says. What a wonderful way to live, thinking divine viewpoint, not relating to human viewpoint. It all starts with the good news about Jesus Christ, God's anointed Son, and how He's redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. Our debt to God has been paid and we are now free from the penalty of death and the power of sin. We have the privilege to live this wonderful life called the Christian life, a supernatural life, a life that has supernatural assets like God the Holy Spirit living inside of you and like the living Word of God, your Bible, where it says, *"It's alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword"* (Hebrews 4:12), the asset of a well-qualified pastor to teach you the Bible, your own spiritual gift relating to how God uses you, not a talent but a gift, how God uses you in His service to glorify Him. There are so many assets that you have. You have assets of grace and all the grace provisions that go with it and what a wonderful way to live the Christian life. We started a series last Sunday if you were listening and this series is talking about some of the toughest years, the teenage years, the years between maybe 12 to 17. We started looking at this verse, *"Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and your mother, which is the first mandate with a promise that it may be well with you and you may live a long time on the earth"* (Ephesians 6:1-3). We looked into the original languages of the New Testament here and we saw this verb obey is an imperative mood command in the Greek New Testament. We talked about how you must obey, even sometimes if the authority is not fair. We went on to explain how parents represent authority, how we learn to orient to authority throughout life, whether it's fair or unfair, and we saw that we can do this in the Lord. We also saw that you don't have to obey parents that want you to break the law and ask you to do something illegal. That's not what I'm talking about.

I'm talking about in a normal home, in a normal situation, when parents for example say, "You can't go out this weekend, you disobeyed me." Instead of throwing a fit, jumping up and down, and hollering and screaming and slamming the doors, you obey because this is how you learn authority orientation. There's a lot that goes with this, I didn't get too far in discussing this. The next word is to honor your parents. Obey them and honor them and here I showed you where they are split up, "*Father and mother.*" The first one said, "*Obey your parents,*" they're together. The next one, "*Honor your father and your mother,*" they are split up. Sometimes parents get divorced. No one is allowed to hate one or the other and consequently no parent, this is terrible when they do this, no parent is ever, ever allowed to manipulate a child to get them to hate the spouse they left. This is nothing short of child abuse, to try to manipulate your child to hate your spouse that you left, man or woman, because you're bitter and you want your children to be bitter and that's terrible. **Deuteronomy 5:16, if you "*Honor your father and mother as the Lord your God commanded, your days may be prolonged.*" The secret to a full and a meaningful life starts when we learn authority orientation at home.** This is how we overcome our arrogant tendencies that lead to self-destruction. Do you remember the three tendencies of arrogance? Self-justification, when you justify why you're right and your parents are wrong. Self-deception, when you lie enough you actually believe it yourself. Then there is self-absorption where you're totally absorbed with what you want to do. **When you go through these three stages of arrogance, self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption, they always lead eventually to self-destruction.** Most people don't understand. They just can't seem to realize God designed a marvelous, wonderful life for them but they think that they don't need the Bible. They don't need what's in the Bible and they wind up condemning themselves because of their own arrogance. God has nothing but the best for you. If you learn His plan and use it, if you follow the protocol plan of God, you can have a wonderful, long, full, meaningful life and even better yet a wonderful death, then to be face-to-face with the Lord and not come to your grave full of bitterness and regret and all sorts of guilt. What a terrible way to go. This verse is a wonderful verse to teach us authority orientation. Then Ephesians 6:4, "*You fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*" Provoking your child to wrath or *orge*, anger. "*But bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*" There are two different words there, nurture and admonition. One means to put something on their behind and one means to put something in their mind. Nurture means to teach them something and admonition means to apply the 'board of education.' Does the Bible endorse discipline? Yes. Does the Bible endorse a little spanking every now and then for a parent to straighten a child out? Yes it does. It even says, "*If you spare the rod, you're going to spoil the child*" (Proverbs 13:24). The Bible never endorses beating a child. The Bible never endorses anything like this at all, this is child abuse. The Bible does allow us to discipline our children in a manner that's fit. "*Do not provoke your child to wrath.*" Do you know what this means? It means that when a father who is an authority figure in the home makes a decision that's unfair and not correct, that he can cause this child to stumble by placing a burden on them they're not capable of

handling. It's a warning or an admonition to the fathers and this refers to child abuse. Mark 9:42 says, *"It would be better for you to tie a millstone around your neck and throw you in the deepest part of the ocean than to harm one of these children."* Here are some thoughts to be considered in regards to life's toughest years, being a teenager. Authority orientation is critical in life, Romans 13:1, *"Let every soul be subject to the higher powers for there is no power but of God. The powers that be are ordained of God."* Now here's an interesting thought. We have a president in our country today that a lot of people hate, a lot of people would like to get rid of, 24/7 he's under attack. *"There is no power but of God."* You've got to understand, whoever is in that office whether you like him or not, God allowed it to happen. God had a reason. Authority orientation is to orient to the authority of the parents, to orient to the authority of the police officer, even to orient to the authority of the president as long as he doesn't dictate you can't worship God. Anyone saying you can't worship God, you can't study your Bible, you can't meet and fellowship together, you don't orient to this authority. You orient to the higher authority of God Himself. When it comes to authority, you can either respond and obey it, or you can react. Appreciation for the sacrifice of your parents is always in order. Finding God's will for a full and a meaningful life is great. You have to avoid that My Way Highway. You have to stay off the My Way Highway. The cosmic system is always luring you. It's always out there. It's always telling you, "Life is better over here. Come over here and do this. Come over here and try this." Even though your parents may have told you, "It's wrong, don't do this. You will destroy yourself if you get into this. Don't be involved in drugs. Don't be involved in alcohol. Don't be involved in premarital sex," and yet you decide that you want to do it anyhow. **Without the appreciation and respect of your parents you're going to have an abnormal and a flawed life.** There may be a few exceptions, but not very many. Your volitional decisions start early and the job of your parents is to place into your conscience divine norms and standards. Those divine norms and standards are an alert system to guide you and warn you and keep you safe. A soul that is listening won't override the alarms when the alarms go off. When one of your friends says, "Come on, let's go. We'll have a good time," and you think, "I don't think my parents want me to do this," and your conscience is screaming at you, "Don't, don't, don't, don't. You know better. You know better. You know better." And yet when you override this with your volition and you arrogantly justify why it's okay to do it because, "All my friends are doing it. My parents don't understand," well you are just taking the first step in really messing up your life. Volitional choices start early. The choice to accept Christ as your Savior starts very early. Most people come to understand this even before their teenage years. The choice to learn God's Word and apply it into your life is critical and this sometimes comes later. These are decisions that you have to make. *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). This is a decision you have to make. Will you do as the Bible says, *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18)? **Learning God's Word and applying it into your life is a choice, a decision that you make.** It's not going to happen just by osmosis. You're going to have to have

a Bible, a notebook, a well-qualified pastor, and you're going to have to sit down, shut up, listen, learn, and apply it into your life. Most people can't do this, they won't take the time. They're so distracted and Satan uses social media to do this. They get so distracted that if they sat there and they try to listen to a Bible study tape, a DVD, a MP3, their mind would wander and they would want to go look at facebook or see if they got some email. They'd want to go look at something on the news. They can't concentrate for extended periods of time. This is how Satan steals your thoughts, the inability to concentrate. If you can't concentrate for more than 30 minutes at a time, something is wrong. You have to train yourself to do this. You have to make a choice to learn God's Word, apply God's Word. Then you have to make a choice to share the Word of God with other people, the Word you've learned. You have the most powerful tool in the world at your hand. Paul said, *"The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe it, to the Jew first and also the Gentile"* (Romans 1:16). A person could blow up one of those nuclear bombs and kill millions of people, but the spoken gospel, the Word of God spoken, will save millions of people in one instant when they believe it. **The gospel is the most powerful thing in the world because it can totally change a person's life forever when they believe it.** When a person comes to receive Jesus Christ as Savior, *"He is a new creation, old things are passed away and all things become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17), totally brand-new in one instant. What a wonderful thing it is, the choice to share this plan with other people, to give other people the wealth of knowledge that you've learned from your pastor, and the choice that you have to reject what the world offers as happiness, people and circumstances. If you know the right people, you'll be happy. If you have the right circumstances, you'll be happy. But that's not true because unhappy people take their unhappiness with them wherever they go. The first part of this study is about testing your boundaries and that's where this verse is so critical. Now we want to move into another phase in someone's life. As a young person grows they want to sow a few wild oats. I remember when I was a kid and some of the upperclassmen in my school wanted me to ride around with them one night and they pulled out some beer. They said, "Do you want a beer?" Of course I didn't want to be embarrassed. I never drank beer in my life but I wanted these guys to like me so I said, "Sure, yeah." They popped the top on a beer and gave me one. It was the worst tasting stuff I'd ever tasted in my life. You have to acquire a taste for that junk but I acted like I drank it. We went around a curve and I threw the bottle out. A guy said, "You finished that already. I said, "Oh yeah, give me another one." I wanted to impress them. I wanted to sow a few wild oats. You want to get away from your parents' authority. You want to get away from someone watching over you. You don't want your coach looking over your shoulder, your teacher telling you what to do, you want to sow some wild oats. Ephesians 5:15-18 talks about this. It says, *"Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise."* **Here's the first admonition, God wants you to have some wisdom.** Now, there are two ways of getting wisdom. There is human wisdom and there is divine wisdom. Human wisdom is what does the world tell you. **Divine wisdom is what does the Bible tell you.** The world will tell you that the Bible is archaic. The Bible is not true. The Bible is just a religious icon but I believe the Bible is the Word of God.

I believe the Bible is *“Alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword.”* I believe the Bible is the real deal, literal. When you learn the Word of God and live by it, you acquire divine wisdom. Proverbs talks about this, so don't live your life as an unwise person. Where does wisdom come from? Wisdom comes from the Word of God. Who rejects it? Proverbs says the fool rejects it. Ephesians 5:15-18, *“Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men walk but as wise men, making the most of your time,”* again talking about sowing your wild oats. You only have so many days, you only have so much time. I don't know how long you're going to be here. I don't know how long I'm going to be here, but I know this. God gives us some time. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 says, *“There's a time for this, a time for that, a time to live, a time to die, a time to love.”* Well you are in your time and you can waste time by chasing the cosmic system. Making the most of your time, the Bible uses another word called, *“Redeem the time”* (Ephesians 5:16). **Redeeming the time means that you can actually add days to your life by learning God's Word, using God's Word. When you ignore it, you can actually shorten your life.** Make the most of your time. How much time have you wasted not paying attention to God, not paying attention to His Word? I'm not talking about going into the cloister somewhere and closing the door, turning on a candle, and reading the Bible 24/7. That's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about what you do with the 24 hours in the day, okay? What if you could spend 30 minutes a day learning God's Word like listening to this radio show or listening to a pastor teach you the Bible? Would this be making wise use of your time? Yes, but you say, *“I don't have time. I'm so busy. I'm a wife and I've got three kids and I've got to get them up and get them off to school and then I've got to prepare my husband's meal tonight and I just don't have any time. I'm just exhausted.”* Well, certainly you are. This is what the devil is very good at. **Satan's very good at getting you so busy, so involved that you don't have any time to study God's Word.** *“Making the most of your time [Ephesians 5:16, Why?] because the days are evil.”* Evil is the genius of Satan. The lure of evil is the lure of the cosmic system. It's always out there. It's always calling you. It's like a mirage in the desert. It's saying, *“Why don't you buy one more lottery ticket? If you could just win the lottery, you'd be happy. Why look at that TV show where people buy new homes when they win the lottery. Wouldn't that be great if you could win the lottery?”* and on and on and on it goes. Satan will perpetuate the lie to you that happiness is based on you winning some money, that happiness is based on you finding the right person, that happiness is based on you living in the right place, that happiness is based on you driving the right car. That's not where happiness comes from. **Our Lord Jesus Christ said, “Happiness comes from those who hear My Father's Word and keep it” (Luke 11:27-28).** The days are evil. Evil is the genius of Satan. He's the god of this world and he's constantly throwing out false promises. He's constantly throwing out stuff that he cannot fulfill and you can't live it either. Then Ephesians 5:17 says, *“Do not be foolish [or don't act like an idiot] but [conjunction of contrast] understand what is the will of the Lord.”* **God has a will for your life. He has a perfect plan for your life.** His geographical will is where He wants you to live. His will includes what He wants you to think and to do. God has a plan for your life and one of the most amazing,

wonderful, fulfilling things in your life is to realize what the plan is and live it to the fullest. **There's no greater joy that you could ever experience than being in the center of the plan of God for you.** *"Understand the will of God,"* understand, it doesn't come automatically, you've got to learn it to understand it. Wisdom comes from understanding. Understanding comes from perception. Perception comes from listening. *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,"* how do you grow? You listen to a pastor teach God's Word and you perceive the information and it becomes wisdom when you apply it into your soul. **Wisdom, understanding, discernment, these are wonderful things that God has for you because Satan would like nothing more than to destroy your life or the life of some child or some teenager and I've seen it happen many times because they had no divine wisdom.** They had no understanding. They had no discernment, and they bought into the lie and this lie cost them their lives. I've seen people die from overdoses. I've seen people die from car wrecks, chasing something that wasn't there. **The happiness that Satan offers you is like a mirage in the desert.** It's not happiness, it's a chain, it's slavery to an empty lifestyle. If you've allowed yourself to get caught in it, I pity you. There's only one way out and that's to go to your Father, admit your sin, turn your life back over to Him, recover, and advance in your spiritual life. Ephesians 5:18 goes on, *"And do not get drunk with wine [there it is, drunkenness is a sin] but be filled with the Holy Spirit."* If you want something to control your life, if you want something that guides your life, it's the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ our Lord said, "When I go away I will send Him and He will tutor you. He will be your private mentor. He will guide you and lead you into truth" (John 14:26). Being drunk with wine, the Holy Spirit is not doing anything for you. You're letting the wine do the talking. When you are in fellowship with God by the use of rebound, confessing your sin, and when you're filled with the Holy Spirit which is problem-solving device #2, then you can redeem the time and God can lead you and guide you in His will for your life which is where the happiness you are searching for really is. **There is real danger in experimenting with the things the world offers.** We're going to have to talk about this in our next show because it's called building up scar tissue, scarring up your soul, putting holes in your mind that cannot be filled in. Scar tissue can destroy you. It can harden your heart. It can put you in a place where you don't feel guilt or shame or remorse any longer because when you get into sin and stay in sin long enough, the scars begin to harden your heart. Even the Holy Spirit cannot convince you that you're wrong, cannot convict you. You don't even feel guilt and Satan has won you over in this case. I mean he's on his way to destroying you because, *"He goes around like a roaring lion, seeking who he can devour"* (1 Peter 5:8). He may have already devoured you because you did exactly what the Bible said don't do. There's so much to teach about this, how scar tissue will shut down all of your senses. Are you listening and are you learning? That's my question. I put these radio shows out here for you and pay for them for you. I hope you're learning and I hope if you have a question, you will contact me. I'll be glad to respond. Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes and this is The FLOT Line heard every Sunday on this radio station. Please come back and join me next Sunday, same time, same place.

Life's Toughest Years - Part 3

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 659 aired on April 22, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. Please stay with me for a short time of motivation, some education, and all without manipulation. I'm just giving you God's Word to verify and identify the plan of God for your life. My job is to be accurate and introduce you to a new way of thinking, building an invisible barrier in your soul made up of 10 unique problem-solving devices. Once you learn these and use them, then you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. Stress in the soul is not good because it overruns the command post of the soul and you quit thinking. You start operating on your emotions and when you start operating on your emotions, then you're pretty well going to be washed up. The Bible doesn't say "let these emotions be in you that were also in Christ Jesus" it says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). We are challenged to think like Christ thought. Proverbs 23:7 says, "*As a man thinks in his heart, so he is.*" If God wants to check you out, He's not looking at what you're wearing. He's not impressed with your lifestyle. He's impressed with what you think. It's critical that you understand this. Having these 10 problem-solving devices on the FLOT line of your soul, having the filling of the Holy Spirit in your life, knowing how to rebound and recover from sin when you fail, using the faith-rest drill, using grace orientation, using doctrinal orientation, having a personal sense of destiny, understanding the concepts of virtue love, personal love for God and impersonal love for others, having the happiness or sharing the happiness of Christ, and being occupied with Christ, these are tremendous problem-solving devices. By the way we describe them more in detail in a book called *Christian Problem Solving*. Contact us if you want it and we will be glad to get it out to you right away along with anything else you may want. Thank you for listening. If you've been here for the past couple of weeks you know we started a series called Life's Toughest Years. My intention is to make this series into a book primarily for young people in their toughest years. We've been through the first part of this study with you which was testing your boundaries and sowing your oats. Somewhere in the ages of 12 to 18, most people have a desire to sow a few wild oats as they say. The Bible gives some information about this in Ephesians 5:15-18 which I read last week and will review now before I go on to the next part of this passage. "*Therefore be careful how you walk,*" this means how you live your life, *peripateo* is the Greek word for walk. It's a lifestyle, so be careful of your lifestyle. "*Don't live it as unwise men live their lifestyles but live it as a wise man lives his lifestyle.*" Where does this wisdom come from? Well in Proverbs 1 and 2 you can see where it comes from. It comes from God's Word, having the insight, the foresight, the discernment to understand what life has to offer and the decisions that you need to make. Ephesians 5:16, "*Making the most of the time you have available* [that's the time you're on this earth and I'm kind of modifying this translation, and it's accurate I promise you] *because the days that you are in are evil.*" This means Satan controls the times and the evil refers to the cosmic system that we live in. If you don't believe this, just think

about what I'm about to tell you. Everything that use to be good in the 1950s in America is now evil in the year 2018 and everything that use to be evil in the 1950s is now good in 2018, so you can see a shift in American culture. *“Don't be foolish but understand what is the will of the Lord, and do not be drunk with wine, for that's dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.”* The challenge is to not be drunk. This doesn't refer to wine. It's talking about being controlled by God's Word. *“Don't be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is.”* Emotions don't do anything for you. They just get you high. The content of God's Word in your soul is like a light and it will guide you and it will lead you as tremendous problem-solving devices. **The real danger of you or any teenager experimenting with things the world offers is that it can build up scar tissue in the soul to the point of losing all norms and all standards.** Eventually this leads to a complete shutdown of the senses where you feel no conviction and you build up acquired flaws in your life that will eventually destroy you. In Ephesians 4:17-20, Paul addresses this to the believers in Ephesus and I want to address it with you also. *“This I say therefore and testify in the Lord [there's your prepositional phrase, this didn't come from Paul, this came from God] that you do not walk [and there's the word *peripateo* again, this means live your life] as the Gentiles live their life, in the vanity of their minds.”* The word vanity is the Greek word *mataiotes* and it means an emptiness or a vacuum. What Paul is saying here is they have nothing upon which to base truth in their minds. Everything you do starts with a decision. Every decision you make starts in your brain. God knows the intent of your heart. He knows what you're thinking and you always intend something when you make a decision. These Gentiles that Paul is talking about have an emptiness in their minds, they are void of God's Word. They don't understand the plan of God. These are lost people that he's talking about. The *mataiotes*, the vacuum of the mind, is a terrible thing. I don't know if you ever created a vacuum or not, but in physical science in high school maybe you did, when you took all the oxygen out of a tin can and it looked like some invisible hand crushed it because the outside pressure was greater than the inside pressure. There are always pounds per square inch of pressure in our lives and if the pressure is great, it can destroy you. It's like a submarine going too deep and the outside pressure is greater than the inside pressure and the submarine would be crushed. They have a crush depth, they know not to go any deeper than this, too much pressure. Well, a young person can have pressure in their life that will destroy them. When they put things in their mind that don't belong there, they can develop acquired flaws in their life. This comes from experimenting with things they do not need to experiment with. Paul goes on to talk about these Gentiles saying, *“They have their understanding darkened.”* This is the words *skotizo* meaning blacked out. They cannot comprehend, they cannot even see what they're doing to themselves and as a result Paul says, ***“They are alienated from the life of God [or God's plan for them] through the ignorance [that's lack of knowledge] that is in them because of the blindness of their heart” (Ephesians 4:18).*** The word blindness is an inaccurate translation. This is the Greek word *porosis* and it's the hardness of their heart. It's a callousness of their heart. **When a young person puts things into their life that do not belong there, their heart becomes hard and the end result is they no**

