

2018
V2

THE FLOT LINE hosted by Rick Hughes
2018 TRANSCRIPTS VOLUME 2 July-December

VOLUME
2



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!

CONTACT

rickhughesministries.org
rick@rickhughesministries.org
PO Box 100, Cropwell, AL 35054
800-831-0718
Facebook
Instagram

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

RICK HUGHES EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES
P.O. Box 100 Cropwell, Alabama 35054-0100
rickhughesministries.org 800-831-0718

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| | |
|--|-----|
| Emotions vs Thinking..... | 1 |
| The Unfailing Love of God - Part 1 | 7 |
| The Unfailing Love of God - Part 2 | 13 |
| The Fantastic Four - Part 1 | 19 |
| The Fantastic Four - Part 2 | 25 |
| The Fantastic Four - Part 3 | 31 |
| Crisis Living - Redding | 37 |
| The Fantastic Four - Part 4 | 43 |
| The Fantastic Four - Part 5 | 49 |
| Your Reasonable Service..... | 55 |
| Emotional Trends of America | 61 |
| Study on Evil | 67 |
| Physical Life vs Spiritual Life | 73 |
| Why You Need a FLOT Line | 79 |
| Political Bitterness | 85 |
| Personal Rep of Jesus Christ | 91 |
| Love and the Essence of God | 97 |
| The Spiritual Legacy | 103 |
| Soul Renovation - Part 1..... | 109 |
| Soul Renovation - Part 2..... | 115 |
| Personal Love for God..... | 121 |
| The Virtue of Impersonal Love | 127 |
| How Simple It Is..... | 133 |
| Spirituality and Maturity..... | 139 |
| Telling It Like It Is | 145 |
| Reversionism | 151 |
| Practical Principles - Part 1 | 157 |

Emotions vs Thinking

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 669 aired on July 1, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I give you a cordial invitation to stay with us. It's a simple show, just 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, always done without any type of manipulation. This means we don't solicit money, we don't solicit membership, we are not trying to sell you anything. We're just trying to give you something and that is some information, information that possibly may help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you're able to do this then you may want to orient and adjust to the plan, that's up to you. My job is to get it right, to be accurate, not to manipulate you, but to make it clear. Your job, well you've got a life to live, a whole life to live in front of you and there are so many decisions that you have to make. I pray that the information from the Word of God I give you will be an encouragement to you. First of all, that you might find a local church where there's a qualified pastor that teaches you God's Word. Secondly, that you would apply the things you learn from that pastor into your life so that you can have an objective outlook about life using the Word of God to guide you, the many principles found in the Word of God to guide you through life's many journeys. You know this show is always there to remind you about Biblical truths and hopefully introduce you to a new way of studying, a new way of learning God's Word and it starts with the good news. The best news I ever heard that Jesus Christ, God's anointed Son died for me, that He took my place on the cross, that He paid for my sin, that my debt to God has been paid. I'm now free from the penalty of sin, and hopefully you are as well. By receiving Christ as your Savior you have the opportunity to, in effect, start a new life over 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). This is a fantastic thing complements of the grace of God. *"For by grace you are saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God not of works lest any man should brag about it"* (Ephesians 2:8). There's no reason for anyone to say, "I hope I'm going to heaven" or "I'm trying to go to heaven" or "I want to go to heaven." You can say, "I know I'm going to heaven." How do I say this? Because in 1 John 5:12, *"These things are written so that you might know that you have eternal life."* God is not a liar. *"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Romans 10:13). If you do this demonstrating your faith in prayer and simply going to the Father and saying, "I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son and I'd like to receive Him as my Savior," a simple prayer of faith like this is all that it takes. *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved"* (Acts 16:31). John 3:16, a verse you've known all your life, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* Believe is the verb counterpart to faith. The Greek word for faith is *pistis* and the Greek word for believe is *pisteuo*, it's the same word. It takes faith and faith is believing. Once you put your faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross understanding that He died for you and not only that but the most fantastic thing is He resurrected. If He didn't

resurrect then none of it would even be true, but He did. He walked out of the grave alive. This demonstrates to you and to me that there is life after death, that Jesus Christ did conquer death, and that He guarantees we will have a resurrection body also where there is no more pain, no more tears, no more sorrow (Revelation 21:4). *“Old things are passed away and all things will become new.”* I don't know, maybe like me, you feel a little stiff and achy. Can you imagine yourself in a new body that doesn't hurt anymore, a new body minus a sin nature, a resurrection body, the body you will live in forever and ever and ever, a body likened to the body of Jesus Christ our Lord? Think about it, it's an amazing thing. Now today we want to go into a subject that I think may be interesting to you. Recently I was in Houston Texas speaking in a local church called Berachah Church. I taught a series called *The Door to Doom* and we've covered some of that on this radio show. By the way, this teaching was videoed. If you'd like to have a DVD of the series *The Door to Doom* taught at Berachah Church in Houston Texas, contact us and we'll be glad to send it to you at no charge whatsoever. Now we're going to study something today that was part of this study in Houston. It's called emotions. **Letting your emotions control your life is dangerous.** As a matter fact we are all one decision away from destroying our lives. You can make one decision in your life that can affect you forever as long as you're on this planet. You have to make sure that the decisions that you make are not manipulated and not induced by emotion but that you make these decisions based on what you think, not based on what you feel. When you think you have two choices, you can think human viewpoint or you can think divine viewpoint. Human viewpoint is you writing to one of those newspaper columnists and saying, “What do you think I should do?” Divine viewpoint is you going to the Bible and asking God, “What should I do?” The obvious answer is I'd rather trust God than a newspaper columnist. Here we are, we are one decision away from destroying our lives. Romans 6:12, *“Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies.”* I remember a guy giving a message on this saying, “It ain't going to rain no more,” but he used the word R.A.I.N. This word in the Scripture is R.E.I.G.N., reign, meaning to control you. “Do not let sin control you.” This is what Paul the apostle wrote in Romans 6:12 because he said, *“We are dead to sin”* (Romans 6:11). We all have a sin nature. Every one of us does. You do, I do, we were born with it. We got it from Adam. *“For by one man sin came into the world, and death by sin and now death has passed on all for all have sinned”* (Romans 5:12). *“The wages of sin is death”* (Romans 6:23). To illustrate we are born with a sin nature, who taught that child how to lie or get angry and throw a fit? It's just part of the sin nature. **No one sat down and taught that young person how to be jealous. It is part of the sin nature and either you control the sin nature or the sin nature will control you.** We know for a fact that Satan will manipulate your sin nature. Let's assume you are a Christian. Let's assume you have believed in Jesus Christ and accepted Him as your Savior. You put your faith in the finished work of Christ on that cross. You believe that He died for your sin and resurrected from the grave and you've expressed this faith to God in prayer. You are a born again Christian. Now this puts you in a minority. You are considered to be a weirdo, one of those Bible thumpers by certain elements of our society that don't look upon Christians too fondly.

You're a born-again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and you're not ashamed to say it. You have to understand, there's a war going on for your thoughts. We have three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. **Galatians 5:16** says, *"The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh."* **There is a battle going on in your life 24/7 for who will control your thoughts.** In Ephesians 6:11 we are told to, *"Put on the armor of God so we can stand against the strategy of the devil,"* who wars against us. We have the world, the flesh, and the devil. You are a product of your thoughts, your decisions, your actions. Everything that you do, everything that I do begins with a thought and this thought becomes an attitude. Then if we let this attitude grow, it becomes an action in our life. **We have to be careful with our thoughts. This is where it all starts and we have to protect our mind so that we are not led into wrong thinking.** Let me give you some principles on how Satan seeks to manipulate you. How does the enemy, a.k.a. the devil, we know him as Satan, how does he seek to manipulate you? It's here in the Scripture.

1. Satan seeks to lead your mind astray. Remember you are made up of thoughts. You have a mind, you have a body, yes you do. You have a soul, yes you do. If you are a born again Christian, you have a living human spirit where God the Holy Spirit indwells you. In your soul you have mentality and this is part of your conscience. In the mentality of your soul, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5), this is referring to your mentality. 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,"* we're talking about your mind. You are what you think, Proverbs 23:7 tells us this. You're not what you think you are, you are what you think. You are the sum total of your thoughts. The first principle in regard to how Satan would seek to manipulate you is he would try to lead your mind astray. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 11:3, *"But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by means of his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and the purity of devotion to Christ."* What did he do with Eve? He deceived Eve, he led her mind astray. He appealed to her arrogance and this is very dangerous. We all have a trend toward arrogance in our lives. Arrogance is identified with self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption, and eventually self-destruction. If you justify why it's okay to commit something that you know is a sin, you are aware that it's a sin, this doesn't mean you're not a Christian. This means you have a battle like everybody else. If you justify it, Satan will in fact lead you astray from the simplicity of the believer who lives in Christ. It's a very simple lifestyle. We have the filling of the Holy Spirit and we have the dynamics of the Word of God. **When we operate under the filling of the Holy Spirit and put the Word of God in our soul, we have the most fantastic life the world has ever seen called the Christian life.** This is not the life Satan wants for you. He wants to control you, manipulate you. He's a roaring lion. He likes to go around devouring people. He would like to destroy you but, *"Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world"* (1 John 4:4). Remember, God is not going to let Satan take you out but you may open yourself up to satanic infiltration as he seeks to manipulate your mind. You cannot allow this to happen. If your mind is concentrating on the Word of God, then you have objective

optimism and an opportunity to recognize what's going on. He's very crafty and he will deceive you just like he deceived Eve. He, the enemy, that is a.k.a. the devil, is much smarter than you and me and we must stay in the Word of God. We must use problem-solving device #1, rebound. When we know we've sin, we have to go to God and confess this sin because if we don't, then we quench the Holy Spirit, His power in our life is grieved, and we're not able to function as we should as a believer in Jesus Christ because we're out of fellowship with God. We wind up under discipline from God and this is not the way you want to live. How does Satan seek to manipulate you? Lead your mind astray. **2. He can plant desires in your thoughts.** In Acts 5:3 Peter said to Ananias, *"Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and you kept back part of these proceeds from the sale of your land?"* What we have here is Satan planting the desire in the mind of Ananias. You'll find the Bible mentions the word heart and the Bible mentions the word mind. They are synonymous. They are both right up there between your eyes. The mind is the thinking part and the heart is the living part here. The heart is where we make our decisions. The mind is where we process the information. Satan was able to manipulate Ananias by putting into his heart the desire to hold back the money that he sold the property for and lie to Peter the apostle when he asked him, "Was this all of it?" He could have said "No" to Satan. He could have rejected this thought. He could have put this thought out of his mind. Sometime today Satan is going to put a thought in your mind. He's going to interject a thought and you can make a decision, "No, I'm not going down that avenue," or you can say, "Okay, sure I'll do it." He will manipulate your thinking by planting desires in your mind. Review, he'll lead your mind astray, 2 Corinthians 11:3, and he will plant desires in your mind, Acts 5:3. **3. He will motivate your desires, he will feed you what you want.** John 8:44, *"You people [the Lord Jesus Christ said] are from your father the devil, and you want to do what your father desires you to do. He was a murderer from the beginning. He does not uphold the truth. There is no truth in him. Whenever he lies, he speaks according to his own nature because he is in fact a liar and the father of lies."* These are unbelievers, the religious crowd that persecuted our Lord and wanted Him dead and He said, *"You want to do what your father desires you to do."* Satan motivated their desires. He got them on his side. He personally wanted Christ dead. He knew that once our Lord went to that cross, once He was crucified, once He walked out of that grave alive, that his time was over. He was defeated. He was done. The strategic victory of the cross is an amazing thing. We are free from the penalty of sin, free from the death of sin, and all Satan can do now is hold on and try at his very best to impugn God's name and impugn God's plan by getting you to buy into his lies, motivating your desires, manipulating you, leading you astray. What does the Bible say about all of this? **Resist him, James 4:7, "Submit yourself therefore to God and resist the devil and he will flee from you."** What does this mean, resist? Say no. If you look at Matthew 4, the first few verses, you will see how the Lord Jesus Christ was led into the wilderness and fasted and how Satan came to tempt Him and He said "No" three specific times. He didn't say the word no, but what He did is He quoted Scripture. **4. Scripture is your ally also. You can quote Scripture when these thoughts come into your mind, when your mind is tempted to be led astray.**