longer feel conviction. Listen to verse 19. *“Who being past feelings [no more conviction, no more feeling anything wrong] have betrayed themselves into lasciviousness [that’s sin] to work it with greed, but you did not learn this from Jesus Christ.”* Wow, powerful verses and I could spend a lot more time on this but I want to read you some illustrations of this, putting things in your life that don't belong there as a young person. In my travels of speaking in schools for the many years that I've done it, I've gotten a lot of letters from a lot of students and I'll read one of them to you here. This letter from a student says, “I'd like to take the time to tell you thank you. Before you came and spoke to my school, I almost hit rock bottom. I was so depressed and so confused.” That's a typical example of scar tissue. “It definitely was a gift from God that you came. The first day you were there, you spoke to me and told me I was a charming young lady and right then I knew God was speaking to my heart. I wanted so badly to burst out in tears and tell you my problems and there was something that held me back. So the next day when you spoke I began to listen and apply some of the things you had been speaking about.” You know, this is what Jesus said, *“Happiness comes to those who hear and apply God's Word”* (Luke 11:28). She was doing this. “It was becoming clear to me what was happening in my life. I was beginning to follow the crowd,” this young lady said. “I mean I was never raised to do this. I had Christian parents, a Christian home and I had high morals and high values and I knew that I should never be the person to give in, but I did. I began to go out with my girlfriends on the weekend and drink to the point where I did not even know what was going on. It had gone too far, and I knew it and I couldn't stop. The week before you came to my school I had really gone and did it. One of the guys was having a party so we decided to go and well before I even got there, I was already drunk. To make a long story short, that was the night I lost my virginity and I didn't even know who he was. I wanted to tell you this in person but I didn't have the guts. I've been stressed out since that weekend. I don't even know if I'm pregnant or not and I realize now where I went wrong. On March 7, I rededicated my life to my Lord Jesus Christ. I wanted you to know that you were the person that made me realize I needed to do some changing.” Not me, this was God the Holy Spirit using God's Word. He just used it through me, no credit to me I promise you, I'm just a jerk. She said, “You spoke to my heart like no one has ever done and I know that God used you as a witness to me. So thank you so very much and God bless you.” That's an illustration of scar tissue in the soul. Thankfully this person rebounded. That means this person confessed their sin and got back in fellowship with God. Can God forgive someone that fornicates? Yes He can and He does and this young person got their life straight. Now here is an article from someone who did not get their life straight. This was in the newspaper, I took it out many years ago. It says this, “Edgewood, Maryland. Melissa Putney, 14 years old, 9 months pregnant, her room tidied and her locker emptied, opened up her spiral notebook and wrote ‘My dear mother,’ and she filled three pages. Twelve minutes before noon a tiny white flick of light appeared far down the railroad tracks and then seconds later the crescendo of engines going over 100 miles an hour. It was the Amtrak, the 141, the Bankers and it was right on time. Melissa ran to the tracks and knelt between the rails and clasped her hands in prayer. Her cousin Pearl tried to

stop her, but Melissa was bigger, stronger, pushed her away and Melissa made the sign of the cross. On that warm Tuesday midday last week in rural Maryland, a troubled eighth-grader and her unborn baby died. ‘You always asked me if there's anything wrong,’ she wrote her mother, ‘and I said no I'm okay. But mom I didn't tell you the truth. I never was okay. I ran away from my problems,’ she wrote ‘and I'm taking the easy way out. I'm admitting to myself that I'm a weak person not able to handle the weight of life. I'm very sorry to put you through all these troubles that I have done,’ this newspaper article goes on to quote them. ‘I drank wine, I took pills but before I did all of that I asked my Father God in heaven to forgive me but He won't and I don't blame Him for that. Please pray that I don't be sent to hell because then I won't be able to come back and watch over you and help you and I want to do that. So mom, please don't have a nervous breakdown. Please don't cry all the time. I don't want you to do that. I want you to live forever and ever the way you want to and I will always love you very much. Please try to forgive me, your daughter Melissa.’ The train engineer had a daughter of his own. He saw young Melissa cross herself as he applied the brakes and he cannot even discuss it.” This is what happens when scar tissue overrides the command post of the soul. **Guilt sets in and guilt will manipulate you. Guilt will destroy you and you cannot allow this to happen.** Let's go back to this passage, Ephesians 4:17, this is coming from God, not from Paul, *“I warn you and testify in the Lord, do not live like Gentiles live in the emptiness of their mind.”* **What every young person must have are clear values, norms, and standards in their soul. This is the job of every parent. It's our job to teach our children right from wrong.** We teach them norms like make your bed, comb your hair, brush your teeth, keep yourself clean, do whatever you need to do, and then we teach them standards. **Standards are from the Word of God. These are Biblical standards that guide them, protect them all of their life. Without Biblical standards there is no protection.** Let's talk about flaws for a minute. Some people have inherent flaws that they inherit from their family like alcoholism could be a flaw. But some people have an acquired flaw. This is a sin they get a taste for and it captures them and they can't pull away from it. Paul says, “You should not live like this.” You shouldn't have these kinds of flaws and it's like an emptiness in your mind. They don't provide any protection. The vacuum just sucks in all the filth and the Gentiles that Paul is talking about here have empty minds. He goes on to say they have their understanding darkened, they don't even know what they're doing. They don't even realize what's going on. **When you are *skotizo*, when your soul is darkened, when you're blacked out, you don't even know you're destroying yourself.** You don't even realize what you're doing to yourself. This is exactly what Paul was warning the people in Ephesus about. There was so much going on in Ephesus. I don't have time to give you all the background of the pagan worship and the cult of Baal and everything that went on at the temple of Aphrodite, but there was a lot of debauchery and sickness and sex and whatever else. This is what the Gentiles were into. Listen, let me give you this. You have two words here, vanity of the mind and the blackout of the heart. You have a mind and your mind in the Bible is called your *nous*, the Greek word mind. This is your receptor, this is where information comes in. And you have a heart, the Bible calls this word *kardia*, we

get cardiology or cardiac from this Greek word, *kardia*, heart. Every person has a mind and a heart and they're two different things. I'm not talking about the heart that beats blood, that's a physical heart. I'm talking about the heart that's in your soul, the blindness of your heart. Inside your soul you have a thinking platform and when you shut this thinking platform down and you begin to operate strictly on emotions, you will go into what we called a frantic search for happiness, looking for happiness in all the wrong places. You will go down the My Way Highway and if you're typically like most people, you will be caught in the cosmic vortex. The cosmic vortex is this invisible system that's always spinning around like a tornado and people stick their nose in just to experiment. "Let me just go experiment," they say. "I know I never did this in high school. As long as I was living at home with my parents, I never did this but now that I'm in college and I don't have any authority over me, so I'm going try it," and then boom. They're sucked into the cosmic vortex and the cosmic vortex will spin them out of control and take them down the road, down the My Way Highway until their life is completely messed up. **There is only one way out of the cosmic vortex and that's to come to your senses, to confess your sin to God, to admit that you've been wrong, and to seek God's forgiveness.** *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all of our wrongdoing"* (1 John 1:9). **The scar tissue will still be there unless you replace it. You know, we have to wash our souls with the water of the Word.** It cleanses us. So when a person has a lot of scar tissue, they can go and confess their sin to God and get back in fellowship with God, but it's only through the purging of the soul, only through the intake of the Word of God that they can begin to replace their thought pattern, begin to replace what they think with, so that their heart begins to be beating again in their soul. See, the heart is where you apply the information, the mind is where you receive the information. **You get this information in your mind from your pastor, from your parents, wherever the information comes from and then you're suppose to apply it into your heart and live by it. Once it's in your heart, it's called wisdom. If it's in your mind it's not wisdom, it's just knowledge.** You know it. You understand it. You comprehend it but you didn't apply it. Let's assume that you have been given some norms and standards and let's assume that you violate these norms and standards. You know you shouldn't do this. Your volition which you have says, "Let's go, let's go, let's do it, let's do it," and the Holy Spirit will scream at you in your soul, "No, don't do it, don't do it, don't do it." If you override this, if you say, "I don't care what the Bible says. I don't care what God says. I don't care what my parents say." What's important to you is that your friends like you. In order to be accepted, you will do what they want you to do. You're herd bound, you're manipulated, and you're too dumb to even know what's happening. You don't have the guts to be a leader. You're a follower and you get sucked into the cosmic vortex. You know when you're young, you're worried about what people think about you but when you get old, you will find out nobody ever thought about you anyhow. They were too busy thinking about themselves. So listen very carefully. You must understand this. Depression, teenage suicide as I just read to you this letter, it's a real thing. **When these acquired flaws get saturated into the life of an individual and their soul gets covered with**

scar tissue, they live in darkness. They can't even see what's going on. They don't realize what's happening, and they think the only way out is to get more and more of what got them there to start with. It's like drug addiction. I did the funeral for a young lady who died of drug addiction and her partner said, "She got high one time and thought she saw God and so she took more drugs, bigger doses of drugs to get back to God." See, this was a lie. This was Satan's system luring her down into the cosmic vortex. **You have the ability to destroy yourself with your arrogance.** This is why Paul said, "*They are past feelings [they don't feel guilt, they don't feel shame] and they betray their own souls into lasciviousness to produce sin with greed*" (Ephesians 4:19). They can't get enough of it, they love it. Experimenting with the things the world offers builds up scar tissue to the point of losing all your norms and standards, the shutdown of all your senses. The convictions that you had are gone and you build acquired flaws that will manipulate you and control every decision that you make. It won't be long on the My Way Highway before you will destroy yourself. Arrogance always does this. Arrogance justifies why it's okay to do what's wrong. Arrogance lies to self. Not only does arrogance lie to other people, arrogance lies to self. In arrogance you will self-justify, self-deceive, and self-absorb. You will be totally absorbed with whatever it is that you think will make you happy and the end result is self-destruction. It happens like this every time. This is why sowing a few wild oats is not necessarily a good thing. Satan is waiting for the Christian who wants to sow a few wild oats because once they step into the devil's world, they'll never step out. Will they die and go to heaven? Yes, they will. They believed in Jesus Christ, accepted Him as their Savior, but will they have the life God intended for them? No, they will not. They will be miserable and they will defeat their own soul. They will defeat their own reason for living. They will depress themselves and everyone that loves them and cares for them because they will not be able to get out of it. This is what happens when you build up scar tissue. You may know someone like this today, maybe a grandchild, maybe a child. You can only pray that God will convince them that they're in sin. Pray that they will see themselves as they are. It may take a tragedy, it may take a disaster. Who knows what it'll take but maybe somehow or another, the plan of God can be revealed to them and they can realize what it is and recover from their sin while there is still time. **Sowing a few wild oats is the second stage in the life of the young person who's trying to figure what it's all about.** You did it, I did it and they're doing it now. All we can do is pray and encourage and be there and try to reveal to them what the plan of God is for their life. Nobody told me this. I don't even know if it would have helped. **I trust it would have, because the Word of God never comes back void.** It sure would have saved me and those I loved a lot of misery. I hope you're paying attention. **Going down the My Way Highway is the wrong way, it's a dead end. Sowing a few wild oats has a lot more repercussions than what you think it does.** Are you learning? Every Sunday we are here believing God will provide for this show so you can hear it. I trust you will listen to God the Holy Spirit and make adjustments in your life. This is Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Life's Toughest Years - Part 4

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 660 aired on April 29, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please stay with me for a short time of motivation, some education, without any manipulation or even any solicitation. This show is designed to give you accurate information to help you verify and identify God's plan for your life. You can orient and adjust to the plan, that's up to you. My job is to get it accurate and encourage you. Many people across the country tell me they're listening and how The FLOT Line has guided them in their life to eventually get under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor where they can begin to learn God's Word and grow on a consistent basis. Again, I remind you, I'm not a pastor, I'm just an evangelist. My job is to spark your interest. My job is to give you the gospel, good news information, the fact that Christ died for your sin, paid the penalty for your sin, and you in effect have been freed from the slave market of sin by faith alone in Christ alone. Titus 3:5-7, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord."* Listen now to the next part, *"Being justified by His grace [not by our works] that we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* We have eternal life through Christ by faith in Christ's finished work on the cross, this alone. Not by any good works, not by any giving, not by any membership, not by anything like this, simply by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. Once you become a member of the family of God the trick is to *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18), to become wise, to grow up, not to stay a baby believer. The writer of Hebrews had something to say about this in Hebrews 5:11-12, *"You've been a Christian a long time now and you ought to be teaching others which you are not. You've gone back to where you need a bottle like an infant. You can't handle a steak."* He admonishes them for their lack of spiritual growth. Any believer in Jesus Christ must grow spiritually. The Bible mandates this. *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* is a mandate. *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15) is a mandate. This is critical. It is critical in the life of an adult, critical in the life of a young person. This series I'm doing right now called Life's Toughest Years is five lessons I taught recently with students in a private school in Mississippi. Now we're beginning to put this into a book and we're going to make this book available free of charge and it's called *Life's Toughest Years*. We want to continue this study today dealing with the adversity that teenagers face as they grow up. Remember **God gave you two ends, one to sit with and one to think with. Success in life depends on which end you use. It's heads you win and tails you lose. You've got to think your way through life.** You can't sit your way through life and always there's the lure, the lure of the cosmic system. **The cosmic system is the devil's world.** It's what the devil has out there. It looks like a mirage. It looks like the real thing, smells like the real thing, but it's not the real thing. You know, two

men in the desert and they're thirsty and they have no water and they climb over the top of the sand dune and say, "Oh look, there's a pool of water at the bottom." They take off running and it's not there. **The cosmic system offers you happiness in people, happiness in circumstances, but it's not there. It's a lie.** It's the lie of the devil. **People who get into the frantic search for happiness wind up following the lie.** Now, often times teenagers will do this. Young people will do this. I did it in my life, my very own life. I know this for a fact. This frantic search for happiness, somebody to love me, somebody to care about me, that "I've got to have a job, I've got to make some money, I've got to have this, I've got to have that. Everybody else has got it. Why don't I got it?" I know that is not good English but you know what I'm saying. The got-to-have-it-crowd, **the frantic search for happiness in the life of a confused teenager is the lure of the cosmic system.** We see this in Luke 15:11-32 where our Lord Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, taught this parable. I'll read it to you. Then He said [this is Jesus] "*A certain man had two sons and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me,' so he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with riotous living.*" Now I don't know what riotous living was but I've got some great ideas. Here we have in Luke 15:12-13, two sons, an older son and a younger son. I think it's obvious they didn't get along. I think it's obvious as you read the passage that the older son picked on the younger son, maybe bullied him, and the younger son had about all of it he wanted to have. He didn't see any future for him there working for his older brother. He wanted his share of the inheritance now and so he took his one-third, the older got two-thirds, he took his one-third and left. I think there may be, I'm probably reading into the passage, but there may be an invisible friend. You know, a friend that says, "Hey, do you have some money? I know a place where we can go and have a good time so I'll go with you. You've got the money, I've got the time." You know, a lot of people are like this, "if it's free it's for me." So maybe this invisible friend told him where there was a town they could go and they could have some riotous living, whatever this meant. Like me, you have your own ideas about it and probably what you're thinking is probably true, what he did. "*When he spent it all,*" in other words he went down to this town and he blew every nickel. This is not unusual. I heard a story years ago about a man who invented a famous rifle and he sold the patent for \$80,000 cash. He didn't have a lot of discipline and in one night in New York City, he blew the \$80,000 cash on riotous living, the same thing this kid did. When this kid had spent all that he had, he didn't have anymore money, "*A severe famine happened in the land and he began to be in want* [another way of saying he was extremely hungry]. *Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country.*" I imagine he begged for food for a while but nobody gave him anything to eat so he realized he was going to have to get a job. He actually went and got a job with a citizen of that country. These are not Jews, these are Gentiles. They are raising pigs and so we know that this is not a Jewish family. He takes a job slopping the hogs, "*The Gentile sent him into the field to feed the pigs.*" In Luke 15:16, "*And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the slop that the pigs ate because nobody gave him anything.*" You've got

to be in bad shape when slop starts looking pretty good to you. It reminds me of what we see in America every day, people dumpster diving, going around behind restaurants and diving in the dumpsters, people that are homeless. It is not always their fault, sometimes there are mitigating circumstances, but a lot of times it's just because they don't want to work. They don't have a job and don't want responsibility. Maybe they blew all their inheritance and now they're trying to find some food, who knows? This kid was eyeing the slop, seriously thinking, "That looks better than the dirt I've been eating," so "*He came to himself.*" This means that he had an attitude adjustment. This means instead of being arrogant with an unrealistic self-image, now because of a series of bad mistakes and bad judgment he has some humility. **This is not genuine humility, this is enforced humility by means of divine discipline.** God humbled this kid. This is what he said, Luke 15:17-19. "*How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough to spare and I am dying from hunger? I will arise and go to my father and I will say to him, 'Father, I've sinned against heaven and before you and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'*" This ironically is the same thing Christians have to do when we sin. We have to go to our Father and admit our sin, its problem-solving device #1 on the FLOT line of your soul, rebound, confessing your sin. "*If we confess our sin, then He [that's God] is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all of our wrongdoing*" (1 John 1:9). This young man was in effect rebounding, going to his father as a result of the divine discipline in his life. He had been brought to a place of humility and he knew that he had one of two choices, die or go home and admit his sin to his father. He was willing to just go back and work as a servant because he knew that there was security and comfort and food, and his father took care of his servants. He knew this and that is what he wanted to do. In Luke 15:20, "*He arose and came to his father.*" He just got up, quit the job, "See you later, I'm out of here, sayonara," and he went home. "*When he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.*" You know, what I imagine happening here is one of the servants telling the father, "There's a beggar coming up the road. Should I run him off? He has no shoes. He's filthy. Should we get rid of this man sir and tell him to go on down the road?" The father looked and said, "No, that's my son. That's not a beggar that's my boy." "*He had compassion, and ran and hugged his neck and kissed him. And the boy said. 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight and I'm no longer worthy to be called your son.'*" Now the father didn't whack him. The father didn't deck him. The father didn't tell him he was an idiot for blowing all his money. He just loved him. Remember this. I don't care what you've done, how gross the sin is, God still loves you. Go to your heavenly Father and confess your sin. **God loves you. You turned your back on Him but He didn't turn His back on you. He has just been loving you from behind. If you're alive, God still has a plan for your life.** You may think that you're not in the plan but you are. This kid thought that he was no longer worthy to be called a son, that he just should be a servant, but "*The father said, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.'*" So they cleaned him up. They gave him a bath. He didn't even have shoes. He didn't have any clothes, just tattered clothes. He probably hadn't washed them in

several weeks. His father cleaned him up, put on a robe, put sandals on him, put the signet ring on his hand and then, *“The father said, ‘Bring out the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and be merry, for my son was dead and he’s alive again. He was lost and now he’s found,’ and they began to be merry,”* they began to have a party. This is exactly what God does for you when you return to your heavenly Father. You’re going to be lured. Many young people are going to be lured just like this. This is a critical time in a teenager’s life when he has to decide, “Am I going to follow the cosmic system or will I stay with divine viewpoint? Will I stick with what the Word of God says?” Let me give you some principles. This young man went down the My Way Highway. You know, you’ve been on it before. The Lord said “Do not do it” and you thought “I’m going to do it anyhow.” You went on the My Way Highway. This young man probably had an invisible friend who encouraged him and probably went with him. His home life must have been miserable due to his older brother’s self-righteousness. Satan used the cosmic system to lure him out of his father’s will, to make him think that he could go on down the My Way Highway and he would find happiness there. **Here is a truth you must learn - unhappy people take their unhappiness with them wherever they go.** Did you hear that? Here are some other principles, how to identify the cosmic system, the zeitgeist, the spirit of the times, the lie that Satan perpetuates. **The cosmic system is Satan’s strategy as the ruler of this world to control believers and unbelievers. If he can control the way you think he can control what you do, so it’s always a battle for your mind.** *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus, who thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation. He humbled Himself, made Himself like a servant”* (Philippians 2:5-7). **This cosmic system has two separate points of attack. Satan will exploit Christians through their own arrogance and propaganda by which he educates and promotes antagonism towards the grace of God.** This kid, we’ll assume he was a Christian, he was in the family. This is an illustration of a believer who’s in God’s family who thinks he’s been lost to the family and no longer worthy to be a son. He found out he was wrong. God doesn’t take back what He gives you. He said, *“I give unto them eternal life and they will never perish, and neither shall any man ever pluck them out of My Father’s hand. My Father which gave them to Me is greater than all and no one can pluck them out of My Father’s hand”* (John 10:28-29). Satan exploits Christians by means of their own arrogance, the lure of the cosmic system. This is abundant in our world today with humanism, progressivism, all sorts of ‘isms’ that are going on today. You can find Christians taking more and more and more of a slap in the face. People laugh at you. They think you’re weird because you’re one of those holy rollers. You believe the Bible and they will call you every name in the world. This is Satan’s propaganda, to win the mind of the lost man, to convince him that Christians are over the top and goofy. **The target of the cosmic system is you. It will appeal to your arrogance to divorce you from the reality and the plan of God for your life.** If Satan can get you thinking that you could be happier somewhere else, if he can pull you away from the Word of God, he will do it and through the propaganda where he educates and promotes antagonism. **Only by learning and applying the Bible do you have any chance at all of**

becoming victorious in this Angelic Conflict. You must learn the Bible. That is why you have the mandates. This is why Jesus said, *“Take My yoke and learn of Me. My burden is easy, My yoke is light”* (Matthew 11:29). You must remember this. You might come under some demon influence where your mind is invaded with satanic propaganda but you will never be demon possessed because, *“Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world”* (1 John 4:4). God the Holy Spirit lives in you so you can't be demon possessed, but you can be lured by and into the cosmic system. Listen to 1 Timothy 4:1, *“The Spirit says in the latter times some will depart from faith giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”* This is the lure of the cosmic system. This is the truth the cosmic system offers. The Bible warns you not to be lured like this if you're a teenager, you cannot afford to let this happen. In 1 John 2:15-16, *“Don't love the world; don't love the things in the world. If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him. For all that's in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, that's not from the Father but it's of the world.”* It's this arrogant lie, this mirage that tells you, *“If you just had the right girl you'd be happy. If you just had the right guy you'd be happy. If you just had the right job you'd be happy. If you just lived in the right place you'd be happy.”* That's all a lie because happiness doesn't depend on circumstances. **The truth is, Jesus said “Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it” (Luke 11:28).** The issue is where do you get your direction in life? Who influences you? Is it from the cosmic system by means of your own arrogance or is it by means of God's Word where you have some humility? **Teachability requires humility and you're never going to learn anything without some humility.** When was the last time you sat down under a well-qualified pastor with a Bible and a notebook and you actually took notes and went home and read your notes, and tried to apply this in your life? If you just go to church and show up and you sit in the back row or the middle row, you don't take a note, you don't even take a Bible. You just sit there with a goofy grin on your face, you're kidding yourself. You're not going to remember even one-third of what the pastor said much less apply it. God is waiting on you to get serious about the Christian life. He's waiting on you to come to a point in your own soul where you now are frustrated with the cosmic system. You are frustrated with what the world offers and you're willing to go this extra mile to learn God's Word and you are willing to apply it into your life. Listen to James 4:6, *“But He [that's God] gives more grace. Therefore He says, ‘God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.’”* This doesn't mean you've got to walk around like a squashed bumblebee, this is not what we're talking about. **This is an attitude of authority orientation, respecting the authority of your heavenly Father, respecting the authority of His Word in your life.** This is the grace that God is looking to give to you. If you have this sort of humility in your life, if you're willing to lay it all on the line for the Word of God, then James 4:7-8 says, *“Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts you double minded people.”* Double-minded is *dipsuchos* in the Greek meaning a dual soul. You can't live two roles in your life. You've either got to be with it or without it. You're either in it or out. As far as the Christian life

goes, you can't walk down the middle here. You can't have one foot on church and one foot on second base over there. Either you're going to grow in grace, you're going to be the man or the woman God designed you to be or you're playing games and acting religious and trying to fool everybody. That doesn't work. Only when you have enough humility to line up with the plan of God, to stay filled with God's Holy Spirit, problem-solving devices #1 and #2, only when you develop the faith-rest drill, problem-solving device #3, and come to the place of having a personal sense of destiny, that God can begin to pour out in your life more grace than you can handle. I'm not talking about some prosperity doctrine. If you're waiting on God to help you win the lottery, good luck, it's not going to happen. But if you want God to give you peace, if you want God to give you purpose, if you want God to give you a destiny in your life, this is what I'm talking about. Draw near to Him. Rebound, purify your hearts, take in the Word of God. Get rid of the scar tissue in your soul, you double-minded, *dipsuchos*, you two-souled individual. It doesn't work when you're like this. How did our Lord handle the temptations of Satan? Do you know what He did? If you read Matthew 4:1-11 you'll see where He was tempted three times and you will see where every time He was tempted, He quoted Scripture. He said "It is written, it is written, it is written" and Satan had no answer. Eventually Satan left Him. **Satan will leave you when you can bathe your life in the Scripture of the Word of God.** Matthew 4:1-4 says, "*Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights and He was hungry, the tempter came to Him and said, 'If You are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread'* [Jesus wouldn't do it]. *He said, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'*" This was a time of testing for our Lord. The Holy Spirit lead Him to this place and He went 40 days without food. Wow. There is a TV show called *Naked and Afraid* and they go 21 days without food and they are about die. So 40 days without food, in the weakest moment of His life, Satan comes and says, "Turn that rock into bread" or "Jump off this building, prove to me that You're really God" (Matthew 4:6). Every time that he did this, Jesus would quote Scripture and Scripture and Scripture. Finally in Matthew 4:10, "*Away with you Satan, for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and only Him shall you serve.'*" Matthew 4:11 says, "*The devil left Him and behold angels came and ministered to Him.*" There are angels assigned to you, ministering spirits, and their job is to provide for you in time of need. We call them guardian angels and they are there for you. **If you will learn God's Word and apply God's Word and live it, your guardian angel is going to be high-fiving you all the way down the road of your life.** Think about this. Don't get lured into the cosmic system and blow everything in a frantic search for happiness. **Stay home, deal with the pressure, submit to the authority of the Father, and let God handle the rest. That's the answer. That's what you must do if you want to have a meaningful and full life.** I hope you've been listening and learning. It is always a great honor to bring the Word of God to you. This is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening.

Life's Toughest Years - Part 5

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 661 aired on May 6, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I ask you to stay with me for a short time of motivation and a whole lot of education and we're going to do this with no manipulation, no solicitation. Just giving you some accurate information, information that is designed to help you verify and identify God's plan for your life. If you can understand it, evaluate and apply it into your life, then you will be on your way to enjoying the greatest asset you can have, the Christian life, the wonderful, powerful, invisible life that God gives all of us through Christ Jesus our Lord. The FLOT Line is here to remind you of Biblical truths and hopefully to introduce you to an indepth way of studying and learning the Word of God. As I said no manipulation, just verifying God's plan and it all starts with the good news that Jesus Christ the anointed Son of God, has redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. Our debt to God has been paid. We are now free of the penalty of death and free of the power of sin. If you would receive Christ as your Savior, you in effect are accepting the offering that He made on your behalf, the free gift from God, complements of God. Ephesians 2:8-9, *"For by grace you are saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God and not of works lest any man should brag about it."* God loves you and has provided a wonderful gift for you, the gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus. You can't earn it. You can't buy it. You can't pay for it. Titus 3:5-7, *"Not by works of righteousness which we've done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord, that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* This is all complements of the grace of God. We are wrapping up a series called Life's Toughest Years and this will be the last lesson. I taught this recently in a school. I want to remind you, as I reminded them, that God gave each of us two ends, one end is to sit with and the other end is to think with. Success in our life depends on which end we use. It's heads we win and tails we lose. So if you want to have this wonderful life, you've got to learn to think. Here's a big question for teenagers, what do I do when I leave the house? Where do I go? I'm 18, I graduated, I'm in college, I'm out of college, what is my life all about? Let me give you some principles on the big search. **Every problem in life has a solution stated in the Word of God.** Nothing catches God off guard. There is no such thing as a problem in life that does not have a solution in the Word of God. **There are two areas where we can fail in our personal lives that will cause us to miss God's best plan for us. They are unbelief, rejecting the Word of God, and indifference to the Word of God.** When we have apathy to the Word, we don't pay attention to it. Rejection and apathy are the two enemies of anyone. The unbeliever who rejects the good news, the gospel of his salvation leaves the justice of God no choice but to condemn him to the Lake of Fire. God didn't create the Lake of Fire for the unbeliever. He created it for the devil and the fallen angels, but when you reject the free gift of eternal life, you force the justice of God to send you there as well. If you are a Christian, a

believer in Jesus Christ but you are indifferent to God's Word, you're too busy, you're too strung out, too many distractions, you have no intention of learning anything out of the Bible that might help you, then you are indifferent and you're going to go down the My Way Highway with your life until eventually you hit a dead end. **If you're ever going to discover God's plan for your life, you must learn not to emphasize people over God.** People, relationships are wonderful and fine but they're not the key to happiness. **Your relationship with God is your key to happiness and it's the key to you finding your personal sense of destiny. Don't ever fall for the lie that people or circumstances can make you happy, they can't.** The Apostle Paul, whose name was Saul of Tarsus, got a wake-up call. Maybe you need a wake-up call this morning. In Acts 9:1-2, "*Then Saul [who became Paul, wrote the books of Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians] still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord [he killed them, yeah he went after them with vengeance] went to the high priest and he asked for letters from him to the synagogue in Damascus, so that if he found anyone there who was of the way, men or women, that he might arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem for trial.*" This is Saul the antagonist going after Christians called *in the way* so they would be tried and be put to death. Saul was a terror to the early church, arresting and killing those who claimed to be Christians. Acts 9:3-6 tells us "*As he journeyed, he came near Damascus and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground and he heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' And Saul said, 'Who are You sir?' And the voice said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.' He trembling and astonished said, 'Lord, what would You have me to do?'"* You know the old Hank Williams song, "I saw the light, I saw the light, no more darkness, no more shame, I saw the light." Saul saw the light. He recognized immediately that this was God and he responded positively by saying, "*Lord, what do You want me to do?*" Now this was not some spaceship hovering over him shining a light on him. Hollywood has a way of making up all this goofy stuff so that you will buy into it. This is the grace of God calling Saul out of a life of sin and death. Saul eventually said as he wrote the book of Philippians 3:13-14, "*I do not count myself as apprehended [in other words I'm not a complete person yet] but one thing I do. I forget those things that are behind me and I reach forward to those things that are before me. I am pressing towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" **This is what you must do. If you're ever going to go through that door called a personal sense of destiny and discover God's plan for your life, you must forget your failures.** You know, when we rebound our sin, when we go to God and admit our sin, 1 John 1:9, this is how we're filled with the Spirit. One of the things that Satan's good at is throwing it back up at us and making us think, "Well, maybe I need to confess it again because I've only confessed this sin 25 times, maybe I should do it again." That's not what the Bible says. "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and He is just to forgive us.*" You don't have to keep on rebounding the same sin. You forget your failures, don't focus on the past. **Look at the solution not the problem and press forward toward the goal. What is your goal? To be a mature believer, to re-present the life of Christ, to represent**

Christ throughout your community, in your church, in your home. To let people that know you, see Christ in you, and for you to become a mature believer so you can be the light of the world, so you can be the salt that preserves the nation. This is what Paul said. "I'm not there yet spiritually but I'm not looking back. I'm looking ahead, looking forward, and I'm pressing [that's his own positive volition]. *I am pursuing the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" **Paul writes to us about having a relaxed mental attitude and this is critical if you're ever going to live the plan God has for you.** "*Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And then the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds through Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 4:6-7). Look at two words here, heart and mind. Remember this when you hear information from the Bible, it comes to your mind. It's called *gnosis* in the Greek New Testament. This is knowledge but **knowledge of the Word of God is not the same thing as application of the Word of God. What God wants you to do is to hear it and apply it into your life.** In the book of Jeremiah it says, "*If you want to brag about something brag about this, that you know Me and understand Me*" (Jeremiah 9:23). Philippians 4:7 says, "*Understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*" What do you need to understand? What the devil's directive is, how he will try to snooker you, how he will try to misdirect you, how he will try to get you to go down the My Way Highway and pursue your own dreams and your own desires and never walk through the personal sense of destiny door. "Don't be anxious. By prayer and supplication with thanksgiving just go to the Lord, let Him know and He will give you peace and guard your heart [your wisdom department in your soul] through Christ Jesus your Lord." Now every one of us has a personal sense of destiny, every Christian has a sense of destiny. The very fact that we believed in Christ at the beginning of this destiny means we are going to heaven. In eternity as well as in time, we have a destiny. **The more we learn, the more we understand the plan of God, the more we develop this sense of destiny where we now know why God saved us. We now know why we are here. We now know what our spiritual gift is. We now know what God wants us to do.** This is not an easy thing to determine. I went through it in my life and my friends have gone through it. I knew I had a spiritual gift. I knew eventually that I had the gift of evangelism. It was a gift given to me by God. I didn't earn it, I didn't deserve it, but it's a gift that He gave to me, to be able to talk and people listen because I never talked to anybody in my life before I got saved. He's given you a gift. You may have the gift of evangelism. You may have the gift of pastor-teacher. You may have the gift of giving. You may have the gift of helps. You may have the gift of mercy. You may have the gift of administration. Whatever your gift is, when you learn and understand the plan of God you will develop a sense of destiny about how to use this gift to its fullest. Only will it become full when you reach spiritual maturity. **Spiritual maturity is your goal.** That's what God wants for you, to grow up out of the baby stage, not be a *brephos*, a baby, not to be a student but to be an adult believer having gone through spiritual self-esteem, going through spiritual autonomy, and reaching spiritual adulthood. This is where God wants you to be. **Your destiny in**

Christ is so great that it will outweigh any problem you face, any disaster you may go through, any heartaches that you may have. Anything that comes your way, your destiny will override this. God has a plan for your life and you will never be happy, you will never be fulfilled, you will never understand why you're here until you discover this plan. There's only one way to discover it. You've got to grow up spiritually. There are three occasions when everybody has to grow up. When we're born we have to grow up as human beings. This means we eventually take responsibility for our decisions, both the bad ones and the good ones. If a kid gets in trouble, somebody has to call their parents. I told the students where I taught this at their school, "If you get in trouble, the principal is going to call your momma and daddy, but not in the future. In the future if you get in trouble, you're going to have to take responsibility for it yourself." You have to grow up when you're born as a human. **When you're born again you must grow up as a Christian by learning and applying God's Word into your life.** When you get married you must grow up in the marriage so you understand your role as a husband, you understand your role as a wife, you understand your role as a mother and a father. You have to grow up. **Growing up as a Christian includes understanding the will of God for your life. There are three things you have to understand: the directive will of God, the permissive will of God, and the overruling will of God.** The directive will of God is for you to be in fellowship with Him every day. He tells you for example, "*Be filled with the Spirit*" (Ephesians 5:18). This is the directive will of God and you can't be in fellowship with God if you're not filled with the Spirit. We know sin quenches the Spirit and grieves the Spirit. We know we have to confess this sin. We know the directive will of God is for us to, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). We know this. We've seen this verse. "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of truth*" (2 Timothy 2:15). This is the directive will of God, you in fellowship, you growing, and you reflecting Jesus Christ. Then on top of the directive will of God and the permissive will of God, there's the overruling will of God. This is God's wall of fire. Whether you are in fellowship with Him or whether you're out of fellowship with Him, God can put a wall of fire around you to protect you and deliver you from yourself or from the sources of the enemy. He keeps you alive. He keeps you here. If you are breathing this morning, listening to me talk, you are taking every breath complements of the grace of God. He's making this possible for you. He's kept you here and maybe it's to hear this message or other messages that we give. Your objective is to grow to spiritual maturity by finding a good qualified pastor where you can study daily, and grow and learn God's Word and reflect Christ in your life. This is my objective to get you to grow up so you can have an invisible and historical impact in history as a believer. **This is your job, to deliver this nation from what's coming, as a member of the pivot, the core group of key, strong, mature believers that God will use to deliver the nation. He will deliver this nation because of your life, because of your testimony.** That's what we're looking for and I pray that you would be part of this pivot. **Now in the will of God, you have to check out three things. You have to learn the geographical will of God, where He wants you to be.**

This is critical. Does He want me to stay in Houston? Does He want me to stay in Grass Valley, California? Does He want me to stay in Tucson, Arizona? Where does God want me to be? The geographical will of God is important. **I believe God wants you to be where you can grow spiritually, where you can have a qualified pastor.** Sometimes people have to relocate. I know many people that up and moved so they could be in a church where there was a great pastor teaching the Word of God. I know people that actually moved to get face-to-face teaching. That's a great thing. Sometimes this isn't possible, but it is possible for you to take in the Word of God every day. It is possible for you to listen to the teaching the Word of God every day. Where does God want you to be? There's a geographical will of God for your life. There's a city He wants you in. There's a place He wants you in. There's a slot He wants you to fill and discovering this is awesome. **The viewpoint will of God is what God wants you to think. He wants you to think divine viewpoint.** *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5), this is divine viewpoint. The viewpoint will of God is what He want you to think. He wants you to think the Word of God, Bible doctrine, learn it and apply it into your life so you can reflect Christ. **Then there's the operational will of God and this is what He wants you to do.** Does He have a destiny for me? Yes. Is there a plan for me? Yes. Is there a slot where I fit in, something He wants me to do? Yes. He may have given you a talent. This is not your spiritual gift. Your spiritual gift can be best used in a local church where the spiritual gifts come together and re-present the body of Christ to the community. This is critical you remember this. In the doctrine of knowing the will of God for your life, there are specific things and general things. The specific thing is what does God want me to do today? Some people get goofy with this, "God willing I'll take the garbage out this morning." Well obviously He wants you to take the garbage out but every day is a gift from God. *"This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and have a superabundance of happiness"* (Psalm 118:21) *"And it because of His unfailing love and mercy every day"* (Lamentations 3:22-23). **Every day that you are alive, God has a destiny for that day. The long-term will of God is what does He want me to do with the rest of my life?** Am I to be a missionary? Am I to be a pastor? Am I to be a wife? Am I to be a husband? Am I to be a whatever? He has a plan. As you learn God's Word, as the Word of God unfolds before you like a book and you begin to see yourself in it, it blows you away. I was praying with a group of people after I got saved. I was a young Christian, maybe two to three weeks old in Christ and the verses that they gave me to read shocked me. We were reading Bible verses around a circle and this was my verse, *"Pray for me that utterance may be given unto me that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in bonds"* (Ephesians 6:19). When I read this, people looked at me and said, "Do you know what you just read?" It took awhile to figure it out but I was commissioned an evangelist. This is my destiny in Christ, to learn God's Word and to replicate the life of Christ and share this Word with you. The reason that I'm on this radio today talking to you is fulfilling the long-term will of God for my life. I never thought about having a radio show. I never wanted to have a radio show. This was not a goal but it happened about twelve years ago, out of

nowhere, and here we are still broadcasting on the radio complements of the grace of God. Hopefully you're learning and then it's going to happen to you as well. You know, when the Lord called His disciples in Mark 1:16 they were all blown away. He was walking by the Sea of Galilee and saw Simon and Andrew his brother, that's Peter. They were casting nets into the sea, they were fishermen. *"Jesus said, 'If you will follow Me I will make you fishers of men.' And they immediately left their nets and followed Him"* (Matthew 4:19) They didn't dillydally around, their destiny became apparent quite quickly when they met Christ. Your destiny is to *"Grow in grace."* Your destiny is to *"Show yourself approved unto God"* (2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Peter 3:18). Your destiny is to take the yoke of Christ and learn His plan for you (Matthew 11:28). He said, *"My yoke is easy and My burden is light"* (Matthew 11:30). God has a plan for your life. You must learn it. When you learn it, when you sit under the ministry of a really good, qualified pastor and he teaches you the Word of God, then you will see what God's plan for your life is. How does it happen? Study, grow, learn. Study, 2 Timothy 2:15, again I'm going to say it one more time, *"Study to show thyself approved unto God."* This is not a ten minute devotion in the morning. That's fine, I'm glad you do it, but this is not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about an hour a day under your pastor listening to a DVD, listening to an MP3, or face-to-face in your local church as he teaches the Word of God. No one can grow listening 30 minutes on Wednesday, 30 minutes Sunday morning, 30 minutes Sunday night, that's an hour and a half a week of Bible instruction. You're not going to grow with this. It's going to take a little bit more and I suggest that you find someone that can teach you. If you don't know someone, let me know. I'll tell you where I get mine because I study every day. My pastor teaches daily, consistently, and we are in a study of the life of Christ now that's up to 1,160 hours just in the life of Christ alone. There's a lot of studying for you and as you study and grow and apply and learn and see the door open and begin to understand, it's an amazing thing. Studying causes growth. What am I growing in? Two things. I'm growing in grace and growing in the knowledge of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I'm learning to utilize the grace of God, to exploit the grace of God, to enjoy the grace of God, and I'm learning everything possible about Jesus Christ my Savior. Therefore, when He says, *"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me"* (Matthew 11:29), that's our job. Learn from Him. Learn from His life, from His example, from His testimony, and how do we do this? Somebody teaches it to us. We don't pick the Bible up and read it for ourselves. You can do this but this is not how you're going to learn it. **The plan is for you to sit under a well-qualified pastor and let him teach you. He's the shepherd, we are the sheep. We grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by consistently taking in God's Word.** I hope this is making sense because there is a path for you. There's a life for you. There's a destiny for you and it all starts with you understanding it as it unfolds through the Bible and becomes alive to you. I hope you're listening and I hope you're paying attention. I'm your host Rick Hughes and next week we'll be back, same time, same place. Until then, thank you for listening.