“Thou shall keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed upon Thee” (Isaiah 26:3). There are over 7,000 promises in the Bible for you and for me. If we know some of them, if we've studied our Bible, if we've listened to our pastor teach it, and we've applied what he taught us in our life, then when we have these desires put into our mind we can resist them. We can think no. The Bible says, *“Don't let sin reign in your mortal body any longer;”* I started out with this, Romans 6:12. Satan puts a thought in your mind and Satan says, “You would really be happy if you would do this.” Your lust pattern whatever it may be whether it's sex lust, money lust, power lust, approbation lust, ego lust, your lust pattern says, I like this idea. Instead of thinking no, the Bible says do this, you decide I want to do this, then you wind up out of fellowship with God, committing sin, quenching the Holy Spirit, grieving the Holy Spirit, and getting yourself under divine discipline. James says, “Resist him and he will leave you alone.” **5. Recognize his schemes because he's going to use the same ones once he learns your weakness.** Once Satan identifies your pattern of failure in your life, this is what he's going to use. Ephesians 6:11, *“Clothe yourselves with the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand against the schemes of the devil's strategy.”* The full armor of God starts with the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, the shoes shod with the gospel preparation. I mean this is an analogy of a Roman warrior and how he fought, picking up the Word of God, the two-edged sword, the *machaira* as the Romans used to conquer the world and this is an inspiration to you. You must be engaged for battle. You must have on your uniform because Satan is there to battle you. He wants to defeat you and you must recognize his schemes. Whatever your weakness is, whatever your lust pattern is, this is what he's going to appeal to. Judas, one of the disciples of the Lord that betrayed Him had a lust for money and this is what he used to betray the Lord Jesus Christ. He put this thought in Judas's heart. **6. Don't let him outwit you, 2 Corinthians 2:11, “In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan because we are not ignorant of his schemes.”** Paul again is saying don't be manipulated. Don't be outwitted. You know, one of the things that Satan will use is called false doctrine. **False doctrine is information that's not true, it's the Word of God that is twisted.** *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved,”* this is the Word of God. False doctrine will say, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and give up peanuts.” “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and don't ever drink another Coca-Cola.” You see, whenever you take the grace of God and you add to it, you put something on the end of it like works, something you must do, now you nullify the grace of God because you've added to it. This is not salvation, this is you adding to the plan. False doctrine may sound good. It may appeal to your emotions and this is where we want to go with this, a little bit on your emotions. You know a lot of times, I'm kind of sarcastic about this so forgive me, but it's always about the children, “Oh, the children.” Listen, when the Jews came out of that Promised Land with those twelve spies and ten came out and said, “Oh, we can't do it. We can't take that land. There are the giants in the land and they will kill our children.” It's the children. It's this way in the church. It's always about the children and then you will notice if you go to church you may not have many people in church, but that first day they have the children up singing in the choir

or the first day the children graduate from Sunday school, all the grandpas, all the grandmas, all aunts, all the uncles, they're all there with their cameras and they're all recording the children. Isn't this interesting? We're always about the children and this is an appeal to your emotions. Many a pastor has looked at an audience that showed up for the graduation of a grandson or a niece from Sunday school and wondered, "Where were you the rest of the year? Why wouldn't you come then?" Because it's about the children. It's about a lot more than the children. I speak to children constantly, but not the little children. I'm in high schools talking all the time, not public but private schools, and they're not necessarily Christian schools. They're all across the South, they're called academies. They still have the doors open, still allow someone such as me to come in and give the gospel information and it's interesting to see the young people. As a matter of fact, we are writing a book right now called *Life's Toughest Years* and it deals with being a young adult. Hopefully we'll have it out by the end of the summer. I've seen people that left a great church where the pastor did a great job, taught the Word of God consistently, because it didn't have enough programs for the children. They go and join some cruise ship church that has a lot more programs for the children. They take them skating, they take them camping, and they take them this, and they take them that, and it's always about the children. That's a wonderful thing as long as they're being taught the Word of God consistently. There's nothing more important than you "*Bringing up a child in the way that he should go*" (Proverbs 22:6). This means putting some divine viewpoint in his mind so he has a chance to withstand the strategy of the devil. **Your volition is very critical. It's going to respond to both your mentality and your emotion.** Proverbs 16:32 says, "*Patience is better than power and controlling your emotions better than capturing an entire city.*" **You have to learn how to not let your emotions manipulate you, not let your emotions control you.** It's critical that you do this. The conscience is the mentality of the soul, this is where all your thoughts are stored. The emotions are part of the physiological makeup of your body. **Our goal is to control the emotions, not act on what we feel but rather act on what we think.** Because if you don't control your emotions, your emotions will control you. **Teaching your children the Word of God gives them a leg up on life.** They will now have some sort of objective opportunity and optimism to understand their choices better if they have the Word of God in their soul. Without knowing this, if they don't have the Word of God, if a kid doesn't have the Word of God, he doesn't know what his choice is and he will be manipulated by his emotions and controlled by a.k.a. the devil himself. Are you listening? Is it making sense? This is my question, are you learning? I hope so. I hope you've enjoyed today's show and I hope you'll keep coming back every Sunday, same time, same station, same place. We trust God as always to make this available to you and to make it where you can understand it. Thank you for listening. Tune in next week, same time, same place. This is Rick Hughes saying thank you.

The Unfailing Love of God - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 670 aired on July 8, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm Rick Hughes the host and I'd like to invite you to stay with me for the next few minutes. It's always a short time of some motivation, some inspiration, and always done without any type of manipulation because we don't try to solicit money. We're not trying to get you to join up, fess it up, or give it up. We just want you to listen as I teach the Bible. I try to give you God's objective viewpoint about your life and hopefully if I can do this, if I can show you this, then you can orient and adjust to the plan. It is my prayer you will listen for the next few minutes, listen to a unique way of studying the Word of God because this show is designed to remind you of Biblical truths and introduce you to an in-depth way of studying and learning the Word of God. My job as I said, I just try to verify and identify the plan. Your job is to orient and adjust to the plan. This plan starts with the best news you have ever heard, the best news the world has ever heard, that Jesus Christ the anointed Son of God has redeemed you and me out of the slave market of sin. Thus our debt to God has been paid and we are now free from the penalty of death and the power of sin. 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 means of His grace, [not our works] we would be made heirs according to the confidence of eternal life."* You have confidence you will live with God forever. You are heir to all that Christ is heir to because you are in Christ Jesus. Faith alone in Christ alone is you putting your trust in the finished work of Christ on the cross, not you trying to buy your way to heaven, not you trying to impress God, how ridiculous is that? Do you think God is turned on with the fact that you don't cuss or God is turned on by the fact that you don't drink or God's turned on by the fact that you don't chew or you don't whatever? You may have good moral habits but this is not salvation. **Salvation is faith alone in Christ alone.** This is why John 3:36 says, *"He that believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life and he that believes not, then the wrath of God will abide on him forever."* What am I suppose to believe? I'm suppose to believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. John 3:16, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."* What did I believe in? I believed in Christ. What did Christ say? He said, *"This is the will of the One that sent Me, that you believe in Me whom He has sent"* (John 6:40). What did the disciples have to do? They had to believe He was the Messiah, the uniquely born Son of God. Do you believe this? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the uniquely born Son of God? Do you believe that on the cross He took your sin as a punishment for you? He died for you, He took your place, He was your substitute, do you believe this? Because if you do, you can express this faith to God in prayer and simply tell the Father, "I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe He died for me and I want to accept Him as my Savior." This is the same invitation that famous evangelists have issued for hundreds of years, from D.L. Moody to Billy Graham, will

you come forward and receive Christ as your Savior? You can do it in your car. You can do it at home. You can do it in a cell. You can do it in a lot of different places, but ultimately, you are responsible to make this decision. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *“For by grace are you saved by means of faith and that not of yourself since it's a gift of God and not of works lest any man should boast about it.”* Remember this, it's very easy to get emotionally involved when you start talking about God. I have a friend who's a very wonderful friend, he can't talk about God without crying, his emotions take over. But we're not talking about emotions. Philippians 2:5 says, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”* Our Lord had emotions but He did not let them dictate policy. **Proverbs 16:32, says, “Patience is better than power and controlling your emotions better than capturing a city.”** Let me give you a few principles. 1. Your volition, your chooser, your decider, positive or negative will respond to both your thoughts and your emotions. It's going to respond to one of the two. If you go to buy a new car, you're going to say mentally, “I like it. I can afford it.” You'll run the numbers in your head. The salesman's going to appeal to your emotions. “My you look good in this car. My, doesn't this car look pretty. Imagine yourself driving this car down the road.” You have to make a decision based on the content of your thought or the control of your emotions. It's like this all the way through life. 2. The mentality of the soul stores your thoughts and you have a protector and this is your conscience. It has your norms and standards. These are designed by God to protect you. Your norms are the things you operate by and live by every day to maintain good health and hygiene. Your standards come from the Bible, the Word of God. If you have norms and standards in your conscience, you have protection of your soul. **Without good norms and standards people don't stand a chance because they are suckers for emotion and emotion will control their life.** 3. The emotions are part of the physiological makeup of your body. There is nothing wrong with them. It's nice to have emotion and have an emotional response but not to let them control you, especially in regard to God or the Word of God. 4. Our job is to control our emotions and act on what we think, not what we feel. 5. If you don't control your emotions, they will control you. 6. **Failure to establish a Biblical frame of reference that relates everything you do back to the Word of God leaves you unprotected.** This means you can have contamination from guilt, contamination from shame, and your emotions will get out of control. You have to control your emotions. Any addict is out of control emotionally. Any person who sins repeatedly in any area of sin, is letting his emotions dictate policy to his soul and it's always fed by arrogance where you justify why it's okay. You justify why you did what you did and why you had a right to do what you do. Even though you might not like it, you're not proud of yourself, you did it, self-justification, and your emotions took over. You've got to have a Biblical frame of reference. You've got to be able to stop the emotion from controlling your soul. 7. **Self-control is critical in the battle of the mind over emotions.** Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:27, *“I keep under my body and bring it into subjection so that by any means when I'd preached to others I wouldn't be cast away myself.”* That's right, the number one fear of anyone in the ministry is to come to the end of our ministry and to be disqualified from service because we let our emotions get control of us and we wind up

ourselves into the sin and it complicates life. There's nothing more devastating, nothing more miserable in this life than you destroying yourself with your own emotions. You could have stopped it, you could have walked away but the emotions were just too powerful. I want to talk to you about the unfailing love of God today. This is a phenomenal study we want to go into and I want to show you a few principles regarding this and tell you where you can get a book about it. The unfailing love of God is seen in Psalm 33:13-18, *"From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind. From His dwelling place He watches all who live on the earth, He who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. No king can be saved by the size of his army and no warrior escapes by means of his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance and despite all his great strength, it cannot save. But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, and on those whose hope is in His unfailing love."* Did you hear this? *"Whose hope,"* and this should be the word confidence, the Greek word *elpis*, not hope like "I hope it doesn't rain today." This is not what this word means. *"Those whose confidence is in His unfailing love."* Now, let's break it down a little bit, okay? *"From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all of mankind"* (Psalm 33:13). What does this mean? Well, this is a reference to the omniscience of God. God is omnipresent, God is omnipotent, and God is omniscient. **Omniscient means that God is all knowing. Omnipresent means that God is immanent and transcendent, in all places at one time. Omnipotent means that God is all-powerful.** Here is a reference to the omniscience of God. *"From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind."* 2 Chronicles 16:9 says this, *"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth."* This is an analogy. God doesn't have eyes like we do. He is a spiritual being. He's immanent, He doesn't have a body. Jesus Christ has a body, this is a resurrection body. This is the only body in heaven right now. There are angels there, God is there, but no one is there in a resurrection body except Jesus Christ. Old Testament saints don't have these resurrection bodies yet. *"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward Him. Herein you have done foolishly; therefore, from now on you will have wars."* That's a warning. There is nothing you can do to hide yourself from God's presence since He's omnipresent. I remember as a youngster, pulling the cover up over my head thinking nobody could see me, but God can. John 3:19 says, *"Men love darkness rather than light."* Many love to get in the dark and they love to do things in the dark, but there's no darkness with God. He's watching all the time. So if you are a believer in Jesus Christ there's nothing you can do, nowhere you can hide, no place you can be that God cannot see you. If you turn out the lights in your room, turn out the lights wherever you may be, and you think nobody can see you, know God is watching. I just read it to you, *"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth."* He is aware because He's omniscient. Our loving Father dwells in what the Bible calls the third heaven. Now the first heaven is the atmosphere. This is what the rocket ships blast up through and go out into space. The second heaven is space, the universe. The third heaven is the abode of God, so our Father dwells in heaven, the abode of God. I don't know where it is but I'm expecting to find out one day, you will too if you are a believer in Jesus Christ. We will be absent

from the body and face to face with the Lord. I know we'll be coming back here for a thousand years to rule and reign with Christ in His Millennial Kingdom. God dwells in what's called the third heaven and from there the Lord looks down and sees all mankind, from the third heaven. He knows who are His and He knows who are not His. How would He know this? Well, if you have the righteousness of Jesus Christ, you're His. +R is God's righteousness and -R is man's righteousness. Here's the key, *"There are none that are righteous, no, not even one"* (Romans 3:10). Because *"All of our righteousness is like a filthy rag"* (Isaiah 64:6). God is absolutely righteous, He's +R. We are -R, absolutely not righteous. How can -R become +R? It's simple. 2 Corinthians 5:21, *"He [that's God] has made Him [Jesus] to be sin for us [you and me] the One who knew no sin [that's Christ] so that we may be made the righteousness of God in Him."* **The only way that anyone can become righteous is through Jesus Christ, God's absolute righteousness.** I have absolutely no righteousness but when I come to Jesus Christ and receive Him as my Savior, then His righteousness is credited to me and now I can have fellowship with God through Christ because I have equal righteousness. How about that? Psalm 33:13-18, I'm going on in the unfailing love of God passage and looking at verse 16, *"No king is saved by the size of his army and no warrior escapes by his great strength."* There's no doubt that freedom is preserved by military victory. There's no doubt if God does not bless the war effort then no army can defeat the enemy. I want to take you to General George S. Patton and his prayer for the rain to stop during the battle of Bastogne in 1944, part of the Battle of the Bulge. The prayer was written by Reverend Monsignor James Hugh O'Neill. He was an American Catholic priest who served as chaplain in the United States Army from 1926 through 1952 rising eventually to the rank of brigadier general. While serving as chaplain of the Third United States Army during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II he composed a famous weather prayer at the request of the Third Army's Commander, George Patton. Here's what General Patton said. Maybe you saw the movie *Patton*. If you didn't, you ought to watch it. "Chaplain," he said, "How much praying is being done in the Third Army?" "Does the General mean by the chaplains or by the men?" "By everybody" General Patton replied. "Well I'm afraid to admit it sir but I do not believe that much praying is going on. When there's fighting everybody prays but now with this constant rain things are quiet, dangerously quiet. Men just sit and wait for something to happen and prayer out there is difficult. Both chaplains and men are removed from a special building with steeples, church like, and prayer to most of them is just done in a formal ritualized affair involving special posture like kneeling down and a liturgical setting and sir, I don't believe that much praying is being done right now." That was the chaplain's answer to which General Patton said, "Chaplain, I'm a strong believer in prayer and there are three ways that men get what they want - by planning, by working, and by praying. Any great military operation takes careful planning and thinking. Then you must have well-trained troops to carry it out, that's working. But between the plan and the operation, there's always the unknown and the unknown spells defeat or victory, success or failure. It's the reaction of the actors to the ordeal when it actually takes place. Some people call it getting the breaks." Patton continued, "I call it God. God has His part or His margin

in everything.” Remember our verse I gave you, “*No king is saved by the size of his army.*” “So chaplain,” Patton went on to say, “That's where prayer comes in. Up to now in the Third Army, God's been very good to us. We never had to retreat. We've suffered no defeats, no famine, no epidemics and it is because a lot of people back home are praying for us. We were lucky in Africa, chaplain, in Sicily and Italy, but simply because people at home prayed. We have to pray for ourselves too. A good soldier is not made merely by making him think and by making him work but by something in every soldier that goes deeper than that thinking and working. It's his guts. It's something that he's built inside of himself. It is a world of truth and power higher than himself. So great living is not all output of thought and work. Man has to have intake as well. I don't know what you call it, chaplain, but I call it religion, prayer, God. So I want you to put out a training letter on this subject, a prayer to all the chaplains in the Third Army. Write about nothing else, just the importance of prayer. Let me see it before you send it because we've got to get not only the chaplains but every man in the Third Army to pray. We must ask God to stop these rains. These rains are that margin that hold defeat or victory and if we all pray, it will be like what Dr. Carrel said.” This was an allusion to a press quote some days previously when Dr. Alexis Carrel, one of the foremost scientists of the time, described prayer. He said, “It is one of the most powerful forms of energy man can generate” and Patton had read that. He was quoting him when he said, “It's like what Dr. Carrel said, ‘It's one of the most powerful forms of energy man can generate. It will be like plugging into a current whose source comes from heaven. **I believe that prayer completes the circuit. It's the power we need.**’” The incident of the now famous Patton prayer commenced with a telephone call to the Third Army chaplain on 8 December 1944. “This is General Patton. Do you have a good prayer for the weather? We've got to do something about these rains if we're going to win this war.” The chaplain replied, “Well, I know where to look for such a prayer. I could locate it and report within the hour.” He hung up the phone and he looked out at the rain and thought “Hmmm what am I going to do?” The few prayer books that he had contained no formal prayer about weather that could prove acceptable to the Army commander so he sat down and he typed an original prayer on a 3x5 filing card. This is what he typed, this is what he wrote. Recall our verse, “*No king is saved by the size of his army and no warrior escapes by his great strength.*” “Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee of Thy great goodness to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee, that armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies and establish Thy justice among men and nations.” The next day the general read it and without a change directed that it be circulated not only to the 486 chaplains but to every organization commander down to and including regimental level. 3,200 copies were distributed to every unit in the Third Army over the signature of the Army chaplain. Strictly speaking it was the Army commander's letter, Patton's letter, not the chaplain's but due to the fact that the order came directly from Patton, distribution was completed on 11 December and on 12 December, advancing the dates to 14 December, it was

titled *Training Letter Number Five* with a salutation from the Chaplain of the Third Army. This is what it said, "At this stage of the operation I would call upon the chaplains and the men of the United States Army to focus their attention on the importance of prayer." "*No king can win by the size of his army.*" Now you know and I know that prayer not done in the right way is not going to be answered. **Just because somebody is praying doesn't mean that it's going to be answered. There is effective prayer and there is ineffective prayer.** Effective prayer is done in the name of Jesus Christ to God the Father by means of the Holy Spirit and we know that if there is sin in our life, the Holy Spirit is quenched and can't do His job. Psalm 66:18 says, "*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*" It is critical that any time you pray you are in fellowship with God by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit. **Psalm 33:18, "The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him and on those whose confidence is in His unfailing love."** The word fear is *yare* in the Hebrew meaning to reverence or to respect Him. Psalm 103:11 says, "*For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those that fear Him.*" The question I want to ask you as we wrap it up today, do you fear God? Is His will in your life your number one priority? If it's not then you are on the My Way Highway and the My Way Highway is a dead end. You will destroy your life eventually because of your arrogant self-justification of why you don't have to pay attention to what God tells you. **Stay off the My Way Highway, it's an emotional roller coaster. It'll lead you to the path of destruction in your life. Learn God's Word and apply God's Word.** "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18) and you can be absolutely confident that God is in control and that He will not lead you where He cannot sustain you. Please remember this. Psalm 33:18, here it is again, "*The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him and on those whose hope is in His unfailing love.*" What is the unfailing love of God? This is the \$64,000 question and this is the question I will attempt to answer on our next radio show when you come back next Sunday. What is the unfailing love of God? We know from **1 John 4:8, "God is love"** and in **1 John 4:9, "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live eternally through Him."** I want to show you the unfailing love of God. It's the most misunderstood subject in the Bible. I'll tell you how you can get a lot of accurate information about it but you need to come back next week, same time, same place, same station. It's an honor for me to bring you these radio shows. Thank you for giving me a few minutes of your time. I pray God will bless you and the Holy Spirit will direct your thoughts through these subjects. That's my prayer in Christ's name. Amen.

The Unfailing Love of God - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 671 aired on July 15, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes please stick around for 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, and you know this, no manipulation. That's right, no gimmicks, no games, no solicitations, no asking for money, and not trying to get you to join anything. This is not an infomercial. This is a show about understanding the plan to God for your life. My job is to verify and identify this plan. Your job is to orient and adjust to the plan if you choose to do so. The FLOT Line is a show designed to teach you the importance of the Word of God in your life by establishing a main line of resistance in your soul. In your soul you can build a forward line of troops. This analogy, a military metaphor we're using here, is 10 problem-solving devices found in the Word of God that act as a main line of resistance in your soul. This is nothing new. These are 10 problem-solving devices taught in the Word of God. If you learn them and if you use them, then you can stop the outside sources of adversity from becoming the inside sources of stress because adversity is always inevitable but stress is optional. **These problem-solving devices are provided by God for the Christian only. If you haven't accepted Jesus Christ into your life, you can't use these.** You can't access them because it starts with the filling of the Holy Spirit. If you don't have Jesus Christ in your life, then you can't have the filling of the Holy Spirit. Here's the unique thing, when we receive Christ as our Savior something happens we're not even aware of and that is we're baptized by the Holy Spirit or placed into union with the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us and He is the one who activates our dead human spirit. When you're born you're born with a body, you're born with a soul, and you're born with a dead human spirit. All people are born spiritually dead and need to be born again to have eternal life. John 3:3 talks about being born again but it's not a physical birth, it's a spiritual birth. By that we mean God the Holy Spirit at the point of your salvation will come to indwell your human spirit, your dead human spirit, and you will be made alive in Christ. This is your second birthday. Everyone should have two birthdays. The Bible says you're either going to have two births or two deaths, one or the other. Birth one, you're born into this world. Birth two, you're born again. Death one, *"It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27). Death two, *"Whoever's name was not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire"* (Revelation 20:15), this is the second death. So it's really up to you. God made the grace provisions, God provided everything in Christ Jesus our Lord, a free gift of eternal life. This is the best news you could ever have, that the anointed Son of God redeemed you and me out of the slave market of sin. **Jesus Christ paid our debt to God and we are now free from the penalty of death and the power of sin.** We are guaranteed a resurrection and we are guaranteed by means of the Holy Spirit that we no longer have to live under the slavery of our sin nature. This is a wonderful promise from God and this is one of the unique provisions from the unfailing love of God for us. We started a series last week talking about the unfailing love of God for us as

Christians. In Psalm 33:13-18 it says, *“From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind. From His dwelling place He watches all who live on the earth, He who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. No king is saved by the size of his army and no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance despite all of its great strength, it cannot save. But [here's our verse] the eyes of the Lord are on those who respect Him, [those who fear Him] and on those whose hope is in the unfailing love of God.”* What exactly is the unfailing love of God? What exactly does this mean? Let me give you some principles and break it down. Before I do this, let me tell you about a book that my pastor wrote many years ago called *The Unfailing Love of God*, and you can get this book free of charge by contacting Thieme Ministries, PO Box 460829, Houston, Texas 77056. I vouch for this book. I verify it's a great book and many of the things I will tell you today I have learned from reading this book. I can never go wrong by recommending this. He was my pastor for many years. He pastored a church in Houston for 53 years in one pulpit, changing the lives of people throughout the city of Houston and across the country. How many of you know a pastor that survived two years, three years, four years? How about 53 years, thousands of hours of teaching recorded and still available on request and free of charge. Numerous books of his teaching are available free of charge. His ministry was predicated on grace. He never charged a dime for anything and he was the best solid, sound, systematic Bible teacher of those days that I ever found. He taught me about the unfailing love of God and here are some of the things I learned. First of all unfailing, what does this mean? God's love can never be compromised. He will never tune you out when you go to Him. He's never going to say, “I don't love you anymore, you're a jerk, you did something stupid so I don't love you anymore.” This is not going to happen. God will never abandon you. Our God will never abandon you. If you are a member of His royal family, He will not abandon you. He will always answer your call. You are not going to hear it verbally, there's not going to be a loudspeaker saying attention, attention, this is not what I'm saying. But when you go to God and pray in the correct manner, that's with no sin in your life, He will answer you. If you think you're going to get God to answer prayers when you have unconfessed sin in your life, you're wrong. Psalm 66:18 says, *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”* The first thing you have to do to have a correct prayer is to make sure you're filled with the Holy Spirit. This is problem-solving device #1 on the FLOT line of your soul. This is rebound, confessing your known sin to God. Secondly following precisely correct procedure in prayer means when you pray, you pray to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. You do not pray to Jesus Christ. You do not pray to the Holy Spirit. **You pray to the Father in the name of the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit.** Remember to go to God using precisely correct procedure, He will answer your call. There will never be a father-son spat like on television. There's a TV show that became quite popular a few years ago and I understand it's back now. It's about some motorcycle builders up around the State of New York. It's a father and son, Paul and Paul, and they have a big running spat. Sometimes they can't stand each other and want to fight each other. This is not the way with God. He's never going to get angry at you. He's never going

to get angry and turn on you like this father and son do on television. **God's love is unfailing, never compromised, never tunes you out, never abandons you. God will always answer your call.** There will never be a spat. This is the unfailing love of God. Back to Psalm 33:18, *"But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him and on those whose hope is in His unfailing love."* **1 John 4:8 tells us "God is love."** If you want to draw a picture of God, you have to learn how to draw a picture of love because this is part of the essence of God. That's not all of it. God is sovereignty. God is righteousness. God is justice. God is love. God is eternal life. God is immutability. God is veracity. God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. These are ten attributes of the essence of God. Sovereignty, He's the King of kings and Lord of lords. Righteousness, *"There are none that are righteous, no, not one"* (Romans 3:10). He's the only righteous One. When we believe in Jesus Christ, the righteousness of Christ is given to us. This is what 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him"* or by means of Him. He is sovereign. He is righteous. He is just. He doesn't make any mistakes. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24 hours a day and no one gets away with anything. He is love, unfailing love, perfect love. He is eternal life, He has always existed and always will exist. He's immutable, He never changes. He is veracity, absolute truth. He is omnipotent, meaning He is all-powerful. He's omnipresent, He's everywhere at one time, immanent and transcendent. He is omniscient, He knows everything. Do you want to teach your kids something? Teach them the essence of God like I just told you. If you need some information on this, let me know. We'll get it to you so you can teach it. This is critical that people understand this, God is love. These components of God are wrapped in a shell of love, His love. 1 John 4:9 describes how this love works, *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us so that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live eternally through Him."* **This is the love of God being manifested, being demonstrated, being shown. God sent His Son, the only begotten uniquely born Son, into the world so that we might live eternally through Him. This is an amazing love. You didn't earn it, you didn't deserve it, but by grace He gave it to you.** This is why Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"For by grace you are saved through faith [faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross] and that not of yourselves [you can't produce it] it's a gift from God and not of works lest any man should boast."* This is the love of God, 1 John 4:9-10, *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live eternally through Him. Herein is love [this is love], not that we loved God [and we didn't] but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* John 3:16, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* Jesus Christ, the Son of God is the propitiation. He satisfies the justice of God. When we come to God the Father by faith in Christ Jesus our Lord, God receives us because we have the righteousness of Christ by means of our salvation. *"This is what love is, not that we loved Him first, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* Then in 1 John 4:11, *"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another,"* and this is the

mandate to use impersonal love, problem-solving device #7 in the FLOT line of your soul where you can love someone that's unlovable. This is exactly what God did for you, John 3:16, "*God so loved the world.*" You were wrapped up in sin so how could He love you? How could a holy God love you? He loved you impersonally. He loved you with His character assets, not yours. Once you got saved, once you became a member the family of God, now He loves you with a personal love. You are royal family. **You have to use the same impersonal love as a believer in Jesus Christ whenever you're confronted with people you don't like.** "*If God loved us, we ought also to love one another*" (1 John 4:11). I assure you, I guarantee you, there are people in your church you don't like. You don't want to sit next to them, you don't want to be in the room with them, you don't like them. This is a problem because you are mandated to love one another. Did Christ die for them? Yes. Did Christ die for you? Yes. Does He love them? Yes. Does He love you? Yes. So why can't you love them? "I just don't like them. They just offend me. They're rude. They're this, they're that." This is not the problem. **The problem is not them, the problem is you. You have to love them based on your righteousness, not theirs.** This is exactly what God did for you. Ephesians 2:4-7, "*Because of His great love for us [that's the unfailing love of God] He is rich in mercy. He made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions. Because it is by grace you have been saved. God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms. In order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*" There's a difference between the love of God and love for God. This is His love manifested to you, "*In order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*" **His riches to us are the spiritual assets that we have as believers in the Church Age today. It's our unique spiritual life.** We have this life, it's very unique. 2 Corinthians 4:7 calls it a treasure. Listen to this. "*But we have this treasure in our earthly vessels, that the excellency of the power may be from God and not from us.*" This may shock you but the Greek word for treasure is an English word you probably know, it's pronounced thesaurus. It's a word treasure. The love of God in your life as you learn Bible doctrine, as you learn God's Word becomes a treasure, a great treasure to be honored, to be held, to be used, and spent by means of the faith-rest drill. It is treasure and His love was demonstrated by the sacrificial act of sending His Son as our substitute. We learn this from the Word of God. This is the treasure of the Bible. We learned about grace. We learned about forgiveness. We learned about justification, sanctification, and propitiation. These are words you should understand. Sure, they're theological terms, but you should understand them. He gave us a treasure called the Bible, the Scripture. When you learn it and when you use it, then you can live the most unique life the world has ever seen called the Christian life. Why did He do this? Because He loved you and me. John 15:13, "*Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*" Christ died for you, Christ died for me. He loved you, He loved me, and He loves us today. **The unfailing love of God will never fade in eternity. The sacrificial death of Christ was the demonstration of the unfailing love of God and your**