The Spiritual Failure - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 662 aired on May 13, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes you have an invitation to stay with me for 30 minutes of motivation, inspiration, education, and we do it without any manipulation. No games, no solicitations for money, just information, accurate information to help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you're able to do this, as we always say, you can orient and adjust to the plan, that's up to you. My job is to give you accurate information. The show is called The FLOT Line. We always use this name because we're talking about building an invisible forward line of troops. This is learning God's Word, learning these unique problem-solving devices found in the Word of God, and using them to stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. Remember, adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. You never have to have stress as a believer in Jesus Christ. There's a unique way to live. It's called the spiritual life and it's a pretty unique life. It's an unbelievable life. It's a life where you can live with no fear, no worry. It's not a life you can live with no adversity, I'm not saying that. I'm just saying that adversity is inevitable, it's going to happen, but it's a life where you don't have to let adversity rule you. You don't have to let adversity control you. You never have to be afraid. You never have to worry because you're in the Father's plan. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24/7 so when you have complaints, when you have things you don't like, you can just take it to the Supreme Court of Heaven. Turn it over to the Father, let Him handle it. This takes the monkey off your back. Isn't that a neat way to live? Wonderful problem-solving devices found in the Bible and as you learn them, as you put them to use in your life, then you have this invisible wall of protection. You have a main line of resistance made up of rebound. This is you learning how to confess your sin. It is something we have to do on a consistent daily basis. 1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sin, then He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all of our unrighteousness."* Any time we sin as believers in Jesus Christ, we immediately quench and grieve the Holy Spirit and therefore we have to recover the filling of the Holy Spirit. We are mandated to *"Be filled with the Spirit"* (Ephesians 5:18) and we recover the filling of the Spirit when we confess our sin. When we go to God and admit our sin, then He cleanses us and puts us back into fellowship. Also, the wonderful problem-solving device of the faith-rest drill, standing on God's promises, using God's promises. There are thousands of promises in the Bible for you. We even put together a small book on promises that we make available to folks and these promises are yours to claim, yours to live by. They are from Almighty God Himself and they are your protection. They are your deposit of His guarantee that He will not leave you out to suffer consequences. He's always there with you. He will always protect you. He will always look over you. These are fantastic promises from God and part of a problem-solving device called Biblical orientation. If you learn God's Word, you get a new way of thinking called divine viewpoint. We have grace orientation where we have a new way of living, letting the mind of Christ control us instead of us

living our way, thinking our thoughts. Remember, God said, "I don't think like you think." "*My ways are not your ways, My thoughts are not your thoughts*" (Isaiah 55:8). How do you learn to think like Christ thinks? Remember, Philippians 2:5 says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*" You must learn to think like He thought, in terms of humility, not arrogance. Philippians 2:7 says, "*He humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation.*" The biggest enemy of any believer is arrogance. **Arrogance will destroy us because arrogance always justifies why it's okay to sin.** Arrogance always lies to self, telling self, "It's not really a problem." Arrogance always justifies and leads to total self-absorption - self-justification, self-deception, and self-absorption. **A person's arrogance will bring him low. This is why James 4:6 says, "God makes war against the arrogant but He gives grace to the humble."** This is the key here, thinking like Christ thought in terms of humility. When we do this we begin to see why we're here. We get a destiny, a personal sense of destiny. This is one of the problem-solving devices, understanding who you are, what your spiritual gift is, and what God has in store for you. Then we move into the greatest motivation that our life could ever have, this is personal love for God. "*If you love Him, you will obey Him and His mandates are not hard [they're not grievous]*" (1 John 5:3). Jesus even said in Matthew 11:29-30, "*Take My yoke and learn of Me. My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*" God is not going to ask you to do something that's too tough for you to do. He's just going to ask you to obey. What am I suppose to obey? His plan for you, it's the best plan in the world. You can go down the My Way Highway and live your plan. You can decide you don't want anything to do with God's plan and you can make a wreck out of your life as some of you have already done or you can recover by admitting your sin and turning around and saying, "Father, whatever it is, show me so I can learn and understand what I'm doing wrong." Then pray that God will lead you to a great pastor, somebody that can explain the Word of God to you. The Bible is not a novel. It is not designed to be read, it's a textbook. I'm not saying you're not suppose to read the Bible, this is not what I'm saying. What I'm saying is it's a textbook, it's a book designed to be taught to you. This is why God gives the gift of pastor-teacher to qualified men. Ephesians 4:11 talks about those that have the spiritual gift of pastor and teacher, the *poimen kai didaskolos* in the Greek New Testament. His job is to make you rich. Not wealthy in money. I know you're thinking immediately, "Oh boy, I'm going to be rich." Being rich with the treasures that God offers you. The word in the Greek is *thesauros*, meaning treasure. It's a word treasure. As a pastor teaches you God's Word, you have a word treasure in your soul. **You equip your soul with the Word of God, this wonderful treasure called wisdom, knowledge, and discernment.** When you have wisdom, knowledge, and discernment, you have an invaluable treasure that you can't even add up because it's going to bless your life so much. Are you listening? Are you learning? Are you ready to advance in this life that God has for you? One of the things that I see quite often is people wind up being spiritual failures. They don't advance in the Christian life. One of the reasons is they leave their first love, Revelation 2:4 talks about this. They don't have that personal love for God, that motivational virtue anymore. Personal love for God is a wonderful problem-solving device because it gives us impersonal love

for other people. This is a problem-solving device also, as well as sharing the happiness of God, being occupied with Christ, wonderful problem-solving devices, ten of them. Some people wind up being spiritual losers. They never advance in their Christian life because they lose their first love. They lose sight of what motivates them to be this type of person God wants them to be and other people are just lazy. Hebrews 5:11-12 says, "You have been a Christian a long time now. You should be teaching others but instead you've gone backwards where you need someone to teach you all over again, the very first principles of the Word of God." We are going to talk about some of the reasons that people wind up being spiritual failures. Recently my own pastor was doing a series in John 16 and he was talking about *skandalon*, the Greek word for becoming a stumbling block. The Lord Jesus Christ was talking to the disciples and He was telling them what they were going to face in John 16:1-3, that people were going to try to kill them thinking they're doing God a favor. Jesus said, "I'm telling you this so you won't stumble when it happens." This can really trip people up sometimes when they get persecuted. Sometimes they don't understand why God allows this to happen. We are disciples in the Church Age but they were with Him face-to-face. They ate with Him, they camped with Him, they talked with Him, and they were all martyred except one, John, who died on the Isle of Patmos. Now it's you. You are the mouthpiece today. **You are God's instrument that He uses in time to re-present Jesus Christ and to represent Him to your generation.** You are the disciple in the Church Age and it's your mission to spread the gospel, the good news that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world, that Jesus Christ is our Redeemer, and through faith alone in Christ alone we have eternal life. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "*For by grace are you saved through faith, it's a gift of God and not of works lest anyone brag about it.*" **Our Lord emphasized to the disciples not to allow the persecution that they would face to distract them from finishing the race set before them.** They had no idea they were going to write the New Testament. They really didn't like the idea of Him going to the cross. Peter even said, "God forbid it Lord, no, no, no," and this got him a quick rebuke when Jesus said to him, "*You are a stumbling block to Me*" (Matthew 16:23). The same is true for us. **We must finish the race. You must complete the course God set for you.** Paul made a statement in regard to sticking with the plan when he said in 2 Timothy 4:7, "*I have competed well, I have finished my race, I have kept the faith.*" This same warning that our Lord Jesus Christ gave to the disciples in John 16:2-3 also applied to Paul. He came later after the disciples and accepted Christ on the road to Damascus and on that same morning, "They are going to kill you. They're going to think they're doing God a favor." Later Paul was put to death by means of religious persecution. Let's look at Acts 23:12, "*When it was day, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves under an oath saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they killed Paul.*" In Acts 24:5, the testimony of Ananias the high priest as he appeared before Governor Felix of Caesarea. He said, "*We have found this man to be a real pest and a fellow who stirs up dissension among all the Jews throughout the world and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.*" The sect of the Nazarenes are the followers of Jesus the Nazarene. This is what Ananias said about him before Felix the Governor of Caesarea. Let's get a couple of

principles in regard to your life and finishing the race. **In spite of the injustice that we may face, we can't afford to be sidetracked by circumstances or by people who drive these circumstances.** Our job is to keep our eyes on our Savior. Hebrews 12:2, *"Put your eyes on Christ who in spite of the shame endured the cross."* Look at Him. Keep your eyes on Him. We can't afford to be sidetracked by things that happen to us or people who drive circumstances in our life. There are going to be times in your life when people will become a stumbling block, people that you trust, people that you put faith in, people that encouraged and motivated you. If you look at their life you are going to find out that all of us are no good. We all have a sin nature. **We all have different areas of weaknesses. Keep your eyes on Christ, not on people.** The Lord Jesus Christ's emphasis to us is to stay on the point. **Complete the mission the Father assigned.** We must be professional and finish our mission, our life's course, what God left us here to do. **To fail to fulfill God's plan is sin.** This doesn't mean you're going to lose your salvation. This doesn't mean you're not going to go to heaven, but it means if you fail God's plan, you sin. Many of you listening to me right now on this radio show have been on point and are fulfilling your mission for some time now. Some people were even motivated to get under a good pastor, moved to a city where there was a pastor and got face-to-face teaching. Some have been faithful to locate, serve, and persevere in whatever mission God assigned for them. Let me tell you about becoming a spiritual failure. You can become a stumbling block to other people. The word *skandalon* in the New Testament is always used metaphorically and ordinarily of anything that arouses prejudice or becomes a hindrance to other people or causes other people to fall. In Matthew 16:23 our Lord even called Peter a stumbling block. I mentioned this to you earlier, a stumbling block, a person or a thing by which one is entrapped or drawn into error or sin. Here's what Peter did in Matthew 16:22, *"So Peter took the Lord aside and began to rebuke Him."* Can you imagine Peter rebuking the Lord? Why did he do this? Because the Lord told him He was going to be put to death. The Lord told him He was going to be crucified and Peter just went off on Him. This is what he said, *"God forbid, Lord. This must not happen to You."* Then Jesus in Matthew 16:23, *"Turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me satan! You are a stumbling block to Me because you are not setting your mind on God's interest. You are setting your mind on men's interest.'"* What does this mean? This means Peter wanted the Millennium to come. He wanted the Kingdom to come. He couldn't stand the idea that the Kingdom wasn't coming right now. Jesus has already told him, "The Kingdom is being postponed, it will come later. Right now they're going to kill Me." This just blew Peter's mind so Jesus called him a stumbling block or a trap or a snare. The stumbling block, the *skandalon*, is the movable stick or the trigger of a trap or a snare. Metaphorically it is used for any person or anything by which someone is drawn into error or drawn into sin. Anyone who causes you to lose sight of your mission or anyone who causes you to be drawn into sin has been a stumbling block to you. When you get tripped up, do you want to lay there, have a pity party, and feel sorry for yourself or do you want to get up and complete the mission? Our Lord said in Luke 17:1, *"It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come."* Our Lord was very specific about those who cause

others to stumble, others who believe in Him and now they're caused to stumble. The Pharisees were certainly this sort of person. They were actively engaged in trying to distort the message of Jesus as well as persecute anyone who followed Him. Listen to John 12:42-43. *"Nevertheless, even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees [the religious leaders of their time] they would not confess Jesus to be the Christ, so that they would be put out of the synagogue, for they loved the praises of men more than the praises of God."* **If you're going to follow Jesus Christ, there is a price to be paid.** You are going to be persecuted. You may even be killed for this. There are people in this world today that would take great joy in killing a Christian. They think you are of the devil and they would take great joy in destroying you. They would even give their life in an attempt to kill you thinking that they would be martyrs and go to heaven if they could rid the world of people like you. Just get ready, you haven't seen anything yet. **We are going down a road in this country, the United States of America, that is going to see more and more persecution of believers in the future.** Satan is having a heyday in our schools. He's having a heyday with the destruction of marriage. He's having a heyday in organized religion with more and more absurdity coming out of our theological seminaries. I don't even want to waste your time with some of the goofy stuff I read that professors are saying about Jesus Christ. The practical application for us is don't be a stumbling block. I know you don't want to cause people to stumble. I don't want to cause people to stumble. It's not our mission to cause people to trip and fail. My pastor taught me this years ago, that we have the liberty to enjoy certain things but sometimes we refrain from these things when we are in the presence of weaker believers. We don't want them to be confused by our behavior so we simply refrain from our liberty and protect the weaker believer. **Paul put it this way in 1 Corinthians 8:9, "Take care that this liberty of yours does not become a stumbling block to the weak."** My pastor taught me this doctrine under the laws of Christian behavior. Let me review some of what he told me. He's gone to be with the Lord. I've kept his notes for years and have his permission to re-teach the things that he taught me. It's out of the Bible and no one has a copyright on the truth that's in the Bible. My pastor would want me to re-teach it to you. He taught me the law of liberty in 1 Corinthians 8:9, what I just read, *"Take care that this liberty of yours does not become a stumbling block to the weak."* This law is always directed toward self. Biblically as a believer in Jesus Christ there are things that I have the right to do, certain things I can do that are not sinful. They would not tempt any mature believer to sin if they were in my presence but it's different if it's a weak believer. New believers and believers without much strength only have carnal norms and standards in their conscience. The weak conscience makes a taboo out of certain things like wine and they set up these false criteria for spirituality. A weak conscience substitutes taboos for the doctrinal norms and standards that it does not possess. In 1 Corinthians 8:7, *"However, not all men have this knowledge but some being accustomed to the idol until now, eat food as if it were sacrificed to an idol and their conscience being weak is defiled."* This word defiled is *moluno* and is used figuratively of a conscience that's been stained with mud or filth. Here is the principle. Since they don't have a main line of resistance in their soul, new young

believers can be distracted or scared by the behavior of the mature believer when they're around him. It would appear to them you are disregarding God's laws and the end result is that the emphasis shifts from God's grace to your behavior and thus you become a stumbling block. You become an issue, not the grace of God, you. **You never want to be an issue in anyone's life. They don't need to be looking at you. Looking at God and His Word is what they need to be looking at.** My pastor use to always say, "It's not the man, it's the message." Never idolize the man. Jeremiah 17:5 says, "*Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength and whose heart turns away from Me.*" The enlightened believer, the smart believer, thought nothing about eating and drinking the food and maybe even having wine from the temple meat market, but the enlightened believer has the responsibility not to offend the ignorant believer, as long as it's not encouraging some sort legalism. This is a different story. If this encourages legalism then he has no responsibility to worry about what the legalistic believer is going to say. If it's a new believer, a weak believer, then the liberty of the mature believer may become a stumbling block. Under the law of liberty we refrain, we don't do it. We stay away from it because it would create a false issue. Then there's the law of love and under the law of love Paul said in 1 Corinthians 8:13, "*Therefore, if food makes my brother to stumble, I will not eat food again so that I might not cause my fellow Christians to stumble.*" The law of love is the function of impersonal love toward all believers including the legalist, self-righteous religious types, etc. The law of love is generally directed toward new believers who are ignorant of the Word of God or toward believers who are distracted by legitimate authority or functions. Let me just say this. Don't let some religious legalist try to establish tyranny over you and tell you what you can and cannot do because they will use your graciousness to manipulate you. It's between you and God but if you let them, they will stick their nose into your business. **Every believer is a minister of reconciliation and we must refrain from doing things not because they are wrong but because they could prevent some unbeliever from seeing the true issue of faith alone in Christ alone.** Next week we'll continue this study on what is a spiritual stumbling block. Until then, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Spiritual Failure - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 663 aired on May 20, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes please stay with me. It will be a short time, just 30 minutes of motivation, a lot of inspiration, some education, and we do this without any type of manipulation. We're not going to dun you for money. We're not going to con you to join anything. We're not going to ask you for anything. We just want to give you something and that is accurate information, information from the canon of Scripture, the Bible. It is a show about the Bible, I admit that, but no ranting and no raving. No jumping up and down. We're just going to give you the information and you can decide whether you want to orient and adjust to the plan of God after you hear it, that's up to you. My job is to be accurate, not to mislead you, and give you insight into what the Bible has to say in regard to your life. It's a wonderful life that God has given us. What a short life on earth it really is and it can be a fantastic life or it can be a miserable life. It all depends on your decisions, the decisions that you make, the things that you do. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ and have accepted Him as your Savior, you've made the first step in taking the road to a great, wonderful, fantastic life because the Christian life is a life where we never have to worry, we never have to be afraid, we never have to be jealous, we never have to carry guilt. It's a life where we can have a relaxed mental attitude, we can assimilate the mind of Christ from the Bible, and we can enjoy the wonderful privilege of being in the royal family of God knowing our destiny, knowing our blessings, knowing that our Father protects us, watches over us, and provides for us at all times. This is why Romans 8:28 says, *"All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to a predetermined plan."* When you receive Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God as your Savior, you are in effect accepting the offering He made for you, the offering He made on your behalf, the free gift from the complements of God. This is why Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God not of works lest any man should brag about it,"* or boast about it. On our radio show we follow themes or patterns, and it's always about building a FLOT line in your soul. The FLOT line is an invisible protective barrier inside your soul designed by God to operate off of 10 unique problem-solving devices. These problem-solving devices we teach repeatedly on this radio show and we have them in a book for you. If you would like to have a copy of the book, just contact us and we will send it to you free of charge. We never charge for anything that we produce. I've always believed if God is in it, God will pay for it or else I can go do something else. God pays for it in His wonderful grace. What a privilege it is to live like this. It puts the monkey on His back, not my back. I don't have to worry about raising money. I don't have to worry about trying to hustle up the finances. The Lord provides or the Lord doesn't provide, this is simply up to Him. When we live this Christian life, we build this invisible wall of protection, this main line of resistance, this FLOT line, forward line of troops, using a military metaphor for this concept of 10 unique problem-solving devices. Problem-solving devices like confession of

known sin, how I solve the problem of sin using 1 John 1:9. Problem-solving devices like the filling of the Holy Spirit, how I control the sinful lustful flesh of my sin nature, *“Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh”* (Galatians 5:16). The problem-solving device of dealing with testing in unknown circumstances in life is using the faith-rest drill, problem-solving device #3. On it goes, problem-solving devices like Biblical orientation, grace orientation, having a personal sense of destiny, having personal love for God with the result of impersonal love for others, sharing the happiness of God, and being occupied with the Lord Jesus Christ. These are unique problem-solving devices that I just skimmed over, like throwing a rock and making it skip across the pond, I didn’t go into them in detail. I’ve done this in the past. It’s the wonderful way that we live as Christians so that the outside source of adversity does not become the inside source of stress. **As believers we all have the ability to destroy our lives. We all have a volition. We all have a sin nature. The Bible says we have three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil.** Make no mistake about it, Satan wants to sidetrack you. Satan wants to discourage you. Satan wants to defeat you. 1 Peter 5:8 says he, *“Goes around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour.”* We can carry this analogy on out to the end of what happens once the lion eats, he takes a big old poop, and so people who get into Satan’s plan become a pile of lion poop. Sorry to put it this way but that’s about what it amounts to, a smelly pile of poop because they did not learn God’s Word. They did not live God’s Word. They did not advance in God’s Word. And sometimes they even become a stumbling block to other believers. The stumbling block is something we talked about last week when we were warned not to become a stumbling block to other people. The Lord Jesus Christ rebuked Peter in Matthew 16:22-23 where He said, *“You are a stumbling block to Me.”* Peter said, *“You must not die Lord. It couldn’t happen to You. You don’t need to go to the cross.”* Jesus said, *“Get behind Me, you are a stumbling block to Me because you’re not setting your mind on God’s interest, but on man’s interest.”* This stumbling block I’m talking about is a trap or a snare, a removable stick or trigger and metaphorically it’s any person or anything by which one is drawn away into error or into sin. Jesus said in Luke 17:1, *“It’s inevitable that stumbling blocks will come but woe to him through whom they come.”* Our Lord was specific about those who cause young believers or other believers to stumble. In John 16:1-3 He even warned the disciples that the religious crowd would kill Him and persecute them once He left and they were not to stumble when this happened. Paul wrote about being a stumbling block. He was very concerned about young believers and the things that they had to go through. In 1 Corinthians he wrote to the town of Corinth and talked about not being a stumbling block to those people. We went into this study in 1 Corinthians 8:9-11 and we saw where Paul said for example, *“Take care that this liberty of yours does not become a stumbling block to the world”* and this is directed toward self. Biblically what this means is we have the right to do certain things that are not sin but may be a stumbling block to others. Keep in mind that preachers make stuff sin that is not sin. They may tell you that it’s a sin to play cards. Well, the Bible doesn’t say it’s a sin to play cards. They may tell you it’s a sin to dance, but the Bible doesn’t say it’s a sin to dance. You can follow this out to a lot of different

things. What the Bible says is sin and what people want to make sin are often different. It's possible that you may be doing something that's not sinful but it may tempt the weaker believer to go into it and do the same thing and not having enough doctrine in his soul to understand this, he could sin. You want to avoid doing this under the law of liberty. **You have the right to do certain things, but you don't do them because you don't want to distract a younger believer.** You don't want to scar up his behavior and so you disregard these things and put them aside until at a later time when you have privacy and you're alone or you are with someone who's mature enough to understand it. **This is the law of liberty. We have the right to do certain things but we don't and this is motivated by the law of love.** Therefore 1 Corinthians 8:13, *"If food makes my brother to stumble, I won't eat food again so that I don't cause him to stumble."* The law of love is actually a function of one of the problem-solving devices we have called impersonal love. This is when I have the ability to love the unlovable person. Jesus tells me I have to love the unlovable person, but the only way I can do this is to love him based on the content of my soul, not based on the content of his soul. The law of love is generally directed toward a new believer, the ones that are ignorant of these things, that don't know any better, or even directed toward believers who could be distracted by the legitimate functions in life. You have to be careful here. I don't want to double talk but I want to make this plain. Don't let some legalist establish a tyranny over you and use your graciousness to manipulate you. You've got to remember this, every one of us is a minister of reconciliation and we must refrain from doing anything that would cause someone to stumble, not because it's wrong, but because it would prevent an unbeliever from seeing the true issue of salvation. We want them to see Christ in us, not question what we do. Even though we may have the right to do it, it created a false issue. For example Jesus in Matthew 12:1-7 was condemned because He let His disciples pick corn on the Sabbath and people got all bent out of shape. They thought this was a sin to pick corn on the Sabbath and obviously it was not sin. Then there is the third law, the law of supreme sacrifice and I want to go into it today. This is the highest law of Christian behavior that we must observe. It would generally apply to a mature believer, a believer who has a maximum amount of doctrine in his soul, a believer who has established a FLOT line in his soul. He has this mainline resistance. **The law of supreme sacrifice is a mature believer forsaking normal living and legitimate functions in order to serve the Lord in some special way.** Listen to Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:4-6, *"Do we not have a right to eat and drink? Do we not have a right to take along a Christian wife, even as the rest of the apostles do and the brothers of the Lord and Peter? Or do only Barnabas and I not have the right to refrain from working?"* You see, under the law of supreme sacrifice a few normal things in life, even sometimes marriage, what we eat, these things are set aside because they interfere with the concentration on a special ministry or they interfere with a leadership function in our life. Nothing in our life is worth causing someone else to stumble and nothing in our life is worth letting someone manipulate you. Here's the real bottom line. If you are concerned about another believer and his growth and you want him to grow spiritually, you have to be careful how you act around him, what you say around him