virtue love, my virtue love is demonstrated in the same manner. We sacrifice ourselves. We become a bondsman for Jesus Christ. We serve Him voluntarily. Ephesians 6:6 says, *“Not by way of eye-service as being a man-pleaser, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.”* Jesus did the will of the Father. He said, *“I’m here to do the will of the One that sent Me”* (John 4:34). We love Him when we obey Him. In Romans 1:1 Paul called himself, *“A slave of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle separated unto the gospel of God.”* His motivation, our motivation, is to serve Him as free slaves because we love Him. *Doulos* is the word for slave, a free slave, not a bondsman. We serve Him because we love Him. **This is our motivation and in 1 John 5:3 we read, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His mandates and His mandates are not hard.”** In 1 John 4:19, *“We love Him because He first loved us,”* this is reciprocal. God demonstrated love for you to begin with by sending His Son from eternity past to eternity future to be the sin bearer for the world. We now love Him reciprocally because He loved us and since we love Him, this is the love of God. Do you want to give yourself a little test today? Do I love God? This is a question you should ask yourself because I promise you if I stood in your pulpit Sunday morning and asked this question, most of the people would raise their hand and say, “Yes, I love God,” but listen to the verse, *“This is the love of God [this is demonstrating the love of God] that we keep His mandates and His mandates are not grievous.”* You say you love God and you don't obey God? “I don't drink. I don't smoke. I don't dance.” Listen, *“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). Do you obey that one? *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”*(2 Peter 3:18). Do you obey that one? Oh I know, you're growing at about one mile an hour, but this doesn't cut it. Listen, if you think going to church for an hour a week is growing in grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, you haven't understood it. You're not going to grow going to church an hour a week. **The only way you're going to grow is to sit under a well-qualified pastor that will teach you God's Word and I would say a minimum of an hour a day.** I know, “I don't have time to do that.” Oh, I know, I have the same battle that you do. I try to find my time to sit under my pastor and listen to him teach me the Word of God an hour every day. Sometimes I'm able, sometimes I'm not but I don't put it down and I don't walk away from it like you did. You walked away, didn't you? You said, “I don't have time to do that. I'm too busy,” and you got sucker punched because you turned your back on the very One who loved you to start with, the very One who sent His Son to die for you to start with because you didn't have time. **You can't love someone you don't know and you don't know God unless you know the Scripture.** I gave you the essence of God earlier. I went through the whole rundown on the essence of God. Did you know any of that? Did you know omniscience? Did you know sovereignty, righteousness, justice? Did you know immutability and veracity? Do you even know what these words mean? It gets to me when people say, “I love God,” and they don't. They love their life. They love what God does for them. They don't love God, that's for sure. Well let's move on. **Our faithfulness is our demonstration of our love for Him because He will never ask you to do something you can't do.** Remember

1 Corinthians 10:13, “*No temptation overtook you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful [He loves you unfailingly] and He will not suffer you to be tempted above what you're able.*” Finally, **don't equate divine love with human love, they are not the same.** Emotion does not enter into God's response. Quoting my pastor, “Long on emotionalism and short on knowledge of Bible doctrine, people are confused about salvation, confused about the spiritual life, confused about God and His love because they try to humanize God and wind up making God like man and that's not true.” God says, “*My thoughts are not your thoughts, My ways are not your ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts*” (Isaiah 55:8-9), and this means His love does not work off of human emotion. He doesn't fall out of love like you do. He doesn't fall into love. His love is unfailing, always consistent, never temperamental, it's important you understand this. His unfailing love for us is demonstrated by providing eternal security. He promises you will be in heaven. He gave the gift of the Holy Spirit. He gave the Bible. He gives pastor-teachers. He gives spiritual gifts. He gives the right spouse. He gives a geographical will. I can go on and on about what God has provided for you in His unfailing love. I hope you're listening. I hope you're learning. I hope you're beginning to see how much there is to hear. I hope you will order that book I talked about. Contact me, we'll send you the name and the address by email. Thank you for listening. I hope you've learned something. Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Fantastic Four - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 672 aired on July 22, 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. Again, as usual, about 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, and you remember we do this without any manipulation. We don't con people, we're not asking for money. We're just here to give you information, information that might help you verify and identify God's plan for your life and if it does, then you obviously have the opportunity to orient and adjust to the plan, that's up to you. My job is to be accurate and get it right. The FLOT Line is a radio show heard every Sunday on this radio station. My intent is to show you how you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. That's because adversity is obviously inevitable, but stress is optional. Adversity may be what circumstances do to you but you do the stress to yourself. That's why the Christian life is such a unique life, because it's a way to live without worry. It's a way to live without fear. It's a way to live without bitterness. It's a wonderful lifestyle and if you learn God's Word and use it as a FLOT line, forward line of troops, if you use the Word of God as a main line of resistance in your soul, then whenever circumstances hit your life, you can always reflect back on what the Word of God says and 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. Because the Word of God has a solution, there's a solution for everything in your life found in the holy Scripture of God, so keep this in mind. Learning the FLOT line includes learning how to rebound because you can't live the Christian life until you understand this first. Everything must be empowered by God the Holy Spirit or else it will be done in the energy of the flesh. People can go to church and be nice people and it's all in the energy of the flesh if they have unconfessed sin in their life. But by using rebound as per 1 John 1:9, *"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,"* we are guaranteed that we're not under the energy of the flesh but that we are indeed filled with the Holy Spirit. The Bible is clear, *"Be filled with the Holy Spirit,"* Ephesians 5:18. The Bible is clear, *"If you walk in the Spirit you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh,"* Galatians 5:16, and this is not some mystical, weird, second blessing that descends from heaven on you and you begin to babble. This is the daily walking in the Holy Spirit's control. Jesus told those disciples, "When I leave, I'm going to send My Spirit back to you and He will be your heavenly Mentor. He will tutor you and lead you and guide you into all truth." It's the same thing for you too in the Church Age. You have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit but you can quench Him and you can grieve Him by sin, but when you confess your sin, then He is reinstated as the controlling factor in your life. Then you can rest assured that you are fulfilling God's plan until you sin again and you have to rebound again. Rebound is problem-solving device number one, 1 John 1:9. Problem-solving device number two is the filling of the Holy Spirit and this solves the problem of our genetically formed sin nature. The sin nature can do mighty good things, but it's not glorifying to God because it comes from the energy of the flesh.

Problem-solving device number three is the faith-rest drill and that's learning, standing on, using those 7,000 promises found in the Bible. We have a book of promises. If you want it, let us know, we'll get it out to you, *Bible Promises and Principles*. There are over 7,000 promises you can claim in the Bible and you also have the problem-solving devices of Biblical orientation and grace orientation. There's you finding your personal sense of destiny. There is personal love for God which is the greatest motivational virtue any of us could ever have. As the Bible says in 1 John 5:3, "*If you love Me you will obey Me.*" Impersonal love for others where the Bible says, "*If we say we love God and hate our brother, we're liars and the truth is not in us.*" We have to learn how to love those that we don't even like. I mean isn't this what God did for you? He loves you, John 3:16. There is also sharing the happiness of God, +H. Jesus said He wanted His disciples to have His joy remain in them. Then there's occupation with Christ and that's living a Christ centered life, being occupied with Jesus Christ so that you replicate His lifestyle and represent Him to your friends. These are the steps in the FLOT line of your soul. These are 10 problem-solving devices you must know and understand. We have them in a small booklet and if you'd like to have the book, just contact us, we'll send it to you free. It's called *Christian Problem-Solving* and you can always contact us through the email at our website, that's rickhughesministries.org. Today I'd like to begin a brief study with you called The Fantastic Four. This is not some Marvel book of comic characters. In my opinion, **The Fantastic Four are the four most dynamic things we all need as believers in Jesus Christ.** Without these four things in your life you're going to be in a heap of trouble. I'll read them to you, **Proverbs 2:10-11, "When wisdom enters into your heart and knowledge is pleasant unto your soul, discretion shall preserve you and understanding will keep you."** **Four unique things we need: wisdom, knowledge, discretion and understanding.** This divine truth in Proverbs 2:10-11 is recorded for us by Solomon. He was by the way the son of David through Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite whom David had killed and this was preserved for us in the book of Proverbs by God the Holy Spirit. You might not know about David but David had a lot of children. King David had nineteen children in all, two died at birth and most of them are mentioned in 1 Chronicles 3:1-3. He had six children born in Hebron during the time that he ruled there and then when he was in Jerusalem he had four more sons born to him there. He was king for 33 years there. Then he had nine other sons, 1 Chronicles 3:6, and their names are all given. He had a lot of children and he also had a daughter named Tamar and she was assaulted by her brother Amnon who caused a revolution against David. This portion of Proverbs written by Solomon was addressed mainly to young people. I have just written a book I'd love to give it to you. It's called *Life's Toughest Years* and it deals with the teenage years, being a teenager like from 12 to 18 or 19 and the tests that these young people go through. I went through it myself and you probably did too. This book is the compilation of some teaching I did at a school in Mississippi and we have put it together thanks to the help of our editors. It's free and available to you if you'll get in touch with us, we're in the process of printing this book right now and we'll make it available on the website, rickhughesministries.org. Addressed mainly to young people as a divine

standard of protection and exhortation, that's what this is. **This proverb starts off with the recognition that the thinking of an individual controls his destiny.** *“When wisdom enters into your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul,”* it recognizes the choice that must be made. Every young person has to make a choice, a choice in life. **Bad decisions limit future options.** You know we say this all the time. **This recognizes it is a choice to acquire divine insight.** It's not going to just flutter into your brain. Either you want it or you don't want it and it's called wisdom, the Hebrew word *chokma*, wisdom. The word for knowledge is the Hebrew word *daat* and refers to experiential knowledge, actually having done something and learned from doing it, not just some sort of cognitive awareness where you know about it but you don't really experience it. It includes having intellectual assimilation and then practically applying what you've learned. This is the way learning the Bible is. When you hear God's Word you have an intellectual knowledge of it. You have a cognitive awareness of it. But you must have an experiential knowledge and that's called faith application. Here's the way it looks in the Bible. You hear the Word of God, it comes into your *nous*, your mind, N.O.U.S. but it hasn't done any good yet because in the Greek New Testament it's called *gnosis* G.N.O.S.I.S, that's information you heard and understood. Until it becomes *epignosis*, the preposition *epi* is the word full, until knowledge becomes full knowledge, it has no dynamics in your life. **Full knowledge, that's when you begin to have the experiential knowledge as you put it to work using the faith-rest drill.** So the word for knowledge is critical here. Let's go back and read it again, *“When wisdom enters into your heart and knowledge is pleasant unto your soul,”* the wisdom of God is the sacred Scriptures. They will become pleasant, the Hebrew word *naem*, or attractive or something that the growing believer desires to obtain and hold onto as a treasure. I wonder if the Word of God is that attractive you? Do you think the Word of God is as great to you as a treasure find of gold? If you went diving in the ocean and you found a sunken vessel, a pirate vessel full of gold, you would think, *“This is fantastic. I found this amazing treasure,”* but the Word of God is a treasure also. It's a word treasure. When the Bible says, *“Knowledge is pleasant to your soul,”* the soul is the invisible inner part of you with an eternal presence. Your body will forfeit itself, you're going to die, you have to. This body won't work in the third heaven. You've got to get a different body and the soul will go with you. Your soul and spirit will leave your body, go to be face-to-face with the Lord where there's no more tears, no more pain, no more sorrow and you will have a different body. The resurrection body a believer is given after the tribulation is an amazing body and it's the invisible body. The invisible inner man is the soul. The soul is invisible, no one can see it but God can because it's made up of your mentality. That's why the Bible says in Proverbs 23:7, *“As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.”* It's made up of your volition or your chooser, you either choose to obey or choose not to obey. It's made up of your conscience and your self-consciousness. That's the invisible part of your soul. When the Bible says, *“When wisdom enters into your heart and knowledge is pleasant unto your soul,”* here's a little bit of what it means. **First of all, wisdom is acquired not inherited.** If your parents are mature believers, this doesn't mean you are a mature believer. You can't inherit what they know.