because it may offend him and he doesn't have enough doctrine to know that it's not wrong. If it's a legalistic believer and that person wants to judge you, manipulate you, and try to coerce you into living under his legalistic concepts, then you can just ignore him and disregard anything he tries to do to you. He's not going to change and you're not going to change him and you are wasting your time trying to convince him that he needs to get under the serious study of the Word of God under a well-qualified pastor-teacher. I see this all the time. I talk to people who don't have any questions. I know I tell them things they've never heard before. I show them verses they have never seen before, and they are either dull, not interested, don't care, it never even makes a dent in their soul. Even though I may try to treat them graciously and I may try not to offend them, there comes a point in my life when I move on and forget about them because they're not going to listen and they're not going to learn. Now I'm going to move into another area that starts with S. This stumbling block is one of the areas of spiritual failure in your life. You can become a spiritual failure by being a stumbling block, but I want to show you another area where you can become a spiritual failure. **You can become a spiritual failure when you have lack of self-control.** I know, I can hear you now, "You have quit preaching and you've gone to meddling buddy." What I'm about to read to you is in 1 Corinthians 7:5 and it's going to be a little strange, but listen carefully. *"Stop depriving one another except by agreement for a time so that you may devote yourselves to prayer and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."* This was written to married couples in Corinth. Here is a translation of what it says, "The Christian deprived of normal sexual activity with his or her marriage partner may be tempted by Satan to become sexually immoral. The normal God-given sexual drive in a human being is very strong." What Paul is saying is it's okay to deprive each other for a period of time as you devote your life to something, but don't do it for a long period of time because it may cause lack of self-control. This has to do with being apart, being separated, or else just saying, "We're not going to have the normal acts of marriage for a while." Remember, the enemy knows your weaknesses. He knows what your flesh is about. It's a strange passage, I admit it, where Paul gives instruction concerning Christians abstaining from intercourse among married couples. In 1 Corinthians 7:3, *"A husband should give to his wife her sexual rights and likewise a wife to her husband."* I didn't say this, Paul said it. He's talking about sexual intercourse. I could go on to develop this into things that are illegitimate that you can get into from the lust of the flesh and lack of self-control, even things like pornography, that take away the right of the other person for self-pleasure, but Paul listed three reasons that it might be okay to abstain from sexual intercourse in a marriage. The first one was that it's by mutual agreement. Secondly, for a specific time. Thirdly, so you can devote yourselves to prayer, and he said in 1 Corinthians 7:3, *"Then resume your relationship so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."* The word self-control, *akrasia* is a Greek negative here. The Greek negative *a* means no, plus the word for strength, *kratos* and thus meaning no strength or lack of self-control. This is the background of the word self-control. **This recognizes that each of us have areas of weakness that could be used by Satan to distract us from the**

plan of God and to destroy our life spiritually so that we never advance. Paul identifies lack of self-control as one of the characteristics or one of the trends that believers will face in the end times. Listen to what he told Timothy as he wrote to him in 2 Timothy 3:1-7, *“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. Men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control [there it is right there] brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they deny its power; avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women who are weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* This is a picture of a society without any morals and without any values but notice, *“Holding a form of godliness.”* Religion is a form of godliness in this nation. Religion is not Christianity. **Christianity is a relationship, it's not religion. Christianity is Christ in you, not you trying to approbate God by being religious and observing a certain set of taboos.** *“Holding the form of godliness”* is false teachers who use religion to gain control over the weak and the gullible and manipulate them. It's always been a plague of the church, gullible, vulnerable believers who buy into the lie being told by the cosmic system evangelists that it's okay for you to do this or that. We read it in the paper every day where men in the ministry are manipulating certain people and leading them into areas of sin. It's always like this. It's always been a plague of the church. This picture of society without morals or values is a picture of the United States of America today and it's right from the Word of God. I need to read it to you again, see if you can identify with any of this. Let's go through it again. *“Men will be lovers of self [that's arrogant, self-justification], lovers of money [Oh my gosh, you will be surprised what people will do for money. I had a big surprise recently of a friend of mine who got in trouble because of a love of money.] boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents [The Word of God tells you in Ephesians 6:1-2, “Obey your parents, honor your father and mother,” and today there are a lot of young people that don't believe this. They are disobedient to their parents.], ungrateful, unholy [not living a Christian life] unloving [they have no concern, no care], irreconcilable, gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited [listen to all of these words], lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness although they deny its power [they act religious, they sound religious, but it's not from God], avoid these [Paul lays out why you should avoid them]. Because among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women [this is for sexual exploitation], weighed down with sins, led on with various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* **This means that we have to take responsibility for our lives and our decisions.** Responsibility is an issue that you must learn to clear up in your own head. Let's go through some principles. 1. Responsibility denotes something within your power to control. You must control yourself. **You must control your volition and your decisions and you do this by means of the problem-solving devices.** Only through the filling of the Holy Spirit can you

control the lust of your flesh. **2. Under the law of personal responsibility we cause our own misery and our own suffering because we have no self-control.** 3. By means of divine punitive action God will discipline and eventually remove the guilt through the discipline. You just can't afford to carry the emotions of hungover guilt. When you sin because of lack of self-control, if you go to problem-solving device #1, the rebound technique, and if you "*Confess your sin to God, He is faithful and just to forgive you*" (1 John 1:9), this means that you move on in your life, you get up from your failure, and don't let Satan cause you to have remorse and guilt because you failed. Everybody fails. Some of the greatest people in the world failed like Peter. When the Lord told him, "*Before the rooster crows in the morning, you will deny Me three times,*" and he said, "*No, absolutely not. I will not. I will die with You*" (Matthew 25:34-35) and this wasn't true. **You can't carry the emotions of hungover guilt and operate in the Christian life.** 4. Each one of us must take the responsibility for our own decisions, our own actions in our life. Impetuosity, indiscretion, impulsiveness, cowardice, these are all sins that we must take responsibility for, confess, and deal with. 5. We can never blame other people for our misery, our unhappiness. We must take full responsibility for every decision that we make. 6. The grace of God has given each of us human volition. You can choose, you're not a robot or an automaton. God gave you free will. 7. You must not allow your volition to lead you into sin, or into human good, or into evil. Galatians 6:7 states the law of volition responsibility, "*Be not deceived, God cannot be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will also reap.*" Under the law of volitional responsibility it is possible you can inflict unbearable suffering from personal sins because you had no common sense and didn't take responsibility. The conscience is designed by God to house norms and standards and you have options. How you use your options determine the chance of ever succeeding in life. **You must teach your children the Word of God so they have options because if you don't, they will be enslaved by the world of sin, good and evil. Emotional control of the soul removes the protection of the conscience.** If you allow emotions to takeover in love, in money, anywhere, this is what motivates lust. If you allow your emotions to get absorbed with the lust, you will give way to the temptation. You will not take responsibility for what you do until it's too late, until you crash and burn, and Satan stands on the sideline laughing at you. Maybe it has already happened. Maybe you already crashed and burned. Maybe you've already made a series of tragic mistakes. Are you still alive? Are you still listening to me? Because if you are alive, God has a plan for your life. He is not finished with you and whatever you're facing, you must take responsibility for this, own up to it, admit it. Confess your sin to God and He will be faithful and just to forgive you. There's a life He has for you. There's a plan He has for you. There's a road He has for you. **If God's left you here it's for a reason. It's time you took responsibility for your failure and sin, use rebound, and then take responsibility to learn and apply His Word into your life.** Lack of self-control is a terrible destructive force in your life. I hope you're listening, I hope you're learning, and I hope above all things you're applying this to your life. Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Door to Doom - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 664 aired on May 27, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I am your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stay with me. The FLOT Line is designed to give you some accurate information, no manipulation, no solicitation, just information that will help you establish a main line of resistance in your soul called a FLOT line. This is a military analogy, a metaphor for a forward line of troops. We like to talk about learning God's problem-solving devices and if you learn 10 unique problem-solving devices taught many years ago by my very own pastor and I reteach it to you often on this radio show, then you can establish this main line of resistance so that you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. That's why we say adversity is inevitable and stress is optional. By studying God's Word, learning God's Word, you have the opportunity to live the most unique life the world has ever known. It's called the Christian life. It's a supernatural life where there is no worry, no fear, no regret, no guilt, no doubt. It's a way to live by faith and trusting in the providence of God. What a fantastic thing to have the monkey taken off of your back and put it on the Lord's back. Let Him handle it. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24 hours a day so if you have a complaint, all you've got to do is take it to the Lord and leave it in His hands. You're going to find as you grow older that you'll have difficulties. You'll find health adversity coming into your life as part of evidence testing in your life. As you face these tests, you'll have the opportunity to glorify Jesus Christ in a way that no one else ever could. You also will face people testing. People will let you down. People may cause you to stumble if you put your eyes on those people. You have to learn to pass these tests as well and not destroy your testimony by getting bitter or angry at someone who stuck it to you. We talked in the last two studies about the doctrine of being a spiritual failure. We're going to name this entering "The Door to Doom." There are a lot of ways that you can enter the door to doom in your life and we are going to mention some of these to you in this brief study. One of the first ways we've already covered is if you become a stumbling block to other people. Our Lord said in Luke 17:1, *"It's inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come."* **When you become a stumbling block, you enter the door to doom. You enter into divine discipline in your life.** It starts with warning discipline and this is where God will speak to you gently in a wonderful, kind way. If you don't listen, if you're so arrogant that you cannot respond to the discipline, then He comes with intense discipline. All this is taught in Hebrews 12:6-11. Intense discipline has pain associated with it. This is where God has to lower the boom to get your attention. You get an attitude adjustment if you have enough humility to respond. Whenever God puts discipline in your life you can respond to it or you can react to it. If you react you use your own volition to go negative toward God and justify why you're right and God's wrong. Believe you me, people do it all the time. God is never wrong. You are wrong if there's a question about it. You can't allow yourself to become a stumbling block. A stumbling block discourages young Christians. A stumbling block defeats young believers who

are trying to grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ because they get their eyes on you. They look at your flaws and your failures and so you have to be very careful not to be a stumbling block. You're not perfect, okay? None of us are. Don't get your eyes on me, keep your eyes on the Lord, because I have flaws. I'm human and sometimes if I don't control my flaws, if I allow my sin nature to lead me into deviant behavior, the lust of the flesh which could include money lust, power lust, sex lust, drug lust, a lot of different lust patterns, well then I can become a real stumbling block to someone that maybe has their eyes on me or that maybe thinks that I'm really some kind of great person. God warned us in Jeremiah 17:5, *"Cursed is the man that trusts in man and cursed is a man who makes flesh his strength and whose heart turns away from Me."* **Don't put your eyes on people. Don't put your eyes on a pastor. Don't put your eyes on anybody but on Jesus Christ.** Hebrews 12:2 tells us, *"Focus on Him who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross."* We do not want to be a stumbling block. Another way that we get ourselves into trouble and enter into the door of doom is when we have no self-control. **Lack of self-control can destroy you. Paul warns us in the Word of God to have self-control.** We have been through some of this including identifying self-control in marriage and loss of self-control in a nation. A society without morals and values has no self-control. Now we want to go into the doctrine of responsibility. Every believer must take responsibility for his decisions, good, bad, or indifferent. Let's go over some principles on the doctrine of responsibility. **If you don't take responsibility for your decisions, you are opening the door to doom in your life.** Responsibility denotes something within your power to control. You have a sin nature. You can control the sin nature or you can let the sin nature control you. Arrogance is the deciding factor. Arrogance doesn't see itself as it really is, arrogance sees itself as it thinks it is. If you're dealing with an arrogant person, they assume they're right and you're wrong. Arrogant people never take responsibility for their bad decisions and the end result is they justify why they're right and the preacher's wrong, why they're right and their spouse is wrong, why they're right and the police officer is wrong. This is what arrogance does. Humility is just the opposite. Humility understands and orients to authority and understands authority is not perfect. Authority can make mistakes. You don't react to authority when they do make a mistake, you respond and forgive them. Arrogant people with self-justification always deceive themselves through self-deception and always get totally absorbed in what they're doing with self-absorption. When you do not take responsibility for your bad decisions, you in effect are going through the door of doom. You are ruining your life. You are ruining the life of others around you. **Under the law of volitional responsibility we cause our own misery and we cause our own suffering by lack of self-control.** You must learn to take control of your life. 90% of the suffering in your life will be because you mismanage your money, you mismanage your relationships or you mismanage your health. If you don't take self-control then you will spiral out of control down into the cosmic vortex until your life is utterly wasted in the door of doom. You will walk through the door of doom into the dark gloom of doom and never come out because you do not take responsibility. You know you're doing wrong. You know what you're

involved with is wrong but you justify why you do it or you put it off and say, “Well, I’ll get it right later.” You must go to God today, He knows what’s going on in your life. You must go to God and confess your sins to Him because 1 John 1:9 says, problem-solving device #1, *“If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and to purify us from all of our wrongdoing.”* This is a wonderful problem-solving device that allows us to be filled with the Holy Spirit because when we don’t confess our sin, then we grieve the Holy Spirit and we quench His power in our life. His power is to reflect Jesus Christ through you. He cannot do this if you are out of fellowship. You must take responsibility or you will suffer from lack of self-control in your life. Self-control in any area, be it power lust, money lust, sex lust, alcohol lust, drug lust, approbation lust, whatever it is, if you cannot control this lust, it will eventually destroy you. Is it possible to control it? Yes, Galatians 5:16 says, *“If we will walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”* The flesh is not going to go away until you get a resurrection body minus a sin nature. As long as you’re in the devil’s world your flesh will remain active but you can control it under the filling of the Holy Spirit, using spiritual growth in your life, learning God’s Word, applying God’s Word, learning to recognize your weaknesses, learning to avoid those situations that put you there. **Under the doctrine of responsibility by means of divine punitive action, God can actually remove the guilt in your life.** You cannot function in the Christian life if you have a lot of hungover guilt, feeling sorry for yourself, having self-pity. If God has to lower the boom in your life, and He may have already done this as you’re listening to me today, get over the guilt. **If you are still alive, He still has a plan for your life. If He didn’t take you home, He left you here for a reason.** Maybe you’re going to be a testimony in the future to God’s grace through your failure or maybe you’re going to be a stumbling block in the future, a testing for younger Christians who have to learn to get over themselves by looking at you. I would not want to be this person. If you can rebound your sin, confess your sin to God, and get out from underneath this divine discipline, any time you go to rebound, any time you name your sin to God, any cursing in your life will immediately be turned to blessing. It’s a principle of doctrine that’s always true. You must come to understand this and this way God can use you in a wonderful way, okay? Each of us must take responsibility for our own decisions. We must take responsibility for our own actions whether they are sins, whether they’re impetuosity, whether it’s our own indiscretion, impulsiveness, or even cowardice. We must take responsibility. We can’t blame it on someone else. This is exactly what Lucifer did in eternity past, he blamed it on God. He said in essence, “If You knew I was going to sin, why did You create me to start with?” God didn’t make Lucifer sin. Lucifer chose in his own arrogance to sin. **Never blame others for your misery or your unhappiness. You must take full responsibility for every decision you make.** I don’t know how you grew up but the way I grew up wasn’t a great way. I didn’t know it at the time. I didn’t know living in a federal housing project without a father was a bad way to grow up. I didn’t know living with four or five different guardians was a bad way to grow up, but it happened. I couldn’t look at my life and my failures and say, “It’s my mother’s fault.” It was my fault. I made any bad decision I made and

you made any bad decision you did. Don't blame it on your parents and don't blame it on your spouse. Anytime you point a finger at somebody, there are always three pointing back at you, remember this. The grace of God has given each of us human volition. This means we can go positive or we can go negative. We can say yes, we can say no. Remember, you have three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. If the world throws up a temptation to you, says you can be happy with people, money, or circumstances, you just say, "No, I don't buy that." If the flesh throws up a temptation to you saying you could be happy with this, that or the other, say, "No, I don't believe that." Then the devil may throw up a temptation, remember Matthew 4:1-11, read it. Look at what Satan did to the Lord Jesus Christ, how he tempted Him three different times. The only way that the Lord Jesus Christ could pass these temptations was by quoting Scripture. **You must know Scripture. This is where you get your strength from. This is where you become powerful in God, by using His Word under the filling of the Holy Spirit.** If you use the filling of the Holy Spirit and the dynamics of Bible doctrine, you have the most fantastic power resources the world has ever known or ever seen. You have to take responsibility. Failing to take responsibility is walking through the door of doom. God gave you volition. You don't have to walk through that door, you don't have to make that bad decision. He gave you a choice. We must not allow our volition to lead us into sin, to lead us into human good or evil. Galatians 6:7 states the law of volitional responsibility, listen to what it says, "*Be not deceived, God cannot [will not, I'm adding this for emphasis] be mocked. Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*" No one gets away with anything I assure you. **Under the law of volitional responsibility it is possible that we can inflict unbearable suffering from personal sins and lack of common sense.** Now, do you want to ruin your life? Do you want to live for the rest of your life in misery and guilt? Do you want to live for the rest of your life in a situation that you don't want to be in? Then don't listen to God. Just go on down the My Way Highway and try to do it your way. Commit your sins. Go ahead and say, "Well, if we love each other, it's okay." It's not okay. The Bible says get married. Or "I need it so it's okay to lie to the federal government and cheat on my taxes because they are stealing from me." You know how people justify cheating on their tax returns and no, it's not okay. It takes some common sense to live the Christian life. You can't be an idiot. You can't do dumb things. You have to have some common sense. **If you take the Word of God and you learn it and use it, you will have common sense.** You will know when to get in and out of the rain. I like to fish. When I'm out in the bass boat fishing and I see a black cloud coming up over the horizon, down the lake maybe four or five miles away, and I see the lightning begin to pop, common sense says get off the water. Some people don't use common sense. They say, "Oh well, I'm just going to keep right on fishing," until the lightning strikes them or until they get drenched in the downpour because they are too dumb to get off the water. You must have common sense. **The conscience that God gave you at birth is designed to house norms and standards so you always have options.** Where do you get these norms and standards? Well, first of all your parents should teach you norms and your pastor teaches you standards from the Word of God. You have these norms. You know how to

control your health. You know how to do certain things and you have standards that you live by. These are things that are your standards that govern your life. Without norms and standards you don't have any options. You will be led captive by your flesh. You will be held captive by your sin nature. God gave you options. With no options, you have no chance of succeeding in your life so therefore it is critical that parents give their children choices, give their children options. You teach them what the Word of God says, they see what the world says, and they choose. You can't choose for them. You can't make them be good little Christians. They must choose. If you expose them to the Word of God and you expose them to the truth, and you live that life in front of them, prayerfully, hopefully they will respond in a positive way to the Word of God and be a delight to your soul. Some children will not respond because of their arrogance, because of their resentfulness, and they will go down the My Way Highway. They will live a miserable life thinking that everybody's treating them unfair. "No one knows my circumstances," yada yada yada, always trying to justify why what they do is right. **Emotional control of the soul removes the protection of your conscience.** Emotions are wonderful, God gave them to you. They are suppose to be the appreciator. I take a lot of pictures and I appreciate pictures. They're all on my phone. I remember when we use to print them out. I've got 4,000 pictures on my phone. Going through them, trying to find certain pictures can be a headache, but the emotions of seeing something from the past, seeing the grandchildren, seeing kids I met or seeing you, my emotions are stimulated by looking at pictures but emotions don't dictate policy. **Policy needs to be set by the mentality of the soul.** This is why Philippians 3:5 says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*" We have to learn to think like He thought and this means we have to acquire divine viewpoint. We have to come to learn God's Word and we learn this through studying the life of Christ, seeing the decisions that He made. This is the wonderful thing about my pastor currently teaching *The Life of Christ* series with 1,200 hours downrange on the life of Christ. This is 1,200 one hour studies on the life of Christ and we are not even near through yet. As you listen, learn, observe, and see how the Lord Jesus Christ handled His disciples, handled the adversity, handled His family, handled His brothers, handled everything and this teaches us how to live. We develop the mind of Christ. You must be under a pastor to teach you these things. It's critical that you have a well qualified pastor that can teach you the Word of God. As a believer in Christ Jesus, every imperative mood of the Greek New Testament is a command from God for you. The imperative mood is what we call in the military the commander's intent. When the Bible says, "Do not do this, do not do that," the imperative mood means don't do it. **No one is perfect but we are all tasked with learning and following orders if we are going to be mature believers.** It is critical that you do this. This is the doctrine of self-control. Now let's go to another door to doom and this is a bad one, it's you being what Proverbs calls a sluggard. The Hebrew word for the sluggard is *asel*. The Greek word in the Septuagint is *okniros* and it's a lazy person, a person who's habitually lazy, or a person who is inactive. It's he or she who has the ability to work but refuses to do so. It's he or she who lacks any drive or will, who won't take responsibility to even provide for their basic needs. Paul had something to say about this sort of