They may share it with you and encourage you to “*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,*” 2 Peter 3:18, but unless you grow yourself, you won't have this knowledge. That's why the Lord Jesus Christ said this statement. He said in Matthew 11:28, “*Come to Me all ye who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take My yoke on you and learn from Me because I'm gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, [no more mental anguish] for My yoke is easy to bear and My load is not heavy to carry,*” not hard to carry. **Wisdom is divine insight from God into the affairs of man.** In the New Testament wisdom is the Greek word *sophia*. For example in Ephesians 1:17, “*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,*” *sophia*. **Knowledge comes through Jesus Christ. As you study the life and mind of Christ, you see what your life should be. It is a mirror to you.** My pastor has been teaching a study on the life of Christ for over 1,000 hours right now and you think, “How could anybody teach that long?” Because it's line by line, word by word, and it's an amazing study on the life of Christ. I've learned so much of what Jesus did, who He is, how He acted, what He thought, how He interacted with His disciples, and it helps me to see what I should do - this is wisdom from the Scripture. Wisdom, *sophia*, and God gives you wisdom as you learn and apply the Word. Now wisdom can be human intellect and that's usually learned by experience more than instruction, but to acquire some Biblical wisdom, well there must be some divine instruction and that's really what I'm doing for you now. I'm giving you divine instruction, not because I'm divine, I promise you I'm not. I'm giving you what the Bible says, that's divine instruction. This instruction should come by two different ways. Number one, I hope, I pray you have a well-qualified pastor and I pray that he is teaching you the Bible not just on Sunday morning and Wednesday night, that's not enough. If all you're getting is 30 minutes on Sunday morning, 30 minutes on Wednesday night and the rest of the time you're told to go do a daily devotion and read your Bible, that's not growing up spiritually I promise you. The way it's set up is just like a kid going to the first grade. If you just went to the first grade for an hour week, you're never going to get out of it. You sit under the authority of a well-qualified pastor who teaches the Bible to you, hopefully an hour at a time, hopefully several hours a week. You say, “Well, I don't have time for that.” Really? Oh, you don't have time for God? You don't have time to gain wisdom, you're not interested in the treasure because you're more interested in what your kids are doing? You're more interested in what your spouse is doing? You have to give your time to them so you don't have time for God's Word? That's a mistake. **Without acquiring wisdom in the soul, you will have no chance to withstand the strategy of the devil.** The instruction I'm talking about comes through the well-qualified pastor who teaches you from the pulpit of your church and then by means of God the Holy Spirit who filters what that pastor teaches and purifies that information given to you. 2 Peter 3:18 and 2 Timothy 2:15 both are mandates about “*Growing in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*” This spiritual wisdom that you acquire, “*When wisdom enters your heart,*” is devoid of emotional decisions. This is not you getting emotional. You act on what you know not what you feel and that's why

the Bible clearly says in Philippians 2:5, *“Let this in mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”* It does not say, *“Let these emotions be in you that were in Christ Jesus.”* Are emotions valid? Sure, they’re part of the body. Sure, we get emotional at a beautiful sunset or we get emotional when we see certain things, absolutely, but the spiritual life is not lived by emotions. You have to remember this. **Spiritual wisdom is devoid of emotional decisions because you act on what you know, not what you feel.** Solomon was given a supernatural ability from God to discern and demonstrate unbelievable wisdom in his life, the man who wrote these Proverbs. And listen, this is where God gave it to him 1 Kings 3:12, *“Behold, I have done according to your words. See, I have given you a wise and understanding heart so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.”* Solomon was gifted by God to have amazing insight and wisdom and I'm sure much of this came through his father David as David fed him and taught him the Word of God. Solomon was such a smart man, such a wise man that the Queen of Sheba decided to come down and challenge him and she was humbled by his insights. The Bible tells us in 1 Kings 10, *“Now when the Queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon [our writer of the Proverbs] concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue and with camels that bore spices and very much gold and precious stones and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart and Solomon answered all of her questions. There was nothing too difficult for the king that he could not explain to her and when she had seen all the wisdom of Solomon and seen the house that he built, [that's the temple] the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, and cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her. [no more contention] Then she said to the king, ‘It is true what I've heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. However, I didn't believe it until I came and saw it with my own eyes, and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard. Happy are your men and happy are these your servants who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom. Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel because the Lord has loved Israel forever. Therefore, He made you king to do justice and righteousness.’”* There is a testimony to the amazing wisdom and insight that Solomon. You read through Proverbs and just glanced over it, she considered Proverbs a treasure. Now he had not written the book of Proverbs at this time but his wisdom demonstrated in this book was the greatest treasure she ever knew. You must understand the treasure of Proverbs. **The treasure for you is in the Word of God. By acquiring the mind of Christ, you can have great wisdom and great discernment much like Solomon because your wisdom is based on the mind of Christ.** As you look at his life, as you learn how he lived, as you see what he did, as you see the writers of Scripture and what they said, all the wisdom of the Word of God in the New Testament is available to you if you want it, if you search for it, if you go for it. To tell the truth, most people are not willing to pay the price. Most people don't want it that bad. Most people just want to go to church and play the little game of conventional Christianity. “Hello preacher.

Goodbye preacher. See you next Sunday preacher. Marry me, bury me, but the rest of the time stay out of my business.” Isn’t that the way it goes? Where are those who are hungry for truth, starving for truth? When I'm allowed to speak in various venues, in various churches, some people never get the thrust of what I'm saying. They'll come up and say, “That was really nice. I enjoyed that.” They never even heard anything I said because it was a condemnation to their lack of interest in the Word of God. Are you hungry? Knowledge comes in two forms. Knowledge understood but not applied is useless information. **But knowledge understood and applied gives you an advantage in any situation. This knowledge is wisdom. Biblical knowledge believed and applied equals great happiness in the devil's world.** That's what Jesus said in Luke 11:27-28, “*Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and who keep it.*” The more you learn and apply the Word of God, the more you want to understand since it's a never ending treasure that enriches your spiritual life. The Word of God that's stored in the mentality of your soul and applied to every circumstance in your life will free you from being under the emotional control of the flesh. You can recall the Word of God you've learned, you can recite the verses you've understood, and you can reap the reward by having a relaxed mental attitude in any circumstances, adversity or prosperity. Is the Bible attractive to you? Is the Word of God attractive to you and if it is, do you store it in your soul? If it's not, then church is just a ritual without reality or just a total bore to you. Without divine insight from the Scripture you may be a total bore to other people too. You may be running around spouting your human viewpoint and preaching politics. My prayer is God would deliver us from self-righteous, religious bores. I hope that's not you. **Proverbs 2:11, “Discretion shall preserve you and understanding will keep you.”** We'll talk about this next Sunday when we come back, same time, same place, same station. I hope you're listening to me. I hope you're getting some of this. It is so critical in your life that you understand, “*When wisdom enters into your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, then discretion will preserve thee and understanding will keep thee.*” **Wisdom, knowledge, discretion, understanding, these are The Fantastic Four. Without them in your life, you will wander down the My Way Highway** never really getting the gist of what your life is all about, never really understanding God's plan for your life. You will never reach a personal sense of destiny to realize why God left you here and what His plan is for you. It's critical, critical that you use problem-solving device number two, stay filled with the Holy Spirit, and that you use problem-solving device number three, learning and applying the Word of God and the faith-rest drill. It's critical that you have Biblical orientation under a qualified pastor who teaches you and feeds you. It's critical that you reach that personal sense of destiny. That's when you can shine. That's when you can glorify God. That's when you know why you're here and what your purpose is. Thank you for listening. Thank you for paying attention. Please come back next Sunday, same time, same place. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Fantastic Four - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 673 aired on July 29, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. The United States of America as we know it today is in trouble. I've often said there's a train wreck coming and I can hear the whistle blowing. We are a client nation and God has blessed us for a long time. Hosea 4:1-6 talks about the destruction of client nations because people neglect the Word of God. They don't care about the Word of God. There is one thing that could deliver us, one thing that could guarantee we can continue as a free nation and to be a client nation for God and evangelize the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ and that is you, your life, your testimony, your wisdom. If you become a mature believer, if you glorify God to the maximum with your life, if you replicate Christ by learning His Word and thinking like He thought, then you will leave a historical heritage to this nation. You will be an invisible blessing. God will use your positive volition and continue to bless this nation and deliver this country. You can leave a spiritual heritage. You can leave a wonderful heritage behind for your family, for your nation, and it's not about who you voted for, it's about who you are as an individual in Christ Jesus. If you grow and mature as a mature believer, then blessings by association overflow from your life. As it overflows into the country, then we can have some time in the future but as goes the believer, so goes the history of this nation. As organized religion takes greater hold and people begin to swap ritual for reality, people begin to go more for the emotional worship rather than studying and learning and applying the Word of God. We can see the breakdown of the home, the breakdown of the authority issue in the home, and we can see what's happening in the future and what will happen. I have grandchildren like many of you do and it is a fearful thing to realize what they will grow up in. If things continue in this nation, the hatred, the vilification, the way that the attitude of the typical American is today, if it continues to go as it's going there will be a split. There will be a crisis in the future in this nation. It will start as a political crisis. The lack of trust within politics is already there, you can see this every day, and what's coming down the road may not be nice so what can you do about it? You must grow spiritually, you must glorify Jesus Christ with your life, with your actions, with your thoughts. That's why I chose to talk to you about The Fantastic Four, the greatest four things you could possess, not money and fame and happiness and all that stuff. **The greatest four things you could possess are found in Proverbs 2:10-11, “When wisdom enters into your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will then preserve you and understanding will keep you.”** This is a divine truth that we started talking about last week on The FLOT Line, a divine truth recorded for us by Solomon the son of David. Solomon's mother, Bathsheba, was the wife of David after David murdered her husband, Uriah the Hittite. David had many children, Solomon was one of them. This is the line of Christ, the line of Christ came through Solomon. He's the one that built the temple. He was an amazing man, a very, very smart man and the Lord gave him a great mind. We read last week how the Queen of Sheba came to challenge him and she came away just amazed. She said, “*The Lord has*

loved Israel forever and He made you king to do justice and righteousness,” and she was amazed at the wisdom of Solomon. **You can have the same kind of wisdom if you acquire the mind of Christ. You can actually have great wisdom and great discernment. This is why you have a Bible and this is what the Holy Spirit will use in your life if you want to glorify God to the maximum.** You have been given the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ our Lord told the disciples, “When I go away I’m going to send the Spirit” and “*He will lead you and guide you into all truth*” John 16:13. The truth is in the Bible, the Word of God. Without the Word of God in your soul you’ll just be going through the ritual with no reality to it. What the Holy Spirit leads you through, leads you into, shows you answers, is all found in the Bible. “*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 the joints and the marrow and is a critic of thoughts and intents of the heart,*” that’s a quote from Hebrews 4:12. “*The Word of God is alive and powerful.*” This is where the answers are. This is what the Holy Spirit uses and so if you want to have knowledge, it comes in two forms. It’s knowledge that is understood called in the Greek New Testament *gnosis*, G.N.O.S.I.S. Then we have another word for knowledge and it’s called *epignosis*. G.N.O.S.I.S. but with a preposition in front of it called *epi*, E.P.I., meaning full knowledge. Let me show you the difference. You go to church, you listen to your pastor teach the Bible, you get knowledge, you gain understanding if you paid attention, if you listened but to tell you the truth, most people can’t listen because they have to be entertained to listen. They’re so use to being entertained, they can’t even read a book anymore. They have to have a cell phone in their hand or an iPad in their hand or something they can entertain themselves with. If they go to church and sit down on Sunday morning, their minds wander, their minds drift. Pastors see it, they stand up in the pulpit, they see people with their eyes half closed, they see people looking around, they see people not paying attention. How in the world do you expect to ever, ever get a grip on life if you can’t pay attention for 30 minutes to a small sermon your pastor gives on Sunday morning? You’ve got to learn to pay attention and so if you get some knowledge, that’s wonderful, but that’s only half of it. That’s the *gnosis* part of it, G.N.O.S.I.S. in the Greek New Testament, but now we have the *epignosis* part of it, that’s the application. One of it is the intake and the other is the application. The Holy Spirit will capture the information and help you comprehend the information, and then you have to comply with the information and unless you comply, it does you no good. When you go to church the objective of the Holy Spirit is to give you some knowledge. It’s like a treasure hunt. The Bible is a treasure, a living word treasure, a *thesauros*, the Greek word for treasure. As you go to church and listen to your pastor teach, he is making you rich. Biblical knowledge believed and Biblical knowledge applied equals great happiness in the devil’s world, there is no way around it. We talked about it last week. Luke 11:27-28, “*Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father’s Word and keep it.*” **The more you learn and the more you apply the Word of God, the more you want to understand since it’s a never ending knowledge treasure and it enriches your spiritual life.** You know people get hooked on digging for treasure and some people move to the Bitterroot Mountains and they pan for gold in the streams

around the Bitterroots and all up in that part of the country. Listen, every time you go to church, every time your pastor opens the Bible and teaches you, he's making you rich. You are panning for gold and you're going to find these nuggets right there. That's his job, to make you rich. If you don't have a desire to be rich spiritually, if your desire is to be rich physically, then you're concentrating on the wrong things. There is nothing wrong with being rich. God blesses a lot of people who are rich. A lot of my supporters have much money and they contribute to these things. You don't ever hear us ask for money and we don't because we know that if God's in it, He will pay for it. Don't focus on the money, focus on the Word of God. God can handle the details of life. If you think having money makes you happy, you're sadly mistaken because unhappy people take their unhappiness with them whatever side of town they live on. It doesn't make any difference if you win the lottery or not, it's not going to make you happy, it's just the details of life. But the treasure of the Word of God, if you're searching for this treasure, it's a never ending search until the day you exit this planet and go to be face-to-face with the Lord. You learn, you grow, you apply into your life. You store the Word of God in the mentality of your soul. Your soul has a mind. In your mind you have intentions, desires, you have volition, and as you put the Word of God in your soul and apply it to every circumstance in your life, then it will free you from something that is a real detriment called emotional control of your soul. If you don't learn to take charge of your emotions, if you don't learn to quit letting your emotions manipulate you and control you, then you can never advance in the plan of God because advancing in the plan of God is not something emotional. You may get emotional about something you did, some trip you took, some picture you saw, some animal that you had, but getting emotional about the spiritual life, that's not how we grow. **We grow, listen to the Bible again Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus." Learn the mind of Christ.** Romans 12:3, *"Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think, but think in terms of sanity as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word."* **When you store the Word of God in your mentality as it's taught to you by your pastor and illuminated by the Holy Spirit, then you have a treasure in your soul and you can pull it out and spend it when the circumstances arise. When circumstances arise, with the treasure in your soul you will be freed from emotional control of your life. Then at this point if you have the doctrine in your soul, you can recall the doctrine, you can recite the verse, and you can reap the reward. It's a wonderful way to live.** You don't have to get emotional about it. You don't have to squawl and cry and run and get on the phone, "Preacher, preacher, what should I do about this preacher?" How can you glorify God asking the preacher for answers all the time? You glorify God when you can supply your own answers. You want to know what to do about it? Go to Bible class. Listen, learn, write it down, review your notes, and then when the disaster hits, you are prepared and you don't have to depend on somebody else to answer your questions. The question that I must put forth is, is Bible study attractive to you? If it is, do you store it in your soul when you learn it? Because if not, then church is just a bore. I know we mentioned this last week. God deliver us from self-

righteous, religious bores. They want to talk about their human viewpoint thinking and they're preaching politics. This is not what the Christian life revolves around. **Proverbs 2:11, "Discretion will preserve you and understanding will keep you."** Now, we're reading from Proverbs, the one that Solomon wrote. **The Fantastic Four - wisdom enters into your heart, knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion shall preserve you, understanding will keep you.** Wisdom, knowledge, discretion and understanding. Discretion in the Hebrew is *mezimmah* and it means to avoid revealing private information. It's generally used with the idea of fraud or mischievous intent but it can have a good sense to it as well. The American dictionary says it's about the quality of being discrete, to be wise or judicious in avoiding mistakes or faults. **Someone once said discretion is like a blinking light that warns of danger ahead.** Do you have discretion in your life or are you so impetuous that you let your emotions override your thinking and your mouth says things you shouldn't say? There is another key word often used with discretion and it is prudence which means basically the same thing, having some good judgment. **If discretion or prudence can preserve us as the Bible says, then it should be a good thing to possess since it can deliver you as the Bible says in Proverbs 2:12-15, "It can deliver you from the evil man."** If you don't have some discretion, if you don't have some prudence, if you don't have some wisdom and knowledge, remember the verse, "*Wisdom enters your heart*" then "*Knowledge is pleasant to your soul.*" So if you have no wisdom, you have no knowledge and you are a sucker for the cosmic evangelist who comes along. Proverbs 2:12, "*Who speaks perverse things.*" What does this mean? It means he's a liar, he's a slanderer, he's a gossip and you like it. You like to hear the slander. You like to hear the gossip. You know we are predicated in America today on gossip, gossip columns, gossip shows. There's even sports talk radio which is all pure gossip, gossip about this coach, gossip about this listener. They rant and rave toward each other, all emotional, it's crazy. That's what we have, we have you loving the evil man who speaks lies and slander and gossip if you don't have some discretion. The Bible goes on to say in **Proverbs 2:13, "They will leave the path of uprightness and walk in the ways of darkness."** This means they don't know what the heck they're talking about. **This means they're walking down the My Way Highway with no headlights, no blinkers, no nothing.** A lot of times when I'm night fishing for bass I'm out in the middle of the lake and it's pitch black dark. Last night I ran down the lake, pitch black dark. Was I safe? Yeah I was safe. I lay a trail out on my GPS and I can follow the trail. I know I'm not going to hit anything. I'm not going to hit the bank or anything like this. I might not have headlights on my boat but I have some sort of direction finder. This person in Proverbs 2:13, "*He leaves the path of direction.*" In other words, maybe he has a GPS path and he says, "Oh, I'm just going to go over here and do it my way," and he walks in the ways of darkness. **When you go down the My Way Highway in your own arrogance, thinking you know what's best for you, then you will destroy yourself eventually because you have turned away from the Word of God. You will let your emotions control your life and you will self-destruct.** The process will be like this, it is called self-justification. You will justify why it's okay to do the wrong thing and this leads to self-deception. You will lie

to yourself and convince yourself you're not wrong and this leads to self-absorption where you become totally absorbed with it and you will try to recruit others to your side. Then there's self-destruction when finally you come to the end of the road and the bridge is out and off you go because you have no way to know which direction to go. You left the path of uprightness and that's what happens. Proverbs 2:12-15, "*Stay away from the evil person, he leaves the path of uprightness and walks in the way of darkness.*" Verse 14 says, "*He rejoices in doing evil,*" the sin nature lust pattern. This person whoever it might be that Solomon wrote about, the evil man, he enjoys his crooked ways. He delights in the abnormal because it makes him seem powerful and smarter than other people. The abnormal people that get into abnormal practices and abnormal things, they think they're so smart and they think you don't even know what life is all about, and they rejoice in doing evil. Evil is none other than Satan's plan. Evil can be sin. I mean all sin is evil, yes, for sure, but evil is also a system. **Evil is the system that Satan uses to copy the grace of God.** The grace of God says, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved,*" that's grace. "*For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works,*" that's grace. Evil says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and give up eating peanuts and you'll be saved." "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and give up drinking sodas and you'll be saved." You see, they always want to add something. There's nothing to add. The work was finished on the cross when Jesus Christ our Lord cried out the words, *tetelesti*, "*It is finished.*" Your redemption was provided by Him on the cross. That's why the Bible says "*He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him.*" This man, this evil man rejoices in doing evil because it makes him powerful. He looks like he's smarter than other people when reality is he is a fool and an idiot and he is on the road to self-destruction. Verse 14, "*They delight in the perverseness of the wicked,*" in other words they take great joy in turning from what is right and they find fellowship with the ones who turned away from God's plan and this is always interesting. You take a believer out of fellowship with God or an unbeliever who's into some perverse stuff, they are going to gravitate to other perverse people. That's the way it goes. You always turn away from the truth and you find fellowship with others who turn away from the truth because there's some sort of camaraderie there in the negative volition. You find other people that think like you think, that's what it is. I mean, I'm looking for people that think like I think. I'm looking for you. If you have a hunger for the Word of God, I want to be your best friend. If you have an insatiable desire to be rich spiritually, I want to be your best friend. We can talk about the Word of God, fellowship around the Word of God, enjoy the company of each other. But if you're interested in going down the My Way Highway, if you're interested in the perverse and the abnormal, I don't want anything to do with you. This needs to be your attitude as well. Proverbs 2:16 says, "*Discretion can deliver you, even from a strange woman who flatters with words.*" Now we can apply this Scripture in every goal we have in life. **Discretion can deliver means we have to be alert to adopt new strategies and alter the course of our life whenever we see potential dangers or potential pitfalls.** Let me say it again. We can apply this Scripture to every goal we have in life. We have

to be alert to adopt new strategies and alter the course whenever we see dangers or pitfalls ahead. This is the caution light blinking. This is discernment. Exercising discernment or caution in this way is prudence. **Discernment means to use good judgment or have the ability to know when to keep your mouth shut.** Did you hear me? There are times you must keep your mouth shut. You know it's better to keep your mouth shut and look like a fool than to speak and remove all doubt to those that are in the periphery. Let me give you just a little run down here. **When should you keep your mouth shut?** Proverbs said when you're angry, keep your mouth shut. Proverbs 14:17 *"A short tempered person acts stupidly and a person who plots evil is hated."* Ecclesiastes 7:9 *"Don't be quick to get angry. Anger is typical of a fool,"* all the wisdom of Proverbs and Solomon. Paul said in Ephesians 4:31 *"Get rid of your bitterness, get rid of your hot temper, get rid of your anger and quarrels and cursing and hatred."* Keep your mouth shut when you get angry because you're going to say something you'll regret. Keep your mouth shut when you're tempted to lie. Proverbs 6:16 *"There are six things the Lord hates, seven of them are disgusting to Him"* and then it mentions *"Arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that murder, a mind that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift to run to mischief, and a dishonest witness whose spits out lies."* Proverbs 12:22 *"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord but those who deal faithfully are His delight."* You should keep your mouth shut if you're tempted to lie. When you're tempted to straighten out an idiot, keep your mouth shut. It's not going to work. Proverbs 9:7-8 *"He who corrects a fool gets dishonor for himself and he who reproves a wicked man gets insulted for himself."* You can't tell the fool anything, you might as well forget it and move on and let the justice of God deal with him. You should keep your mouth shut when you're tempted to speak without having all the facts the Bible says in Proverbs 10:14, *"Those who are wise, store up knowledge, but the mouth of a stubborn fool invites ruin."* You should keep your mouth shut when you're tempted to say more than you should say, you have to be careful here. Proverbs 10:19 *"Sin is unavoidable when there is much talk, but whoever seals his lips is wise."* You should always keep your mouth shut when you're tempted to change the Word of God and pervert the truth. Proverbs 10:31 *"The mouth of a righteous person increases wisdom, but a devious tongue will be cut off"* by the justice of God. I repeat, you really need to keep your mouth shut if you're tempted to malign your neighbor. Proverbs 11:9 *"With his talk, a godless person can ruin his neighbor, but righteous people are rescued by knowledge."* In Proverbs 13:3 *"The one who guards his words guards his life, but whoever is talkative will come to ruin."* There you have it, you must keep your mouth shut at certain times, especially if you have a quick temper. Proverbs 14:17 *"A short tempered person acts stupidly and the person who plots evil is hated."* You must keep your mouth shut when you're tempted to say hateful things too. Proverbs 15:4 *"A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue breaks the spirit."* There's more. Do you want to have some discernment, wisdom, understanding and prudence? Then you need to pay attention. This radio show is for you. Every show I've ever done over the last twelve years is for you. I hope you're growing, I hope you're learning. Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Fantastic Four - Part 3

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 674 aired on August 5, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. No one can live your life for you. You are responsible for your own life, for your own decisions. You make your own course. It is my prayer that wherever you may be from California to New York, that you'll listen, pay attention and glorify God as a result of what you learn and apply in your life. We have been talking about The Fantastic Four. This is a message I'm about to present in a church in Houston, Texas. **The Fantastic Four comes out of Proverbs 2:10-11, “When wisdom enters into your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, then discretion shall preserve you and understanding shall keep you.”** The Fantastic Four in the Hebrew parallel poetry here, parallelism, is wisdom, knowledge, discretion and understanding. These four things are critical in the life of any person who hopes to succeed. Without wisdom and knowledge and discretion and understanding you don't have a chance. The word for wisdom is *chokmah* in the Hebrew, it's a critical word for us to understand and learn. It's the word *sophia* in the Greek New Testament. Wisdom comes from a combination of two things. When you have the information that you learn from God, the *gnosis*, the knowledge, the information and then you have the application or the *sunesis*, the understanding of this knowledge, these two things come together, flow together to produce wisdom. It's like a river coming together, two rivers coming together. Where I live there is the Coosa River that flows into the Tallapoosa River, so the Coosa and the Tallapoosa form the Alabama River. Well, here we have two Greek words *gnosis* and *sunesis*. These two come together to give you wisdom. **Wisdom is critical if you want to live the Christian life. Without wisdom you will never be able to advance in the plan of God and the only way to acquire wisdom is to learn it.** It says it will become pleasant to your soul. “*When wisdom becomes pleasant to your soul.*” You don't inherit it, you have to learn it, and then wisdom is called divine insight. When you have divine insight you're in good shape. Ephesians 1:17 Paul prayed that “*The God of our Lord Jesus Christ the Father of glory may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.*” Wisdom, *sophia*, comes from two sources: God the Holy Spirit who uses the ministry of a well-qualified pastor teaching the Bible and the Word of God. You're not going to get wisdom by taking the Bible, going out and sitting under the plum tree and reading it. You may think you're going to get wisdom and you'll pick up some divine insight, but to understand the mechanics of the Christian life requires a man with a gift who God endorses and uses to teach you His Word. We are sheep, we need a shepherd, it's always been this way. When you get a person who doesn't think they need a shepherd, then you get a person who is liable to come up with their own understanding of a lot of things and not necessarily correct I might add. It is the epitome of arrogance to say, “I don't need anyone to teach me. I can just let the Holy Spirit teach me.” Well the Holy Spirit will teach you but He is going to use someone who is qualified with the gift, the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher just like he uses people who have gifts in the local church. Some must have the gift of giving and the gift of administration or

a local church can't survive. There must be someone with the gift of pastor-teacher and this is critical when we talk about learning wisdom. It's not some emotional decision you act upon. **It's wisdom from God through His Word that gives you discretion and understanding.** I want to recall some of what we studied last week where we saw, *"Discretion will preserve you and understanding will keep you."* We saw some reasons that you should always keep your mouth shut, do you remember me going over this? You probably got a little offended by some of this. I gave you points on when to keep your mouth shut and I said that discretion can deliver you. We can apply these Scriptures to every goal we have in life. **We have to be alert to adopt new strategies and alter the course of our life when we see danger or pitfalls ahead and if we exercise caution in this way, then we practice discretion and prudence.** Discretion and prudence mean having good judgment and in some cases, knowing when to keep your mouth shut. It's no revelation, you've heard it before, **it's better to keep your mouth shut and look like a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.** I gave a lot of points on when to keep your mouth shut and we said you should keep your mouth shut when you're angry, I gave you the verses. You should keep your mouth shut when you're tempted to lie, I gave you the verses. You should keep your mouth shut when you're tempted to straighten out an idiot, I gave you the verses. You should keep your mouth shut when you're tempted to speak without having all the facts, I gave you the verses. You should keep your mouth shut when you're tempted to pervert the truth and I gave you the verses. I said you really need to keep your mouth shut when you're tempted to malign your neighbor, Proverbs 11:9. Definitely keep your mouth shut if you have a quick temper, Proverbs 14:17. You're to keep your mouth shut if you're tempted to say harmful things about a person, Proverbs 15:4, *"A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue breaks the spirit."* You should always keep your mouth shut, we're talking about having discretion here, when you're tempted to be rude, Proverbs 16:24. Be sure to keep your mouth shut if you're tempted to gossip. Gossip is you discussing maybe what's true, maybe it is, maybe it isn't. Slander is you discussing a lie. When you attribute a lie to a person, you're slandering that person. You're not allowed to gossip about anybody. Matthew 7:1-7 says keep your nose out of other people's business. Proverbs 16:28 *"A perverse man spreads strife and one who slanders separates intimate friends,"* and you can't afford to do this. You must not ever gossip about anyone. You must not ever put your nose into someone else's business because the Bible says in Matthew 7:1 *"With what measure you measure, it will be measured back to you again."* Matthew 7:1-7 is the key Scripture that I'm trying to tell you about here, about not sticking your nose in someone else's business. In Luke 11:27-28 a woman got a firm response from our Lord when she shouted out in the middle of His message when He was talking and she came to the front like a political person might do and started shouting trying to get attention and she kept shouting, *"Blessed is the womb that bore You and blessed are the breasts on which You nursed,"* and the Lord Jesus Christ said, "You are wrong ma'am," you are wrong. *"Blessed are those who hear My Father's Word and keep it."* You know, you could see the crowd and everybody else saying, "Sit down lady, you're crazy." She was trying to make an issue out of motherhood and the issue was