person. In 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11, listen to what Paul the apostle said. *“For even when we were with you we used to give you this commandment. If anyone is not willing to work, neither shall he eat.”* This is a wonderful statement for a nation. This is something America needs to put into practice right there. There are exceptions to the rule and we’ll deal with some of these. He goes on to say, *“For we hear that some among you are living an undisciplined life, not doing their own work, but sticking their nose into other people’s business.”* Do you want to know how to become poor and live a miserable life? Be lazy and not like the little ant as described by Solomon. If you can’t live and prepare like a little ant, then you’re going to walk into the door of doom and gloom and destroy your life. Solomon using an analogy said, *“Go to the ant you sluggard, observe her ways and be wise [in other words, get wisdom, learn something from a little ant]. They have no chief. They have no officer, no ruler. But they prepare their food in the summer and gather their provisions in the harvest. How long will you continue to lay down, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest [that’s you], then your poverty will come in like a vagabond and your need like an armed man”* (Proverbs 6:6-11). If you can’t quit being lazy, if you can’t get out of bed and handle your responsibilities which is first and foremost to take in the Word of God every day. **Your number one priority is to feed your soul and if you put this off, you are being lazy spiritually.** Another entrance to the door of doom is negligence. In Proverbs 10:4, *“Poor is he who works with a negligent hand [in other words, failing to take responsibility, failing to take proper care], but the hand of the diligent makes rich.”* In other words, showing care and conscientiousness in your duties. The negligent hand is opening the door to doom. Negligence is failing to take proper care in doing something. **Spiritual negligence is you failing to care for your spiritual life and is another way the door to doom is opened.** It’s interesting, a conventional Christian is nothing but a caricature of Christ, not a real true representative of Christ. The “Hello God. Goodbye God” that you see on Sunday morning, the nod to God crowd we call it, this is a caricature, not a true representative of the believer in Jesus Christ. It’s a conventional Christian who wants the preacher to marry him, wants the preacher to bury him, and the rest of the time, “Leave me alone preacher I’ve got a lot going on.” Negligence is entering the door to doom. The slack hand opens the door to doom, Proverbs 12:24, *“The hand of the diligent will rule but the slack hand will be put to forced labor.”* Slack, *rmiya*, is translated deceitful, treacherous or negligent. Jeremiah 48:10 says, *“Cursed be the one who does the Lord’s work negligently”* or fraudulently. This is criminal deception. *“Cursed is the one who does the Lord’s work by deception”* as a criminal. This is you acting like you’re serving the Lord but really you’re a thief, really you’re deceptive, you’re dishonest. You act like you’re doing a great thing for God and you’re not. Do you think the Father doesn’t know about it? Do you think that His patience isn’t about up with you? I think it’s time you went to the Lord and confessed your sin and He says He will be faithful and just to forgive you. There’s a lot more to say about this. I hope you’ll come back. I hope you’ll keep listening every Sunday, same time, same place. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Door to Doom - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 665 aired on June 3, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please stay with me for some inspiration, education, and I promise you no manipulation. This show is simply about giving accurate information from the Bible. It's designed to help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. My job as always is to be accurate and give you the information and you and God the Holy Spirit can sort it out. The FLOT Line radio show is designed to remind you of Biblical truths, how you can build a main line of resistance in your soul. The whole idea is using God's wonderful problem-solving devices that we've put into 10 unique problem-solving devices, something my pastor taught me years ago, so that you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress. This is why we say adversity is inevitable and stress is optional because adversity is what circumstances do to you and stress is what you do to yourself. It all starts with the good news that Christ, the anointed Son of God, has indeed redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. **Our debt to God has been paid in full and we are now free of the penalty of death and free of the power of sin.** Anyone who receives Jesus Christ as their Savior like I did many years ago, we are in effect accepting the offering Christ made on our behalf. It's a free gift from the complements of God the Father. This is why Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"For by grace you are saved through faith and not of yourselves, it is a gift of God and not of works lest any man should boast about it."* In Titus 3:5-7, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord [listen to the next part of the verse] that being justified by means of His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope [the confidence] of eternal life."* This is where it all starts, coming to know Christ as your Savior. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away and all things become new."* It is possible for you to start a new life this morning. In spite of what you may have done in the past, it's possible to have the slate wiped clean. When you come to the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Savior, you are in effect being born again spiritually, not physically. You're still the same body, still the same soul, still the same looks, but inside there is a spiritual birth. Your human spirit that was dead in trespasses and sin is made alive by means of the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit who lives in you and gives you the opportunity to fellowship with God the Father. When this happens, then you begin a lifelong journey of learning, understanding, growing, so that you might serve your heavenly Father and that you might glorify your Savior Jesus Christ. I hope this is your objective. I hope this is what you plan on doing. Today we want to talk about opening the door to doom. This is a subject that I started several weeks ago. We are going to use this verse from Genesis 4:6-7, *"So the Lord said to Cain [Cain is the first human being born into this world. He was the son of Adam and Eve, the oldest son], 'Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be*

accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” **There is a door that you can walk through, a metaphorical door to doom in your life, by making a series of bad decisions.** The worst decision that Cain made here was to murder his brother Abel because he was jealous of him and angry with God for accepting Abel's offering but not accepting his. **Sin has the desire to control you.** The Hebrew word in this passage, “The desire to control you,” is the word *tsuqa*. It’s an interesting word because it’s the same word used for the woman in Genesis 3:16 where it says that she will desire to control her husband, *tsuqa*, to control him. As a male believer in Christ Jesus you must make two key decisions in your life. You cannot allow sin to control, allow your sin nature to dominate you. And if you're married, don't let your wife to control you. You must be the leader in the family. You must be the leader in the home. Adam let Eve manipulate him, control him, and induce him to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and we know what happened from this. Most females are smarter than men. They’re certainly better looking than us men and they are amazing gifts from God, but they were not designed to manipulate or control the man. They were designed to be a helpmate for the man. I hope you can understand this, it's in her nature to control you if you will let her. When God told Cain (paraphrased) “If you'll do well then everything will be fine” (Genesis 4:7) this means that if he would follow the proper prescribed procedure. You see, Abel brought the correct offering. He brought an innocent animal that was sacrificed which was in fact a picture of the Redeemer to come, the same thing God did in the Garden when He shed innocent blood. He made coats of skin for Adam and Eve because they were trying to hide behind some fig leaves. Cain did not bring the correct offering. He brought the work of his labor, the fruit of the ground. The principle is this. It is possible that all of your offerings to God could be rejected just like Cain’s was rejected if you do it in the wrong way. A right thing done in a wrong way is always wrong. It is right to bring an offering to God but there's a right way to do it and a wrong way to do it. I’ll give you an analogy. Is it right to give money to your church? Yes it is, you should. Is there a right way to give money to your church and a wrong way to give money to your church? Yes there is. Anytime you make an offering to your church, if you do it under the energy of the flesh and by this I mean you have unconfessed sin in your life, then you're doing a right thing but you're doing it in the wrong way. You are accumulating for yourself what 1 Corinthians 3:12 calls, “*Wood, hay, and stubble.*” It was the right thing to do but you did it in the wrong way and thus it’s not rewardable. You can have your offerings to God rejected because you did it with sin in your heart just like Psalm 66:18 says, “*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*” Prayer, I’ve said it before, prayer is the right thing but if you're praying in the wrong way, it’s not going to get past the ceiling. Well-meaning people assume that they are fulfilling a spiritual obligation, but in reality they simply do the right things but very often they do it in the wrong way. Cain did a legitimate thing. He brought an offering to God but he did it in the wrong way since it represented his work for acceptance and not God's prescribed offering as done in the Garden of Eden like I told you. The sacrifice of the innocent one was a picture of the Redeemer that would come and shed His blood

for the remission of sin. When the Father rejected Cain's offering it caused anger in Cain's life, anger at God and jealousy of his brother. Cain's solution was to simply get rid of the competition. This was his solution, to lie to his brother and tell him, "Let's go out in the field. I want to show you my champion kumquat that I grew out here." I'm just making an illustration, I don't even know what a kumquat even looks like, but his intention was to kill him in the field. The Father knew what went on. Cain was the first person born into sin. Adam and Eve were created minus the sin nature but they chose to sin, they died spiritually in the Garden. Their children that came later were born spiritually dead just like you, just like me, in need of a Savior. They had to be saved just like we do. This is the frightening possibility that every parent since Adam and Eve faces. We all have high hopes for our children. We all want them to grow up and live productive, happy lives but since the fall of man, as someone put it, there is a worm in the fruit. **The worm in the fruit is the sin that resides in the heart of every newborn child, the sin nature.** *"For by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin and now death has come upon all"* (Romans 5:12). *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). Even babies can die. No one wants this to happen, but babies are born sinners. Just like I was born a sinner, you were born a sinner, we were born into the Adamic race. Now some people ask, "What if a baby dies?" They're not at the age of accountability and they go straight to be with the Father, immediately face-to-face with the Father. God doesn't reject any innocent children that pass away. They are in heaven. so don't worry about that. **The point is that we have children and we want them to grow up and trust in Jesus Christ and we want them to learn how to check the power of sin because sin lies at the door.** *"If you do not do well, sin lies at the door and its desire is to control you, but you should rule over it,"* learning how to check the power of sin by means of trusting in Jesus Christ and learning His Word. If you don't learn how to do this, if your children don't learn how to do this, if they don't learn God's Word and get it in their heart, they will ruin their life and sometimes ruin the lives of others. The story of Cain and Abel tells us all about this very thing. No amount of self-justification can override the plan of God, none. Obviously Cain thought his offering was worthy of being accepted but eventually all sin is life-threatening. All sin is destructive. ***"Thank God for His grace that gives us the victory over sin and the victory over death in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (1 Corinthians 15:57).** This episode of Cain is the second incident of direct rebellion to God in the book of Genesis. The first was obviously Eve eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and then inducing Adam to eat of it. Jealousy and bitterness were the motivation for Cain and even deny the responsibility for doing it because the Father knew exactly what he had done. **This is something you need to remember, you don't hide anything from God. Whatever you're doing, He sees.** The Supreme Court of Heaven is always open, and God is always aware of your nefarious activities I assure you. You can do it under the cover of darkness but God the Father knows. Jeremiah 17:9 says, *"The heart is deceitful above all things and is desperately wicked. Who could know it?"* That's us, that's you, that's me. We have a deceitful, wicked sin nature and only through the new birth and by means of the power of the Holy Spirit

and Bible doctrine residing in your soul can you even have a fighting chance to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. Cain's anger was against God who rejected his offering since it did not conform with the intent of God. Your works and your production may not be pleasing to God either, especially if you're trying to work your way to heaven. If you think for one minute that since you have been a nice person, a good person, you haven't treated people wrong, you haven't stolen, you haven't been unfaithful, you've done this and that, you've been very moral. If you think for one minute that will get you into heaven, you are wrong, it will not. Your works and your production are not pleasing to God for your salvation just as Cain's production did not please the Father. There's only one thing that pleased the Father and that was the death of the Innocent One, Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world. **When you put your faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross, then your Father will be well pleased.** Mark 7:20-23, *“And He said, ‘That which cometh out of man defiles man, for from within, out of the heart of man precedes evil thoughts, adultery, fornication, murder, theft, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile the man.’”* This is the same murderous attitude that you and I have today. This originated from Satan's revenge, John 8:44, *“You are of your father the devil, and the lust of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning. He did not abide in the truth because there's no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of all lies.”* You must not travel down Cain's path of rebellion and destruction. Jude 11 says this, speaking of the door to doom, *“Woe to them that have gone the way of Cain.”* **When your decisions violate the protocol plan of God and in your heart you give into the desire of your sin, woe to you.** Cain insisted on worshiping God his way. He attempted to gain the approbation of God with his fruit of the labor that he brought. Grace orientation was not demonstrated in Cain's offering. Cain's appreciation for God's provision was only on the surface but he mixed it with his personal works. God's rejection of Cain's offering recognized the insufficient recognition of His amazing grace through Christ Jesus. Those who reject Christ go the way of Cain. In 1 John 3:12, *“Not as Cain who was of that wicked one and slew his brother and wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil and his brother's were righteous.”* Cain's source of motivation was inspired by the enemy, a.k.a. the devil. **The greatest door to doom in life is the rejection of Christ as Savior.** Woe, *ouai* is the Greek word, *“Woe to them that have gone the way of Cain,”* judgment is coming. When this word woe is used, it means you've walked through the door to doom and you are in a disaster, a life of gloom and doom. The jealousy of Cain concerning his brother Abel is the motivation for his eventual murder. The Lord spoke directly to Cain and questioned his reason for him being bitter. Apparently, it seems that Cain understood the principles of freedom. He understood the difference between right and wrong because God said in Genesis 4:7, *“Is it not true that if you do what is right, you will be fine?”* I'm sure his mother and dad, Adam and Eve, taught him, *“Don't do what we did. Don't mess up like we messed up.”* I mean, they had to tell their children what happened in the Garden of Eden. The divine warning was given. The divine warning in

Genesis 4:7, “If you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door and it desires to dominate you. You must subdue it.” Is it possible that you today have been dominated by a particular sin? Maybe not motivated by anger against God, maybe not motivated by jealousy of your brother, maybe something else, but has it controlled you? Has it taken over your life? Can you not break free from it? Woe to you if you walk through the door to doom. **There is only one way out of the door to doom, you have to rebound, use problem-solving device #1.** “*If we confess our sin, then He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (1 John 1:9). You, like me, must go to the Father and confess your sins straight up. Tell Him honestly what you've done or what you're doing, don't hide it, He knows it. He will be faithful and He will be just to forgive you. Then once you've done this, you have to “*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” (2 Peter 3:18). You must grow and the only way to grow is to do what 2 Timothy 2:15 says, “*Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.*” If you can get under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor he teaches you the Word of God, you learn it and apply it into your life, you will in fact be able to break out of the sin that controls you. You can go back through the door. You do not have to live in gloom and doom if you will listen to what I'm telling you. This figurative language, “*Sin is crouching at the door,*” is a picture of an animal, perhaps a lion waiting for the right moment to spring out and kill its prey. **There's a definite moment in time, some serious time in your life, when you will make a decision that could lead to death and destruction.** Joshua 24:15 says it this way, “*And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, then choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now dwell. But as for me and for my house, we will serve the Lord,*” Joshua said. You must make this same decision. What God do you serve? Who controls your life? What doom do you face because you walk through that door voluntarily on your own? Using your own volition you made the decision and now you think no one knows about it. Your heavenly Father is aware of it this very moment and this very moment that you're listening to me is the moment for you to recover. That moment for Cain was the premeditated murder of his brother. He hatched a scheme to lure him into the fields alone. In Genesis 4:8 Cain said to his brother, “Hey, let's go out into the field. I want to show you [I'm paraphrasing here], let me show you my champion kumquat.” He didn't want to show him anything, he wanted to kill him. He wanted to get him out there alone and assassinate him. Remember, there will be a moment of time for you when you will decide to walk away from everything that you know is right, everything your pastor teaches you is right, everything your parents taught you is right. You will walk away from it. You will say, “No.” You will think you're smarter than they are because you listened to some idiot somewhere who claims to be a genius and you will believe his lie. It takes more faith to believe that junk than it does to believe what's in the Bible but you're going to drink the Kool-Aid. You're a sucker for it and you will walk through the door to doom in your life and you will have one miserable life and even worse, one miserable death. The only good thing is if you've

trusted in Jesus Christ as a young person, you will go to heaven. The bad thing is if you haven't trusted in Christ, you will go to hell. It is a literal, real place. Not because God designed it for you, it never was designed for you. It was designed for Satan and the fallen angels, but that's where you'll wind up. You'll be in the Lake of Fire and it is torment forever and ever because you and your arrogance figured you were smarter than God. You didn't believe all that stuff in the Bible. You didn't need all that stuff in the Bible. You found somebody that gave you a better deal, that told you a better way to live, and now you're beginning to find out that they were wrong. They were liars. They misled you. They manipulated you and they used you. **Once you open the door and enter the door to doom, the only way to return from the mistakes you made is to rebound, confess your sin, and bear the consequences and the scars of what happened.** A lot of times people listen to me on this radio show who are incarcerated in different institutions around America. Maybe this message could be for you. You know exactly what I'm talking about. The decision that you made, the moment in time when you opened that door and walked into the door of doom and now you wish you had never done it. If you will confess your sin to God, if you're still alive, He hasn't forsaken you. He still has a plan for your life. He still loves you and He can forgive you through Christ Jesus if you've never trusted Christ. If you did accept Christ as your Savior when you were a child and now you've wandered down the My Way Highway and you committed some grievous act of sin and now you're incarcerated because of it, confess it to God. Ask Him to cleanse you from it. Find out how you can get into some serious Bible study so you can grow because here's why. The sin leave scars in your soul. It's kind of like driving a nail into a board. You can take the nail out but the hole is still there. Scar tissue is a tough thing to deal with because it's the memories of the sin and the only way to counter it is to cover it up with the Word of God, to saturate your soul, to be washed from the inside out with God's Word so that you begin to think in terms of divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint. So that you begin to live this unique lifestyle that God has for you regardless of where you may be living it. Incarcerated or free, it doesn't make any difference, you can live a life of no worry, no guilt and no fear. You can live a life of no pain from the circumstances and details of life abandoning you. **You can live the Christian life, the wonderful life in Christ. It's yours and it's free. It's a grace gift from God. All you need to do is to make a conscious decision to walk through the door of salvation and grow spiritually.** Jesus said, it's not a salvation verse, *"Behold, I stand at the door and I knock. If any man will hear My voice and open the door, I will come in to him and sup with him"* (Revelation 3:20). You shut the door to Christ if you're a believer. If you rebound your sin, you're opening the door inviting Christ back in. If you're not a Christian, you never trusted Christ, then you can open the door to your heart and welcome Him in by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. You can say, "Father, I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son and I'm willing to accept Him as my Savior." This act of faith, these simple words are a demonstration and a proof to God the Father that you are believing that Jesus is His anointed Son. This is the moment of your salvation. Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Door to Doom - Part 3

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 666 aired on June 10, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please stay with me. It will be a brief time of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education, and we do this without any type of manipulation which means we're not going to con you. We're not going to play any games. We're not going to solicit money, membership or anything like this. We're just here to give you some accurate information and it is my prayer that if I can verify and identify the plan of God for your life that you will orient and adjust to this plan. This is really up to you. My job is to be accurate and get it right. This is what The FLOT Line is about, showing you how you can have an invisible barrier of protection in your soul called a main line of resistance, a forward line of troops. This is made up basically of the unique promises found in the Word of God, at least ten of them we've been able to identify for you. When you take these ten problem-solving devices and put them to work in your life, then you can stop the outside source of adversity before it becomes the inside source of stress. This is why we say on this show, adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. Adversity is what you may do to yourself or circumstances may do to you, but stress definitely, this is self-induced because there's a way to live without worrying. There's a way to live without fear. There's a way to live without guilt. There's a way to live without a lot of mental stress. It's called the Christian life. It's a wonderful life because it changes the way you think. For example, Philippians 2:5 says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*" He had no stress. So we learn to think like He thought and this is called thinking divine viewpoint. When we begin to think divine viewpoint, this means that our mind is saturated with God's Word, with Bible doctrine. We are learning God's Word, living by the promises of God's Word, using for example the faith-rest drill which is problem-solving device #3, using the rebound technique, this is problem-solving device #1, how to handle my sin. Learning and using these things, we have this amazing life, this wonderful life called the Christian life. So many people have distorted it and so many people have made it out to be something that it is not like some sort of legalistic chain that you have to wear and that if you are a Christian you can't do this and you can't do that. There are certain things Christians don't do, I admit that, but it's not a series of legalistic mandates. It's a wonderful lifestyle, a free lifestyle in Christ Jesus. There is something that's always knocking at the door and this is what these radio shows have been about recently. I want to read to you again what I read last week from Genesis 4:6-7. This is God our Father through Jesus Christ incarnate in what we call a theophany or a pre-appearance of Christ before He came to this world. This is what He said, "*So the Lord [that's Christ] said to Cain [that's Abel's brother, the firstborn son of Adam and Eve. This is the first person ever born with a sinful nature. After Adam and Eve sinned they received a sinful nature and since Cain is related to them he is born into sin], 'Why are you angry [and remember he got angry because the Lord rejected his offering and accepted the offering of Abel. The offering of Abel was the sacrifice of an animal, an innocent animal which was a picture of*