not the mother of Jesus, which was mother Mary. The issue was Jesus Christ Himself. She wanted to make the issue Mary. You should definitely keep your mouth shut when you're talking to a fool because you're wasting your time. You're not going to straighten them out. *"Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise your wisdom of words"* Proverbs 23:9. How exactly do you get this discretion? Wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discretion. How do you get discretion? **Discretion is a shield for your soul.** It is the shield of faith that must be acquired and you must learn how to deploy it. Just like any recruit who goes into the military is given a new weapon, he's got to learn the mechanics of how to operate the weapon. You must understand the mechanics. **The mechanics to using discretion are found in Proverbs 2:1, "If you will receive my words."** **If is the big issue - this means it requires positive volition.** No one that's arrogant can be taught. Arrogance is unteachable but humility is teachability. *"If you will receive my words,"* if you will listen, if you pay attention the writer says. That's a big if and it's true in your life too. Positive volition is necessary for continued instruction. **Acquiring the information is only half the process. Applying the information is the other half.** Acquisition and application. You can't apply what you don't know and you can't know what you haven't learned, and you can't learn if someone doesn't teach it to you. The Bible tells you in Romans 10:17, *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* Someone has to instruct you in this. *"If you will receive my words and if you will retain my commandments within you,"* Proverbs 2:1. Where does the retention come from? It comes from repetition. "What?" Repetition, repetition, repetition. "I've heard this before, you've said this before preacher." Well listen again. When someone goes into the military, do you think they hear, "About face, forward march" only one time? And only one time does the drill instructor say "Attention?" They hear it over and over and over and over again, so much repetition that they can do it in their sleep. Repetition in the Word of God is critical for you until it is ground into your soul so you don't have to stop and call someone and say, "What should I do preacher?" You know what to do from the teaching of the Word of God absorbed in your soul. "Oh, I know," you can say, "My pastor taught about this on many occasions." **Yes, retention is critical and for this there must be repetition.** It doesn't hurt to review your notes. "Notes? What notes?" The notes you took last Sunday when you sat through the sermon and wrote down the highlights of the minister's sermon. You didn't take any notes? You just sat there like a bump on a log and stared at the preacher and your mind was off in left field somewhere. I suggest when you go to church you take a Bible and you take a notebook and I suggest you take notes and then you go home and review the notes. Go back over what he said. You know, most people only get about half of what the preacher says even with note taking. Most people that don't take any notes get about one-third of what he says and they forget it as soon as they get to the cafeteria. If you're really interested in learning God's Word take notes, review your notes, go back over your notes. *"If you will incline your ear unto wisdom,"* what does this mean? Romans 10:17, *"Faith comes by hearing [the ear, hearing] and hearing by the Word of God."* Who did you hear? Did you go sit under a plum tree and you heard a voice? No, you went to church, you heard a pastor teach you

God's Word. *"If you will incline your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding,"* application. The key here is to apply it in the mentality of the soul so that you can understand what's being said. You pay attention, you take notes, you retain and then you can apply the information. Proverbs 2:3, *"If you cry after knowledge, if you seek it as silver, and look for it as you would a hidden treasure."* Every day you go to church you should be on a treasure hunt, hunting for the treasure of the Word of God. I'm going to give you a treasure right now from the Scripture and I think you should pay attention to this. It's critical you understand this. This is what the Bible is talking about. Here's a treasure, **1 Corinthians 10:13**, ***"No testing has overtaken you which does not pertain to mankind. But God is trustworthy who absolutely will not permit you to be tested beyond what you are able to endure, but will together with the testing provide a way out."*** Testing, we all face testing. You may be going through testing right now. It could be physical, it could be financial, it could be a lot of different ways. The English word used is temptation. *"There is no temptation overtaken you,"* but God doesn't tempt anybody. The Greek word is not temptation, it's *peirasmos*, the Greek word and it means a trial or a test or a proving. Proving what? When God puts you in a test He's looking to prove your fidelity. He's looking to see your integrity and your virtue. Get the principle here, the greatest test ever faced in the history of the world was the undeserved suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross as He was judged for our sins, not His. This was not fair but He endured it. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, *"For He [God] made Him [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God by means of Him."* The only way you can have fellowship with God is to have equal righteousness and the only way you can have equal righteousness is to have the righteousness of Christ accredited to your account because the Bible says, *"There are none that are righteous, no, not even one. All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag in God's eyes."* The best you can manufacture is a nasty rag but when you have the righteousness of Christ, then you and God are on the same field. You can think alike, you are in the family of God only through the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The only way you get this is when you believe in Christ, receive Him as your Savior then His righteousness is given to you. Listen to 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 talking about the undeserved suffering of Christ. *"Now all things are of God who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and has now given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their sins to them and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."* He didn't hold us responsible. He judged Christ in our place. There was judgment on the cross. This judgment was for the sin of the world and thus *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us."* The tests that we face are nothing compared to this. We face momentum testing, tests that we go through that test our momentum. They provide us the opportunity to apply the Word of God we've learned in church. Why do you think I encourage you to write notes? Why do you think I want you to review your notes? So that when the testing comes, you won't flunk it. If you flunk it, what does this mean? You're going to have to take it again. Wouldn't you rather pass it than to have to take it again? **These tests that God allows us to come face-to-face with, 1 Corinthians 10:13,**

accelerate our growth spiritually since we are forced to look to God for the answers, for strength, for endurance. Remember, no one ever reaches any type of spiritual maturity without going through tests like this because all these tests that God allows us to face are designed for blessing even if it's some sort of divine discipline in your life. If you're going through a test right now financially, physically, emotionally, spiritually, it's for a reason. He's not going to over test you. You may over test yourself, blame it all on God, but God's not going to over test you. None of these tests that have overtaken you, come face-to-face with you, *"nothing has overtaken you which does not pertain to mankind."* In other words, God has not singled you out like Satan did Job. Satan did not put a mark on you and deliberately try to ruin your life. I've heard this recently, some cat said, "You know the devil knew that I was a great person and he put a target on my back and he went after me." That's bull. If he went after you, you must be some real big shot for the devil to be after you. See, he's not omnipresent, he can only be in one place at one time. What got after my friend was his sin nature that he couldn't control. The devil is probably not after you. You have three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Does he have a dossier on you? Yes. Does he know your weaknesses? Yes. Can you come under demon influence in the devil's world? Yes you can. But the biggest battle you face is the battle of your sin nature and the lure of the world. God hasn't singled you out like Satan did. God's trustworthy the Bible says, He's trustworthy, and what does this mean? You can trust Him. He knows what you need, He knows what you can endure. The question is, can God trust you? That's the question, that's the whole reason for the test you're enduring right now, to see if He can trust you. God is trustworthy. *"Who will not permit you," ouk eao* is the Greek word in the future active indicative. *Ouk* is a very strong negative, no, absolutely not, and *eao* means allow you. He will not allow you, He will not give up on you, He will not permit you with an emphatic *ouk*, He will not permit you to be tested more than you can stand. The Holy Spirit will step in. The Holy Spirit will stop it just like the Holy Spirit stepped into Paul's life in Acts 16:7 where the Holy Spirit stopped him from going to Asia or Bithynia. He stopped him because He knew there were things there that he wouldn't be able to endure so He took him in another direction. **1 Corinthians 10:13** says, ***"God is trustworthy, who absolutely will not permit you to be tested beyond what you can endure."*** *Peirazo* is the Greek word for endure and this means the outside pressure is not greater than the inside pressure and it won't overwhelm you, that's not going to happen. God knows your endurance level. He knows what's in your soul. He knows what you can handle and He's not going to overwhelm you with a situation that you can't handle. Paul found this in 2 Corinthians 12 when he kept asking for God to take away the thorn in his flesh and God kept saying, "No I'm not." "No I'm not." "No I'm not." The answer was, "You have faith, use your faith." The faith-rest drill was the way to pass that test. Some people never get tested and the reason? They don't have any spiritual skills to pass them to start with. They never learned anything so most of the suffering they're under is self-induced misery. Because they've never learned nor grown, they're going to heaven, yes they have eternal life, but they're not good for much here. **God can't put them in the game. He can't trust them because they don't know**

anything. They're not going to be tested, they haven't learned anything. And some people are going to fail the test because they'll go to human solutions. Listen carefully, human solutions are no solutions. Divine solutions are the only solutions. Genesis 40:14-15 is the story of Joseph who was put in prison. He tried to use the influence of the chief cupbearer whom he befriended to get him out of the Egyptian prison but the Bible says when the chief cupbearer came before the Pharaoh and was released, that he forgot Joseph and did not remember to mention him. If you're depending on someone else to get you out of a jam, forget it, it's not going to happen. The only way you're going to get out of the jam is to wait on God's grace provisions. *"But will provide a way out,"* that's what the verse says. I'm going to read it again so you're not lost in the translation. *"No testing has overtaken you which does not pertain to mankind, but God is trustworthy. He absolutely will not permit you to be tested beyond what you're able to endure, but will together with the test provide a way out."* The future active indicative of the Greek verb *poieo* means He will bring forth or cause you to be brought forth, a way out. **Each test has its own way out. Each test has its own meaning. The principle is we never question God, we just execute the plan.** Now that's what these 10 problem-solving devices are for, for you to execute the plan. Do you know them? This whole radio show, The FLOT Line, is predicated on learning the 10 problem-solving devices, establishing a main line of resistance in your soul so that the outside sources of adversity don't become the inside source of stress. I tell you repeatedly, the Christian life is the most unique life in the world. It's the way to live with no anger, no bitterness, no fear, no worry, no guilt, it's a fantastic life. How can you live like this? By having the mind of Christ, Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* By doing what Paul said in 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 the standard of thinking from His Word."* Once you learn how to think, then you learn how to pass tests - use the faith-rest drill, use grace orientation, use doctrinal orientation, use my personal sense of destiny. What is personal love for God? The greatest virtue I have, is that going to help me pass a test? Absolutely. What about impersonal love for my neighbor? What if the test is your neighbor, the jerk you can't stand that lives next door? Impersonal love is how you pass the test. Do you remember the study we did on it? Do you even know what impersonal love is, that you have the capability to love someone based on who you are, not based on who they are? Are you unhappy? Are you facing the test of unhappiness? What about +H, sharing the happiness of God? *"My joy [Jesus told the disciples] I give you."* That's how you pass this test with occupation with Christ. Do you feel alone today and think no one loves you, and no one cares for you, no one wants anything to do with you? Occupation with Christ is how you pass the test. **All these problem-solving devices are there for you to use if you take advantage of them. If you don't learn them and deploy them in your soul, you are not ever going to use them.** I spoke direct and I spoke tough. I hope you will apply what you hear and I pray you'll come back next week, same time, same place as always. I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you now for listening to The FLOT Line.

Crisis Living - Redding

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 677 aired on August 12, 2018

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes a cordial invitation to stay tuned, stick it out with me, just a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education, all done without any type of manipulation. We say that every single show on purpose. We're not here trying to solicit money, we're not here trying to solicit membership, we're not trying to sell you anything, we're not asking you to join anything - we're just asking you to listen. Listen to me as I teach you what I know to be truth about the Word of God and how you can establish a FLOT line in your soul. A main line of resistance in your soul. A Forward Line of Troops is the term F.L.O.T. If you take God's Word and learn it and use it, it will protect your soul, it will stop the outside sources of adversity from becoming the inside sources of stress. That's why we always say, adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. I want to dedicate my show today to some friends in Redding, California. We've had a radio show in Redding, California for several months now, maybe over a year and they are experiencing horrific tragedy right now with a fire that started in the Carr forest area, has spread through Shasta, and has gone into Redding and destroyed over a thousand homes in that area. Many people, six that I know of, maybe up to eight now have lost their lives. Thousands and thousands of acres of land have been destroyed and I don't know if the fire is under control yet or not. As I looked at the pictures on the Internet my heart was moved as I saw neighborhoods where 8, 9, 10 homes were completely destroyed and yet there would be one home standing in the middle that wasn't even touched. It was amazing to see that. Amazing to see the devastation. Amazing to see the loss and to feel empathy for my friends in the Redding, California area. I want to share some words with you this morning and hopefully these words will encourage you. Here's where we'll start, in Isaiah 41:10, "*Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness.*" If you can understand that verse, this is called faith-rest. The faith-rest drill is Problem-Solving Device #3 in the FLOT line of a believer's soul. Learning how to stand on the promises of God. This is a promise that you can claim as a believer in Jesus Christ if you're in this devastated area in Shasta County there in Redding, California. Fear is the Hebrew word *yare* and it means do not be afraid. It has a negative with it, "fear not," don't be afraid. You may have lost everything you had. You may have lost your home, you may have lost your earthly possessions, in some cases family members have been lost. Don't be afraid because God said, "*I am with you.*" This is a wonderful promise. You are never alone. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you are never alone. The Lord Jesus Christ told the disciples in John 16:32 that they were going to be scattered, and He said "*and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.*" Just as God the Father was with Jesus Christ in those final hours before He went to the cross and was crucified and died for the sins of the world, He's with you and with me where I'm sitting today and with you wherever you may be on this Sunday morning and in Shasta County. Don't be