Christ and the offering of Cain was the fruit of his labor. This was not acceptable to the Lord.] *Why has your countenance fallen?* [In other words, when he was irritated and angry, you could look at his face and see it. He had one of those faces and you've seen those faces of irritable, angry people.] *If you do well, will you not be accepted?* [in other words, if you do a right thing in a right way, everything will be fine] *but if you do not do well, sin lies at the door and its desire* [the desire of sin] *is for you, but you should rule over it.*” Because Adam and Eve sinned, every person born into this world has a sin nature, sometimes referred to as a worm in the fruit. **You have to learn to control the sin nature or it will control you.** We have been talking about the door to doom. When you open the door to doom, this is when you allow your sin nature to dictate policy to your thinking. When you allow this to happen whether it's through emotions or whatever, then you are on the way to destroying yourself. It's always done by means of the arrogance skills including self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption, and eventually self-destruction. Self-justification is you justifying why it's okay to be disobedient to God or to your parents or to whatever authority that you are under. You say, “I'm not going to obey. I'm going to do what I want to do.” Then you lie to yourself, you deceive yourself, self-deception, this comes following self-justification. You may justify why it's okay to override the plan of God in your life but you have to remember that all sin is threatening and destructive. We can only thank God for the grace provisions that He gives us through Jesus Christ our Lord. **We have victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord.** Cain made the decision to open the door to sin and it ruled over him because in the next verse he said, “Let's go out into the field and let me show you something.” He probably wanted to show him [Abel] his great, new kumquat. I kidded about this, but what he wanted to do was kill him so he got him alone, got him out into the field and assassinated him. The Bible goes on to talk about “Woe” meaning judgment. When you walk through the door to doom, then judgment is what's waiting for you and so you must decide to stay away from the door to doom. The Lord Jesus Christ warns about this, we'll see this later on but there are several ways that you can enter the door to doom in your life by allowing sin, your sin nature, to control you. **One of the doors to doom is you become a stumbling block and cause other Christians to stumble in their faith.** Listen to the words of Jesus Christ our Savior in **Luke 17:1**, ***“It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come.”*** Our Lord was very specific about those who cause others who believe in Him to stumble and fall in their Christian life. This is particularly true of the Pharisees. They were actively engaged in trying to distort the message of the Lord as well as persecuting anyone who followed Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact in John 12:42-43, *“Nevertheless, even among the rulers, many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees, they would not confess Jesus to be Christ so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”* If in fact you decide to follow Jesus Christ you need to understand there is a price to be paid. When you identify with Him there is a price. He told the disciples, “They are going to kill me in three days but don't worry boys, then they are going to turn on you and they will attack you,” and in fact they did. Every one of the disciples that we know about died a martyr's death

with the exception of John who was isolated on the Isle of Patmos. How do you open the door to doom? Well, becoming that stumbling block is one way. **Another door to doom is lack of self-control.** We talked about this and the doctrine of responsibility. Briefly, responsibility denotes something within your power to control. **You have the power to control your life, it's called your volition. Under the law of volitional responsibility God holds you accountable for your decisions.** We have the potential to cause our own misery and our own suffering because we have no self-control. We can blame others but we must take responsibility for every decision we make and for the reasons we are unhappy. It's not someone else's fault, it's our fault. The grace of God gives each one of us this volition so that we can choose. We just must not allow our volition to lead us into sin, to human good, or to evil. **God clearly states in Galatians 6:7 under the law of volitional responsibility, "Be not deceived, God will not be mocked. Whatever a man sows, this he will reap."** As a pastor friend of mine says, "The chickens always come home to roost." Under this law of volitional responsibility, it is possible that we can inflict unbearable suffering from personal sins in our life which usually is just a lack of any common sense. We also talked about how being a sluggard is opening the door to doom. He can destroy his life because he is just lazy. The word sluggard in the Hebrew is *atsel* and in the Greek Septuagint is *okneros* and it meant a lazy person or a person who is inactive, habitually lazy, lacks the ability to work, refuses to work, lacks the drive, won't take responsibility, etc. The Bible has a lot to say about this. We want to move today into the door to doom called selfish ambition. Here's what Galatians 6:3 says about selfish ambition, "*If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he is deceiving himself.*" This door has a mirror on it called arrogance. When you look at this mirror, you have an unrealistic self-image because you think you're something that you're really not. By having an unrealistic self-image, then you inevitably have unrealistic expectations. In other words, you expect people to treat you in a way you're not worthy of being treated because you think you're something that you're not. You think you're something when you're nothing, selfish ambition. What does the Bible say that we should do in Ephesians 5:1? "*Therefore, become imitators of your God [that's Christ Jesus] as beloved children.*" The solution to blind, self-centered arrogance is problem-solving device #10, occupation with Jesus Christ. Occupation with Christ is how you become an imitator of Christ, you think like He thought. Jerry Glanville was a coach of the Houston Oilers and he made a statement years ago and it still rings true today. He said, "At certain times we all try to present ourselves as something that we are not." This is nothing but unrealistic self-image or making a role model out of yourself. Here's something that I had to learn a long time ago and you need to learn it too. Do not believe the press clippings about yourself. I have a friend of mine who says, "I'm just a pothole in the road to progress." He doesn't want any attention, this is his way of being humble. I've met a lot of Christians, a lot of people say a lot of wonderful things about themselves and it's like putting a target on your back. Just stay below the radar. Don't believe the press clippings. That's what happens to a lot of pro-athletes, they believe what they read and the next thing you know they're demanding more money because they think they're something they're not. **One of the greatest tragic flaws in life**

is failure to see who you really are. This is a tragic flaw. I have a poem. I don't care much about reading poetry on the radio but I'm going to read this one. Listen to "The Man in the Mirror" by Peter Dale Wimbrow, "When you get what you want in your struggle for self and the world makes you king for the day, go to the mirror and look at yourself and see what that man has to say. For it isn't your father or your mother or your wife, who's judgment upon you must pass, the fellow whose verdict counts the most in your life is the one staring back from the glass. Some people might think you're a straight-shooting chum and they'll call you a wonderful guy, but the man in the glass says you're only a bum if you cannot look him straight in the eye. He's the fellow to please never mind all the rest because he's with you clear til the end, and you have passed your most dangerous test if the man in the mirror is your friend. You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years and get pats on the back as you pass, but your final reward will be heartaches and tears if you cheat the man in the glass." The man in the glass is you. You are the one we're talking about. **The divine mandate from Scripture is for you to avoid self-centered arrogance.** This self-centered arrogance can destroy you. Listen to what **Philippians 2:3-4** says, "*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves. Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interest of others.*" This is Paul giving instructions to the church at Philippi to avoid this self-seeking attitude, this selfish ambition. Let me read it to you from the NET Bible, "*Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition [that means being divorced from reality] or vanity [which the other verse called empty conceit] each one of you should in humility be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself, and each one of you should be concerned not only with your own interest but about the interest of others as well.*" **This means that there's never a time in your life you shouldn't be praying for your friends, seeing if you can provide assurance or help your friends.** Going back to Philippians 2:3, "*Do nothing from selfishness.*" Selfishness is the Greek word *eritheia* and this word actually means to be a recruiter, to recruit followers, to be an electioneer, to be self-promoting. It's the same word used for the self-seeking pursuit of a political office by unfair means. This selfishness is motivated by greed. It's a sinful desire. It's a door to doom. It's an unrealistic self-image of who you are and Paul warns these people, "Do not do anything from selfishness or from empty conceit," or vanity as it is translated. This word vanity is *kenodoxia* in the Greek. It means to have a vain opinion of yourself or a groundless self-esteem. Empty conceit, this is looking in the mirror of arrogance and having an unrealistic self-image. We have a conjunction of contrast in this verse, where Paul said don't do something but if you want to do something, do it this way, with humility of mind, *tapeinophrosune*, do it from a humility of mind. This is a compound word, *tapeinosis* and the base of *phren*, which is not the word for *nous*, the word for the mind. This is a different word. This is the word *phren* and this is referring to your cognitive abilities, your cognitive faculties. **Humility of mind means to have a humble evaluation of yourself.** How is this demonstrated, "*So let each esteem others better than self,*" *Hegeomai*, to count others, to esteem. This was a problem that was going on in Philippi, there was self-centered arrogance so Paul said, "Get your

eyes off of yourself.” Verse 4 says, “*Look not out for your own personal interests, but also for the interest of others.*” Look not is *skopeo* and it means to consider but this particular verb is an imperative mood in the Greek New Testament and this is the mood of command. We have a negative *me* with the word look, do not look and this is the imperative mood of command. Let me give you a couple of points. This mandate is not telling you to judge other believers but to consider the needs of other believers before your needs. There are times when you need to consider the needs of others over yourself. Sometimes you give physical resources to help people and sometimes you give Biblical resources. In other words, some people don't need the money, they just need some encouragement from the Word of God. Maybe they don't recall a relevant problem-solving device they need to solve this or maybe they need finances. **You give finances, your time, or you give encouragement from Scripture, this is what it means to give resources to other people.** Self-centered arrogance will always put self first. Let me give you some more principles to consider. **Many Christians endure self-imposed discipline in their life due to confusion about the Word of God and common sense principles in life.** In other words, you're going to bring suffering into your life because you don't understand what the Bible is teaching or you don't have enough common sense to figure it out on your own. You can recover from making bad decisions in life by using rebound. Confess your sin to God, yes, and then to correct your course in life you have to go to the solutions found in the Scripture. In other words, you can commit a sin, make a mistake, go to God, rebound the sin, but if you don't get a grip on things you're going to go back to it and do it again. There's a different way to live and this is to “*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” (2 Peter 3:18). How do you do this? As 2 Timothy 2:15 says, “*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.*” I grow by studying God's Word under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor, somebody who will take time to teach me God's Word, not just on Sunday morning and night for 30 minutes and maybe a little bit on Wednesday night. No one can grow up like this. This is not enough learning. If you sent your child to the first grade and they went an hour and a half a week, they would never get out of first grade. To the compliment of many pastors, they would like to teach more but the congregations won't let them because they put unrealistic demands on them. They want them to visit, call on others, do this and do that. This is why you have deacons. The job of the pastor is to study and teach and study and teach and study and teach. This doesn't mean he can't have friends and this doesn't mean he doesn't meet with people but if he doesn't have time to prepare then he's not going to be able to teach very adequately. If all he wants to teach is an hour and half a week, I wouldn't call him a very good pastor. **You need the Word of God. This is how you grow.** It's called a treasure in the Bible, a word treasure, it's a *thesauros*. You are made rich as you learn God's Word and apply it into your life. I'm not talking about money. You're spiritually rich because you learn how to invest the riches of God's Word in your life and the lives of others. This is why it is critical that you have a well-qualified pastor to study under. Self-centered arrogance can destroy all future happiness quicker than anything else. Protection for us comes in

the form of divine authority and what is this? This is your parents, the police officer, your pastor, all of these people have a job. It is to ride herd over those under their authority, to direct them, to watch over them. This is why God gave them to you, to protect you from yourself, not from other people. You are your own worst enemy. Selfish ambition is nothing but an arrogant “me first” attitude that results in a lifestyle of destruction and littered with ruined lives and ruined friendships. **Four attitudes that open the door to doom because of your selfish ambition are these.** **1. Wrong thinking**, which means you have no divine viewpoint. You haven't learned the Word of God. **2. Wrong motivation**, which is self-centered arrogance in your life or self-justification. **3. Wrong decisions**, this is your volitional decision which was wrong. You made it, you chose it. Remember, *“Be not deceived, God is not going to be mocked. Whatever you sow, you're going to reap”* (Galatians 6:7). **4. Wrong actions**, this is your impetuous decision to go off and do something that you don't even know whether it's God's will for you or not. You get impetuous and you step out of the plan of God and the next thing you know you are distracted and destroyed in this angelic conflict. I don't mean you are not going to heaven, this is not what I'm saying but as far as being a faithful witness to Jesus Christ. For example Judas was distracted with money or fame or something. Satan will try to distract you to get you out of the plan of God. Wrong actions, wrong decisions, wrong motivation, wrong thinking, all takes place in your soul. **In the mentality of your soul it's critical that you learn to think like Christ thought, Romans 12:3, “Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think, but think in terms of humility as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word.”** Are you listening? Are you learning? You do not want to walk through the door to doom. “Woe to anyone who does this,” Christ says. Your life is too important, don't blow it, please keep listening and keep learning. Come back next week same time, same place. If I can help you don't hesitate to contact me anytime. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Door to Doom - Part 4

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 667 aired on June 17, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes I'd like to give you an invitation to stay with us as we will give you some motivation, some inspiration, some education, all done without any type of manipulation. It's a show about the Bible, the Word of God, learning how to have a FLOT line in your soul, an invisible barrier, a main line of resistance that will stop the outside pressures of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. That's why we always say, adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. You can build a FLOT line in your soul by learning God's problem-solving devices. If you learn God's problem-solving devices, use them, and apply them into your life, then you don't have to worry. You don't have to be afraid. You don't have to be bitter. You don't have to be angry. Living the Christian life is the most phenomenal way to live because it's a stress free life, it's a worry free life, and it's a life full of assurances and guarantees. This is what this radio show is about, the FLOT line, reminding you of these Biblical truths and introducing you to an in-depth way of studying and learning the Word of God, as I said, with no manipulation or any type of solicitation. I'm just helping you to learn it so you can make the choice to apply it. The best thing is that it starts with Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, the good news that He redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. The good news that our debt to God has been paid and we are free from the penalty of sin and the power of sin. When we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior, it is the single most significant decision you'll ever make in your life because you are in effect accepting the gift He gave you, the offering He made on your behalf complements of the grace of God. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"For by grace you are saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it's the gift of God, not of works lest any man should brag about it."* Then Titus 3:5, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit."* Let me tell you what this means. The washing of regeneration means you are born again. You were born spiritually dead. Now you are made spiritually alive by the renewing of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to live inside of your dead, dormant human spirit and now you're able to have fellowship with God because John 4:24 tells us, if you're going to worship God, you must, *"Worship Him in Spirit and in truth."* You have a dead human spirit because you're born spiritually dead, *"As by one man sin came into the world, and death by sin (Romans 5:12).* Then we are made alive through Christ and the renewing of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5-7 goes on to say, *"Which He [God] shed on us abundantly through Christ our Lord so that being justified by His grace [not by means of our own production] we should be made heirs according to the confidence we have [the hope we have] of eternal life."* It's a phenomenal passage for you. **I don't know if you've ever considered it but maybe it's time you did. You are not going to live forever.** Everyone has to face death sooner or later because Hebrews 9:27 says, *"It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment."* I can think of no worse way to die than to die hopeless without Christ,

without hope, without eternal life. Sometimes we walk around as if we have some kind of guarantee that we're going to live forever and we don't. Sometimes we walk around with our miserable life just compounding our decisions not realizing there is a way out. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"If any man is in Christ he is a new creature. Old things are passed away. All things become new."* At the age of 22 I had a chance to start my life all over again when I believed in Jesus Christ. What a significant moment that was for me, to know that all of the garbage I had done in the past was gone and the garbage I might do in the future could be taken care of when I would confess my sin to God. I had a chance to start my life again, a new man in Christ, *"old things are passed away and all things become new."* And it can happen to you. You only have to do it one time. You don't have to get saved ten times. You make a decision once in your life to believe in Christ, receive Him as your Savior, and this is when the real you starts living, not the dead you, the real you. You see, the dead you is a body and a soul but no spirit. The real you is a body and a soul and a living spirit indwelt by God the Holy Spirit. When you make this decision to trust Christ, to believe in Christ, it's the single most significant decision that you can ever make. **Once you become a Christian, once you commit to the royal family of God, you are subject to God's discipline.** God deals with us. We've been talking about the door to doom and I've done several shows on this and today we'll do more and it's important that you listen and understand. We are children of God by faith alone in Christ alone and as God's children, there are mandates in the Bible of what we should and shouldn't do. I'm not talking about, "Don't drink, don't dance, don't smoke, don't wear makeup, don't have fun." These things, people want to wrap your life in chains and try to get you to give up all the good times. The Bible doesn't say don't drink, it says don't get drunk. The Bible doesn't say don't smoke, it says don't harm your body. You can harm your body just as bad by eating ten chickens. **The Bible, the Word of God, gives us mandates, Scripture that we are to live by. We are to study, grow, learn God's plan, understand it, apply it, and use it in our life and stay out of sin.** Stay out of mental attitude sins. Stay out of the sins of the tongue. Stay out of overt sins. Because you have a sin nature, there is a worm in the fruit. It's called a sin nature and it will eat its way out if you let it. There is a door referenced in the Bible that you can walk through and once you walk through this door, essentially your life is over. Your life is finished if you're a Christian. If you're a believer in Jesus Christ you can take yourself out too early, take yourself out too soon. My pastor calls it the sin unto death. **There is the door to doom of the sin unto death.** It is the sin face-to-face with death and it is not any specific sin. It is not one specific thing you do. It's you residing and functioning in the cosmic system under control of your sin nature, never rebounding confessing your sin, staying out of fellowship with God, living your life in reversionism or as some people call it backsliding, and never getting out of it. All of the human good you do, all of your going to church, all your giving money, and being sweet and nice to the little old ladies trying to cross the street, all the human good and all the sins you may commit along the way, all add up to a motivational evil toward yourself and functional evil toward other people. **The sin unto death comes as a result of a lifestyle of sin.** It's you creating for yourself your very own dying misery

in death's shadowed valley that you will go through. It's far from God, it's painful and it terminates in physical death. Sins you may commit while dying will even intensify the journey through death's shadowed valley. Bitterness, anger, fear, antagonism, hatred, I mean you can go out full of these mental attitude sins, and you will be miserable all the way. You ought to take a look at yourself just for a minute. I have seen people go out under the sin unto death, believers in Jesus Christ that got into sin and would not confess the sin. They continued to try to manipulate God and eventually God said, "That's it, you're coming home." Hebrews 12:5-6 teaches there are three stages of divine discipline. *"And so, you yourselves have forgotten the principles of doctrine which we've taught you as a son. 'My son, do not make light of the discipline from the Lord, nor be fainting when you're punished by Him. For you see, whom the Lord loves He punishes and He scourges with a whip every son that He receives.'"* This is discipline one and discipline two. **Discipline one is the Lord punishing. Discipline two is the Lord scourging. If you are a son or a daughter of God and you get out of fellowship with God, fail to confess your sin, you are going to go under discipline one which is warning discipline.** God will warn you that you're out of fellowship. It may be through a pastor and a message he gives. It may be through a book you read. It may be through a divine warning and maybe through this radio message. Heed the warning and get back where you belong. Quit living in the cosmic system. You've been lured into the cosmic vortex. You're in a frantic search for happiness and you're not finding it. It's a dead end street and so God is warning you, "Come back. Come back to where you belong." This is the whole story of the prodigal son in the book of Luke who was lured into the cosmic system thinking he could find happiness in the details of life and he did not. He just about killed himself until he changed his mind, went home to his father, and confessed his sin. Then the second stage of discipline, *"He scourges with a whip every son whom He receives."* Scourges means He gives us a paddling. He takes us to the woodshed and this is where there is pain. No pain, no gain as far as God's concerned at this stage and there's nothing worse than God putting you under pain, under discipline. **This is when God can get your attention. It's called enforced humility.** You should have enough genuine humility to confess your sin and respond to the warning discipline, but you did not. You justified why you were doing what you're were doing, you compromised the plan of God, and so now God has to give you some enforced humility, bring you to your knees until you admit, "I was wrong. I stepped out of line." You should be able to admit, "Father, I made a mistake. I got out of line." I'm going to show you how it happens. This is called warning discipline from Jesus Christ in Revelation 3:20. A lot of times people will tell you this is a salvation verse but it's not. It's a verse to one of the churches, *"Behold, I stand at the door and I knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door [this means you rebound and confess your sin] I will enter to him and dine with him [this means you will be restored to fellowship with God] and he with Me."* This is the warning discipline, Christ standing at the door knocking. Maybe you've heard the knock but you didn't respond. I urge you to open the door. **Confess your sin to God, rebound, get back in fellowship before the intense discipline comes.** I'm going to read to you David's words about his sin before he was eventually

found out and God disciplined him by means of Nathan. David's sin was the murder of Uriah the Hittite, the stealing of his wife Bathsheba, and fornicating with her. Here it is, listen, Psalm 32:2-5, "*Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputes not iniquity and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence [this means he did not confess his sin] my bones waxed old through my roaring all day long [in other words physically I hurt]. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me. My moisture is turned into a drought of summer. I acknowledge my sin unto You. My iniquity I did not hide. I said I will confess my transgression unto the Lord, and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*" Look at it in view of your own life. Is this you? Have you kept silent? Are you hurting every day in your life? Is God's discipline hand heavy on you, so much so it is like a drought and no water, no relief? Then it's time for you to do what David did, "*I will confess my transgression unto the Lord, and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*" **The door to doom of dying discipline is the most horrible stage you can get into. Once you step through that door, that's it.** In 1 John 5:16, "*If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not face-to-face with death, he shall ask and God the Father will give to him who does not sin face-to-face with death.*" In other words, if you know a believer out of fellowship struggling along under discipline, you can pray for him, pray for God to speak to him, pray for God to have mercy on him, pray for him to wake up and see what he is doing. The verse goes on to say, "*There is a sin face-to-face with death and I do not say that you should ask concerning this category.*" **Once God puts somebody under the sin of death, you can stop praying because it is not going to be effective anymore.** In 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 we have a case of incest in the church. I'll read it to you, this is in the Bible. "*It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you and the kind that even pagans do not tolerate [unbelievers don't do this]. A man is sleeping with his father's wife and you are proud. Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put this man out of your fellowship [the man who has been doing this]? For my part, even though I'm not physically present, I'm with you in my spirit and as one who is present with you in this way, I've already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this [now remember, this is the apostolic authority of Paul the apostle. This is the power that God granted him with, this power, this ability to do this, so here's what he said]. When you are assembled and I'm with you in my spirit and in the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.*" He is going to die the sin unto death. Is he going to go to heaven? Yes, it just said he would, "*His spirit will be saved in the day of the Lord.*" Yes, he's going to heaven, but his time on earth is up. He's not responding to warning discipline. He's not responding to intensive discipline. He's not having any sort of genuine humility. He's living under arrogance. He's justifying why it's okay to do this. He's lying to himself, he's absorbed with himself, and God says, "That's it." When God says, "That's it," it's over and I hope you're not at this point in your life where God says, "That's it." There are a lot of ways you can get there. This is one way, through the lust of the flesh. There's another way in Acts 5:1-11, "*A certain man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a possession that they had and kept back part of the price. His wife also being aware of it, they*

brought a certain part and laid it at the apostle's feet. And Peter said to Ananias, Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, was it not your own and after it was sold, was it not your own to do whatever you wanted to do with it? And why did you conceive this thing in your heart? You have not lied to me, you've lied to God. [He came saying he was going to give every nickel he got out of the sale of that land, he's going to give it to the church.] And Ananias hearing these words fell down [He didn't have to say this. He could have said, "I'm going to give one-half, I want to give one-third, I will give three-quarters," but he bragged about it. This is his own arrogance again. "I'm giving it all to God." No, he was not. He was holding some back], and gave up his ghost. And a great fear came upon them that heard these things, and the young men rose up, wrapped him up, and carried him out and buried him. It was about the space of three hours later when his wife, not really knowing what happened came in. And Peter said, 'Tell me, did you sell the land? How much did you get for it?' She said, 'Yes, we got that much.' And Peter said to her, 'Why is it that you have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them which buried your husband are at the door and they will carry you out also.' And then she fell down straightway at his feet and yielded up her ghost. And young men came in, found her dead, carried her out, and buried her by her husband. And a great fear came upon the church and upon as many as heard these things." Here's the authority of the apostle again, to put someone under the sin unto death for lying and misrepresenting what they had done before the congregation. This was a habitual sin. This was not something that happened one time. This was indicative of their attitude, of their lying, of the way they tried to persuade people that they were really great folks and they really were not. They came in and said, "We're going to give everything to God," and they lied. That was it. God said, "That's it. I've had enough of your trickery, your foolery. You're out of here." **There is another way you can get into the sin unto death, 1 Corinthians 11:27-31, and this is taking communion in a perpetual state of carnality. You are warned in the Bible, do not take communion out of fellowship.** If you take communion out of fellowship with known sin in your life, you are bringing discipline on yourself and this passage says that many have perished because they did not use rebound. They assaulted God by taking communion out of fellowship, acting as though everything was okay. Have you ever done this? Have you ever gone to church, acted like everything was really okay and it's not? Have you not known your own sin, where you are, you haven't rebounded it and yet you put on a big show when you go to church, even taking communion as if you are close to God and you're not? He doesn't tolerate it. Here's the principle you should learn. **The door to death is the door to doom. Administration of the sin unto death does not imply you're losing your salvation.** This is not what it means. Remember 2 Timothy 2:13, "*If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful since He cannot deny Himself.*" He is not going to take your salvation away. He's just going to escort you to heaven a few years quicker than you should have gone because you are useless and you are unavailable for God. Here are some principles. You are not to pray for believers who are dying the sin terminating in death. Don't waste your time. That's it, it's over and they're gone.

That's between them and God. You have a ticket to heaven for sure because of the grace of God, but you live a lie. You live under the energy of the flesh. You live letting your sin nature control you. You fail to recognize your sin and it may take a week, it may take a year, it may take ten years, but God will come to a place in your life where He says, "That's it. Let's go. You're out of here." Here's another principle. **The sin face-to-face with death results from a repetition of sin. This is you living out of fellowship, not staying filled with the Holy Spirit, and not growing in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** Oh, you go to church, you play that little game. You're just a caricature of Christ, not an image of Christ. You look good, you sound good, you act holy but you're not. On the inside you've quenched the Holy Spirit. You've grieved the Holy Spirit. You are under discipline from God and you know it. It's time to recover while you still have a chance. **It's time for you to go to the Father and admit your sin while there is still a chance.** It's time to get over your arrogance. It's time to get over your pride. It's time to fall on your knees and say, "Father, have mercy on me. I've sinned." **He loves you. He's waiting to hear these words from you today. The sooner you do it, the better. He guarantees you will have a wonderful life or you can just keep going like you're going.** The sin of face-to-face with death is maximum divine discipline and it comes from the integrity of God. It's the highest form of disgrace that any of us could ever incur instead of hearing, "*Well done My good and My faithful servant*" (Matthew 25:21). You will be in heaven, "*no more tears, no more pain, the old things will be passed away*" (Revelation 21:4), but you will not get a hero's welcome. You will have eternal life but you will not be getting a high-five as you cross the pearly gates as we say. You will hear something like, "Have a seat." You'll be in the doctor's waiting room like when you go there and wait for an hour and a half. You'll be just sitting there waiting, "When's He going to see me? When's He going to see me?" Just be patient, He'll get around to you sooner or later because you had no time for God in your life. You had no time for the Word of God in your life. You had no time to learn and practice the principles of the protocol plan of God in your life. You just justified doing what you wanted to do, when you wanted to do it, and how you wanted to do it and now you expect God to jump at your command. It doesn't work this way. **The sin unto death is maximum divine discipline. It is the most painful experience in life and there is no alleviation of it. It implies loss of all rewards, loss of all blessings, and being ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ.** Yes, being ashamed. It is true that there is shame in heaven at the Judgment Seat of Christ. You'll look at your life and you will say, "What an idiot I have been, I blew it. I could have glorified my Savior, my Lord. I could have replicated His life and I blew it in my own frantic search for happiness." This is the only time you'll ever have shame in eternity, when you're evaluated and all of your production is burned up as wood, hay, and stubble. This is the door to doom you do not want to walk through and you may be halfway through it this morning. You may have the door cracked and about to go in. Listen to me carefully. **Do not play games with God.** I hope you're listening. I hope you're learning. Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Personal Sense of Destiny Review

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 668 aired on June 24, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. We've been on the air for twelve years now all across the United States broadcasting in 26 different cities and it is a fantastic honor to be able to do this. What a tremendous thing to see the Lord provide all the funds necessary. Even though we don't solicit money, the money is always there. My pastor many years ago said, "If God's in it, God will pay for it." Thank you for your time and continue to pray for us as we look to expand to new venues in the future. I have been teaching a series called *The Door to Doom*. We've seen how we, through a series of bad decisions, often destroy our lives. There is a door and when you walk through this door as God told Cain way back in Genesis 3, it's the door to sin. Sin wants to control you and by making some bad decisions in your life you can actually destroy yourself. You can walk through the door to doom. Today I want to talk about a different door, the door of opportunity. It's the one door in your life that's an amazing journey. **This door is called your Personal Sense of Destiny. It is the door to happiness and fulfillment in your life and it all begins with the good news that Christ, the anointed Son of God, redeemed you out of the slave market of sin.** It all begins by understanding your debt to God has been paid. You are free of the penalty of death and the power of sin in your life and if you will receive Christ as your Savior, you in effect will be accepting the offering that He made on your behalf. It is a free gift complements of the grace of God. We always quote Titus 3:5-7 that says, "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord so that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*" Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God not of works lest any man should boast about it.*" When you make a decision to receive Christ as your Savior, you walk through a door. That's the door to happiness but that's not your personal sense of destiny. Yes, you're going to heaven. Yes, you will have eternal life. I'm talking about a destiny in time. **I'm talking about it door in time where you leave your agenda behind and you move into God's agenda - your personal sense of destiny.** What a wonderful way to live, to take the monkey off of your back so you don't have to worry about what you're suppose to be doing. You simply follow the orders from your Heavenly Father as He reveals them by means of the Holy Spirit through the pages of Scripture. Our Lord Jesus Christ had a destiny. I'll read you what He said about His destiny. In John 4:34, "*Jesus said unto them, 'My food is to do the will of Him that sent Me and to finish His work.'*" The psalmist wrote in Psalm 40:8, "*I delight to do Your will O my God.*" **Your destiny is to finish the work God allows you to do. God left you here for a reason. Once you believed in Jesus Christ and received Him as your Savior, He left you here for a reason.** He supports you with a host of angels. You even have a ministering spirit that ministers to you. We call them guardian angels. You have a pastor-teacher. You have the filling of the Holy Spirit. You have the canon of

Scripture. **You have everything you need to glorify Christ to the maximum in this life.** It's all here. So the moment you believe in Him you take off on this fantastic journey, your personal journey. Our Lord Jesus Christ, His journey was from the womb to the tomb, we know this. The tomb did not hold Him, He walked out guaranteeing all of us that if He's alive, we will be alive also. That's the guarantee of the resurrection. So our spiritual life, living the spiritual life, the journey, does not imply we will be successful in our spiritual life. It doesn't mean we're going to be spiritually mature believers. **Spiritual maturity depends on our attitude toward the Word of God.** That's not talking about the faithful provisions of eternal life by God the Father, who faithfully provides. Now we're talking about our part. What's our attitude? What's our destiny in time and what's our destiny in eternity? Well, our destiny in eternity is face-to-face with God the Father, no more tears, no more pain, the old things will be passed away. However in time, what is your destiny? What is the door that you are to walk through? **When you have this sense of destiny, when you walk through the door of your personal sense of destiny, it will remove all boredom in your life. Now you have a mission, you have a mission objective.** You won't have time for any more self-pity which can create self-induced misery in your life. How many times have you had a pity party wondering what am I suppose to do? I know many young people, myself included, wondered. When I was young, I wondered what will I do with my life? Where will I go? What will I be? What will I do? It never dawned on me that God had already picked out a plan for me. God the Father already knew who I should marry, the wonderful lady that I married over 50 years ago. God knew that. God knew that He provided a destiny for me with a spiritual gift of evangelism and that if I would take His Word and learn it and use it, then I could glorify Christ with my gift. My destiny and your destiny will carry both of us through what we call spiritual self-esteem, through spiritual autonomy, and eventually to spiritual maturity. Spiritual self-esteem, you will be able to act alone. You will be able to understand the plan of God and you won't need friends to counsel you or tell you what to do. Under spiritual autonomy you actually understand the plan of God. You don't have to run to people all the time. You don't have to always ask people, "What do you think I should do? What does the Bible say I should do?" You will know it. You'll be so confident and it'll be so clear as the Holy Spirit makes it clear to you. It's always amazing to see people that have doubts in their spiritual life about their future destiny. They don't understand the Bible. They don't understand the plan of God. See, God has a viewpoint will for your life, there's no doubt about this. He has something that He wants you to think and it's called divine viewpoint. It's called the mind of Christ and we are to let the mind of Christ be in us per Philippians 2:5 because our strength as Christians comes from the Word of God. You know, as ourselves, we are weak, but when we take the Word of God and learn it and put it into our soul so that it supports our spiritual life, then we have strength and we can understand the viewpoint will of God. That's why we have to learn His Word, store it up in our soul, so at the right time it will guide us in every decision that we make. **God has a viewpoint will, what He wants you to think. He also has an operational will and that means what He wants you to do in time.** He left you here for a purpose. The operational will of God involves

everything you should and should not do if you're going to glorify God to the maximum. The list of do's and don't's my pastor wrote one day include many wonderful things found in the Word of God and the requirement for doing the will of God are the first and second mandates of all divine guidance. Submit to God's will and learn God's will. The operational will of God, what does He want me to do? **Where does He want me to be? That's the geographical will of God.** Where does He want me to be and this has to do with location. Never consider location apart from the operational will of God because if you're doing what God wants you to do, then eventually you'll wind up being in a place God wants you to be, got it? **There is a viewpoint will of God, an operational will of God and a geographical will of God, if you take time to learn them.** That's the problem, most people will not take time to learn it. **Your personal sense of destiny is related to learning God's protocol plan. Now the protocol plan of God means that a right thing has to be done in a right way.** That's all it means, it's nothing complicated. A lot of people love God but they don't understand how to operate in the Christian life. A right thing has to be done in a right way. You've heard me say on the show that prayer is a right thing, but there's a right way to pray and a wrong way to pray. So if you're praying the wrong way, it's not going to be answered. Going to church is a right thing but you can go the right way or the wrong way. **You have to understand how God's plan operates and then execute it by means of God the Holy Spirit plus the Word of God in your soul. This gives you direction and you have the power. Power and direction equals fulfilling the protocol plan of God.** See this is why the Bible says, *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* You don't want to get to heaven and hear the Lord say, “Man, did I have a life for you and you blew it, you missed it.” Why? Because you were self-centered, you did not take time to learn God's Word, you didn't take time to find out what God had for you and you just went merrily skipping down the My Way Highway. **Once you enter this door of your personal sense of destiny, you're going to have to leave your agenda behind and move on to God's divine plan and purpose for your time on earth, T.O.E.** Your TOE, not the one that's on your foot, your TOE is your time on earth. I did a series of messages called *TOE* in a church in Houston, Texas and it's available by request on DVD or MP3. If we're going to operate in our time on earth, we have to have some skills. It's critical that you have these skills because if you don't have for example, thinking skills, meaning you have the ability to metabolize the Word of God, learn the Word of God. Thinking skills, spiritual skills, production skills, they are all important. Let's start with spiritual skills. **Your spiritual skills include do you know how to be filled with the Holy Spirit?** It's amazing when I talk to people and I ask them, “What should I do to be a good Christian?” They don't ever say, “You should be filled with the Holy Spirit.” They say, “You should tithe. You should go to church. You should not drink. You should not smoke. You should not chew. You should not cuss. You should not, you should not, you should not, you should not,” and it's just a series of works. Very seldom will anyone answer the question. You want to try it yourself? Go ask your pastor, that's a good way to figure out this. Go ask your pastor, “What should I do to be a good Christian?” and the first thing he must tell

you is if you are not filled with the Holy Spirit you cannot be a good Christian because the Christian life is not operated in the energy of the flesh. **You must understand how to be filled with the Holy Spirit and that's rebound, problem-solving device number one on the FLOT line of your soul.** When you sin, you quench the Holy Spirit and you grieve the Holy Spirit but when you use 1 John 1:9, your rebound verse, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all of our wrongdoing."* When you use this verse, then you will get back in fellowship with God and back under the filling of the Holy Spirit. Remember the Bible tells you in Galatians 5:7, *"The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh, and they are contrary."* You are not going to do the things you want to do sometimes. Paul said it this way, "I don't understand myself at all because I want to do what's right and I inevitably do what's wrong." It's because you have a sin nature. If you understand the filling of the Holy Spirit the Bible says in Galatians 5:16, *"If you walk in the Spirit you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh."* So there is a way to overcome the sin nature, by rebounding when you do sin, and by walking in the Spirit during the day of your Christian life. Spiritual skills - if you take the filling of the Holy Spirit and you add to this the Word of God that you have metabolized, like eating food, you metabolize it. It produces energy. **If you feed on the Word of God, metabolize the Word of God and make it a part of your stream of consciousness so it becomes part of the 10 problem-solving devices in your life, then you have spiritual skills.** Then you know what you're suppose to do. You don't have to run and ask the pastor, "Pastor, what should I do? I don't know what to do." This doesn't glorify God, if you have to ask your pastor what to do. If you don't know what to do on your own, you're going to be wandering around like a lost sheep away from the shepherd. You must learn the Word of God so you can operate on your own. Our Lord Jesus in John 16:7-13 told the disciples the same thing. *"I am about to leave. I am going to go away and the Holy Spirit is going to come and He will lead you and He will guide you into all truth."* Listen, there may be a time your pastor leaves, what will you do? The Holy Spirit will lead you, He will guide you like He led you to this radio show where you are learning and you are growing. But remember. I'm not your pastor, I'm just a window, I'm just a breath of fresh air. There are well-qualified pastors, men that have been in the pulpit 20, 30, 40, 50 years that are teaching God's Word consistently, more than a few minutes on Sunday morning and more than a few minutes on Sunday night. **Getting these spiritual skills is critical for understanding your personal sense of destiny. Then having the thinking skills to go along with them. By this I mean being able to comprehend, being able to retain, being able to problem-solve and to make good decisions and being aware of what's going on around you.** These are critical thinking skills, comprehension, memory retention, problem-solving, decision-making, and awareness. This is what it takes to live the Christian life. You've got to comprehend what God's Word says. You've got to put it into your memory so you can recall it later. Thus, when you put it in your memory, you have problem-solving skills in your soul. Then when you have a decision you have to make, how do you make it? Based on emotions? No, not at all. Go back into your soul, you pull up the Word of God and you say, "This is what the Bible says." There you go, you

are aware of your choices and if you make the right decision then you glorify God to the maximum. If you make the wrong decision and allow the flesh to take over, then Satan gets a good chuckle and a good laugh and points his finger at God and says, "Is that your Christian down there? Look at him making an idiot out of himself." **Then there are production skills. Spiritual skills, thinking skills and production skills. Production skills are the result of the first two, divine good production as opposed to human good production.** Divine good production is taught in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 as gold, silver, and precious stones. Human good production is taught in the same passages as wood, hay, and stubble. All of this wood, hay, and stubble will be burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. All the gold, silver, and precious stones, that's divine good production that is rewardable. How do you do it? **By being filled with the Holy Spirit and by obeying the protocol plan of God, you produce divine good and it glorifies God to the maximum.** Any believer, you or me, who is distracted either from the inside or from the outside, we can enter the door to doom if we operate on arrogance skills such as self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption instead. We can't refuse to see what we are and who we are and what our objectives are. **You know how you get distracted? When you get too busy doing things and you put the Word of God aside.** You don't study, you don't learn, you don't apply, you don't rebound. You're busy raising your kids, you're busy doing your job, you're busy enjoying your leisure time, you're not studying, you're not growing. You have a nice Bible, you have a nice notebook, and you haven't put anything in it much less retained it in your soul. **If you're not studying God's Word consistently, you're not growing.** You may be maintaining but if you're maintaining, you're going to go backwards eventually. You don't want this, you can't afford to be distracted through self-justification. You know, somebody says, "Well it's my life. I have to have a life. I have to have some fun sometimes." Well, nobody's telling you that you can't have any fun. **What I'm telling you is that you need to make time for God's Word consistently in your life, daily in your life.** You can do this even on a vacation, you can take a tape with you or a DVD or an MP3 and you can listen. Get up and have a cup of coffee, open your Bible, and listen to the Word of God being taught. I'm not talking about reading a five minute devotion, that's not going to do it. **I'm talking about being fed by a well-qualified pastor.** Now listen, these arrogance skills like self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption, they will destroy you. Proverbs 1:32 says, *"For the waywardness of the naïve [which is a silly person who is easily persuaded] will kill them, and the complacency of a fool will destroy him. But he who listens to me shall live securely and will be at ease from the dread of evil."* There you go, that's about as plain and about as clear as it could be for you. **If you have a personal sense of destiny, you can be identified by these things. Number one, selfless service, you will be available to serve your Lord and in anyway He wants you to do it.** Be it a communication gift like pastor-teacher, or evangelist, or be a member of a local church, as the board of deacons, or be a missionary, whatever God wants you to do, this will be priority number one in your life. As a Church Age believer, He will give you a mission. Paul got an assignment, you've got an assignment. Your objective is to finish the assignment. Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:7, *"I finished the*

race, I've run my course, I've done well, I've upheld the standards." Paul made it very clear and you and I must finish the race too. You must stick with the Word of God. **You must uphold the standards of the Word of God.** You cannot afford to get distracted. You must remain steadfast in prayer, Romans 12:12, *"Remain steadfast in prayer."* This doesn't mean you have to get on your knees and prostrate yourself every day. There is nothing wrong with doing this but it's also OK to pray driving your car, just don't close your eyes. There's a way to pray sitting on the porch. There's a way to pray before you have your meals. Prayer is divine communication with your Heavenly Father and you have to understand this. We must be steadfast in our prayer where we give adoration to God, where we have supplication for others, we intercede for the needs of others, and then we have our own personal requests last but not least. **Without remaining steadfast in prayer, you lose sight of your objective.** It's like being isolated on an island with no way to communicate with anyone. Through prayer, under the filling of the Holy Spirit, with the divine promises of the Word of God, you have direct communication with the throne of God. Now, as you serve the Lord using your spiritual gift, then you press forward, but here's the warning. The warning comes in Revelation 2:15-16 where the Lord Jesus Christ says that, "I know you have an objective, but you're not hot and you're not cold, you're just lukewarm." Lukewarm Christians are Christians that are there and not there. Your objective is to be there, to be hungry, to go full bore ahead, not to bully people, not to be obscene as a Christian, this can happen, but to go full bore ahead in your Christian life. To search, seek, learn, apply, and glorify God every minute that you can. You find yourself living in a nation like America, you must be subject to the governing authorities of this nation, Romans 13:1, and the Bible says clearly, *"There is no authority if God did not allow it."* So we can take this to the bank. Whoever the President is, whether you like him or not, or you liked his predecessor, he is the one God allowed to be here and that's the one whose authority you are under. If you malign and criticize and backbite and slander that authority, you're setting yourself up for divine discipline. We're not allowed to slander anybody. We're not allowed to malign anybody. As a matter of fact, Matthew 7:1-7 says keep your nose out of other people's business or you'll get it chopped off because it says, *"With what judgment you judge, it will be measured back to you again."* Read it, it's called triple compound discipline and it is not fun. **This is your personal sense of destiny. It's right there in front of you. The objective of your spiritual life is to find it, live it, use it and glorify God to the max through everything that you do, everything you say, every decision you make. Without this personal sense of destiny you're just wandering around lost and don't know what your objectives are.** I hope you've listened. This door is a door you must go through. It's a critical door because it's the door to opportunity. It's the door to happiness. It's the door to your destiny - why you're here in this life. Please listen, please learn, and please come back. Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

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