dismayed. The verse says *“Fear not, I am with you; do not be dismayed,”* which means distressed. Don’t have stress in your life. There is no reason to have stress in your life. Stress in your life is indicated by worry, stress in your life is indicated by fear - two things in mental attitude sins. You can't afford to let mental attitude sins control your thinking because, if you do, then you will get under emotional revolt of the soul. If your emotions are controlling you, you are not thinking. You have to disassociate from emotions and, as the Bible says, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 2:5). You have to learn to think divine viewpoint and this is how you do it: focusing on the fact that God is with you, do not be stressed out. Why not? Because He said, *“I am your God.”* If you're a believer in Jesus Christ there's nothing that ever happens in your life that God is not aware of. If your Father allowed this to happen in your life, it was for a reason and I promise you, you will be better as a result of it, not worse off, better off. Do you remember the book of Job where Job lost everything he had and he just wanted to die? He even got boils and sickness and his wife told him why don't you just curse God and die. In the end, God restored him twofold; gave him much more than he ever had. As a believer in Jesus Christ, if you can use the faith-rest drill, if you can stand on a promise like this in a tough time like you're facing, you will be blessed. God will give it all back. He'll put you back on your feet. He'll supply your needs. How do I know that? Listen to what the verse says, *“I will strengthen you, yes I will help you, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness.”* There are three promises for you. He will give you strength to endure what you're having to face. He will help you as you try to rebuild or claim your insurance or do whatever you need to do. And He will uphold you, He will control you, He will keep you from being devastated with the right hand of His righteousness. In Hebrews 11:6 the Bible says this, *“Without faith it's impossible to please God, because He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”* The only way that you're going to find the faith to do this is to understand that love is the greatest motivation. Your Father loved you in eternity past. The Bible says, *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son”* (John 3:16). There was a loss that the Father had, the loss of the Son who went to the cross and paid for our sins - that was love. If you understand that from receiving Christ as your Savior and develop reciprocal love for the Father, then you know He loves you and He is not going to throw you under the bus. He will provide for you. He will be there for you. He will answer your questions about why these sort of things happen to you. But you must believe, you must demonstrate faith and faith is not an easy thing to demonstrate. When Moses was fleeing the Egyptians coming to the Red Sea and the Pharaoh's army was behind him and the Red Sea was in front of him and maybe a million Jews worried about they were about to die, Moses’ words were famous where he said, *“Standstill and watch the deliverance of the Lord”* (Exodus 14:13). If you will stay out of panic palace, if you will keep your emotions under control, if you will go to your Father and trust Him, He will strengthen you. That is the demonstration of your faith and that's how you please God. You demonstrate your faith to Him by one simple word - you're trusting Him through this situation. Here are some principles to understand: (1) Under no

circumstances are we ever to be frightened by the adversary, which is a.k.a. the devil. (2) Every believer (you, me, and any other person anywhere listening to this radio show) has a divine promise of security and peace in the middle of frightening circumstances. Love demonstrates this. Love must be reciprocated. When you demonstrate your love to God the Father by trusting Him, He reciprocates that for you. Every believer has a divine promise of security and peace in the middle of frightening situations. Peace means you don't have to worry, you don't have to be afraid, you don't have to crawl into panic palace and scream, you just have to trust the Lord. He will not abandon you. (3) These promises must be learned if you intend to access them. There are like 7,000 promises in the Bible for the believer in Jesus Christ. We even have a book called *Bible Promises & Principles* and it's free. We will be glad to send it to you but it's just a way that you can look up these promises and claim them in your prayers. That's how you use promises. You take those promises to the Father in prayer and you say, 'Father, you said this, I believe this and I'm waiting on You.' That's demonstrating faith. You can order that book just by contacting us through our website - rickhughesministries.org. (4) The promises learned and deployed on the FLOT line of your soul are called the faith-rest drill. They don't do you any good if you don't deploy them. They don't do you any good if they're in the Bible and you don't know them. You have to learn them and use them. (5) Short-time trusters never enjoy the benefit of security or the benefit of happiness in this devil's world. You can't afford to be a short-time truster. Short-time trusters always live with dread on the horizon, they never have a relaxed mental attitude and they never have the happiness of Jesus Christ. By the way, the Bible says, "*who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross*" (Hebrews 12:2). You think you can find joy in what you've experienced in Redding and Shasta County? The answer is, yes. There's a reason. God always has a plan. Nothing happens by accident. If we'll trust the Lord, if we'll put our faith in Him, if we'll stand firm on the promises, He will reveal it and He will bless you. In Matthew 8:25-26, "*And they [the disciples] came to Him [onboard a ship], woke Him up [they thought they were about to drown; they figured the Lord took them out in the middle of the Sea of Galilee to drown them] and they said to Him, 'Wake up; we are dying!' And He said to them, 'Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?' Then He arose, and He rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.*" Faith was deflected by adversity. Why are you afraid? You don't have to be afraid. Adversity is inevitable. Stress is optional. (6) Sooner or later there will be a storm hit your life. Maybe you don't live in Redding. Maybe you don't live in Shasta County. Maybe you are in Owego, New York. Maybe you're in Jackson, Mississippi. Maybe you're in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Maybe you're in Houston, Texas or Waco, Texas or any of the other places our radio show plays. Sooner or later a storm will hit your life just like it's hitting the lives of these people in Redding. What you do in those circumstances will reflect the confidence you have in your soul. If you have no love for the Father, then you will have no security from the Word of God that you've learned and deployed in your soul. The only reason you would learn it and deploy it is you love the Father. This is what 1 John 5:3 says, "*If you love Me, you obey Me; My mandates are not hard.*" Do you love Him? Remember, the Bible says, "*If we say we love God and hate our*

*brother we are liars; (1 John 4:20) and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). Loving Him is the greatest virtue we could ever have because it motivates us to obey Him. If we love Him, it will reflect in our confidence and the peace that we have in our soul in spite of the storm that we’re in. Proverbs 1:7, “The respect of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” Knowledge has to start somewhere and it starts with respecting God. It starts with trusting God, believing God. The Hebrew word here in this passage, the fear of the Lord, is the verb *yirah* and it simply means two mental attitudes: reverence and respect. Fear of God is to reverence God and to respect God. You must understand that. If you love Him you will reverence Him and respect Him. In Psalm 2:11, “Serve the Lord with fear [that’s reverence and respect], and rejoice with trembling.” In other words, let joy abide in your soul, which means you have confidence in your Father's provision. When you have reverence for God and respect for God, it will manufacture joy or happiness in your life. I’ll read the verse again, “Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.” Rejoicing comes from the reverence and respect that you have for God the Father. In Psalm 86:9-11, “All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord; and they shall glorify Your name. For You are great and do wonderful deeds; You alone are God. Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.” That’s universal reverence by the believers across the world anywhere - to respect God and to reverence God. In 1 Kings 4:32, “He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005.” This is the majority of the Proverbs written by Solomon. He wrote many other Proverbs, not just the ones included in the Scriptures, but according to 1 Kings 4:32 he wrote over 3,000 proverbs and over 1,005 songs. God blessed him with great wisdom, great supernatural insight. He was able to see things that other people didn't see because God gave him great wisdom, great discernment. Solomon recognized that the beginning of wisdom is centered in the reverence and respect for the Lord. He wrote in Proverbs with the intent of giving a course of instruction in wisdom, which is the advantage that life has for you. It's preparation for life, instruction for living life in the devil’s world. (7) Without preparation there's no execution. Solomon did not write every proverb. There were a few written by some other people in there in the book of Proverbs. You have to remember this, by understanding the process of gaining wisdom, which is called divine viewpoint, then we understand the foolishness of human viewpoint that saturates the whole universe. The cosmic system (socially, politically, all kinds of stuff, humanism, socialism, communism, progressivism) is designed to reconstruct politics and change the way you think. You should remember this, Satan is in the war for your thoughts. Even right now as you face what appears to be an uphill battle, as you face your biggest fear, loss of everything you've ever owned (it’s all gone, burned up in the fire), Satan is in a war for your thoughts. Please read the book of Job. Go back and read through it. Ponder over what happened to Job and look what God did for him. You see, Satan will use empty words to try to deceive you. Ephesians 5:6, “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things God's wrath on the sons of disobedience will come.” Some people give you empty words; they say, ‘It will be okay, don't you worry, it happened to my grandmother.’ I mean, those are nice, thoughtful, kind things to say*

but in times like this you need doctrine, you need the Word of God, you need the promises of God that you can stand on. You need that gold that's found in the treasure of the Word of God that you can cash in. It's the only way you can maintain stability in your soul. It's the only way you can keep a relaxed mental attitude in your soul. Satan is not going to give you that. He gives you empty words and persuasive words. Paul said in Colossians 2:4, "*Don't let anyone deceive you with his persuasive [reasonable sounding] arguments [because they are false].*" 2 Peter 2:3, "*in their greed and in their lust for power they will exploit you with deceptive words [lies].*" By giving you information like I'm telling you today, what I want to do, what I'm trying to do is to equip you with a bank of values. It is something called wisdom, the greatest thing in the world, wisdom. It is the gold of the Word of God. It gives you great treasure to have wisdom and to have discretion to make good decisions based on divine viewpoint. Anyone that lost everything like they did in these fires around Shasta County is going to have to have wisdom and discretion in what they do in the future. The only way that comes is from the Word of God. The humility to receive instruction. Nothing is going to change. There will be no contentment in life if you can't take instruction since there is no consistency in learning. You have to learn the Word of God to know where you stand and what God expects out of you and what you can expect out of God. It is very important to attain wisdom, spiritual ammunition, to have knowledge, divine knowledge, divine viewpoint, understanding, discipline, prudence - all these things are yours and they're all available to you from the Word of God. Successful living requires accurate instruction. Without instruction then our children are just wandering around in the devil's world unprepared. I mean they can be recruited by Satan's lies, people waiting to deceive them with empty words, promising words that don't mean anything. The wisdom that we're talking about comes from instruction of the Word of God. When you know the Word of God and you allow the Holy Spirit to control your life then you can override the emotional fear-panic-ploy in your soul. You don't have to be afraid. You don't have to be in a panic situation. As a Christian this is a wonderful time for you to evangelize your neighbor. It's a wonderful time for you to come beside them and demonstrate to them your relaxed mental attitude, to demonstrate to them how you trust the Lord even in this disaster. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "*Nothing has overtaken you that is not common to the world [there have been fires before, many fires before]; God will always provide a way out.*" The way out is simply the word "trust." To trust your Father gives you a relaxed mental attitude. To have a divine viewpoint in the middle of this will give you great joy. Remember the verse, "*who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross*" (Hebrews 12:2). If God allowed this to happen in your life, there is a reason and that reason is so that you can demonstrate the stability of living in Jesus Christ. Destructive crises can often cause an emotional override in your life. When that happens we kind of abandon the plan of God. You can't afford to do that right now. In the game of life you are only going to get one shot, that's all, and you need all the information you can get. So with God's grace provisions and your positive volition nothing can distract you from trusting Him, standing on His promises, having a relaxed mental attitude and letting the joy of Jesus Christ reside in your soul. Do you know what happens when you do that?

Here it is listen carefully, John 14:27, *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives...”* it's a different sort of peace, not the peace the world offers. The peace the world offers is the money in the bank, the security that you have. You know, ‘Well okay, I lost it all but I’ve got enough money to rebuild.’ That may be true but that's not the peace we’re talking about here. Here we’re talking about *“...the peace I give to you; not like the world gives. Let not your hearts be troubled,”* Don't be afraid. When you have the faith-rest drill, when you operate under divine viewpoint, when you have the happiness of Jesus Christ in your life, then you have this peace and you're not afraid. This peace is what the Lord Jesus Christ offers and it's internal; it's not external, it's not something that people will see, but it's internal. It doesn't infer that there will never be any turmoil or any conflict, it's an internal mental attitude that leaves you free of worry, free of bitterness, free of anxiety or any other mental attitude sins. Remember that. The first thing required of the disciples was they had to have faith. They had to trust in what He was telling them. The Holy Spirit will instill confidence by comforting them in the Lord's absence when He left and directing them in their ministry that was to come. But He told them that He was going to go away in John 14 but that God would send someone to be with them called the Holy Spirit, the advocate. And this is with you also. You have an advocate, you have a defender, you have a coach. He's the Holy Spirit. He lives in you, He will strengthen you, He will sustain you, He will give you insight if you allow Him. But if you worry, if you get bitter, if you get angry, if you get mad, those are all mental attitude sins that will quench the Holy Spirit and grieve the Holy Spirit. You can't afford to do that. In Luke 24 the disciples spoke with Him. Jesus stood in the middle of them and said to them, ‘Peace, calm down.’ They were terrified, they were frightened and they thought they'd seen a ghost. This was the resurrected Jesus Christ. He showed them His hands and He showed them His feet. He said, ‘It’s Me boys, calm down. Don't be freaking out.’ That's the thing you cannot afford to do. Faith will obliterate any fear in your life and faith will replace it with peace and joy. Isn't that amazing? The life of the mature believer is the greatest life the world offers since it is founded on faith grounded by a relaxed mental attitude in producing peace in a world of uncertainty, in a world of conflict, in the world of crisis. You can have peace. John 14:1, *“Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.”* *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever”* (Hebrews 13:8). If you have trusted in Jesus Christ as your Savior, He lives in you. He knows what you're going through and He will provide for you. *“I will not leave you comfortless [He said] I will come to you”* (John 14:18). *“Peace I will leave with you”* (John 14:27). *“Let not your heart be troubled [don't be afraid]”* (John 14:1). Basically fear is you assuming responsibility that's not yours. Trust the Lord. Wait on Him. Focus on Him. He will provide your needs. Thank you for listening. My prayer is with you. Until next time, this is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thanks for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Fantastic Four - Part 4

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 675 aired on August 19, 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'll be some time of motivation and inspiration with some education and you know we don't do any manipulation, no solicitation. We're not trying to hustle any money. We're not trying to get you to join up, fess up, give it up, nothing like that. This show is simply about giving you truth, accurate information, information that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life and if you want to orient and adjust to the plan, you can do so. It's your life, your decision, you live it, no one else. It's always good to get every bit of the information that you can get so you know you're going to make the right decision because remember, bad decisions limit future options. The worst decision anyone could ever make is to reject the forgiveness that comes through the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. This show is designed to remind you of these sort of Biblical truths and maybe even introduce you to a different way of studying, a different way of learning the Word of God because most of the time it's not done this way. People don't try to verify and identify God's plan. There's a lot of ranting and raving and jumping up and down, shouting and hollering. It doesn't happen on this show. This show starts with the good news. The good news is that Jesus Christ is the anointed Son of God. He has redeemed us out of the slave market of sin and our debt to God has been paid so we are now free, free of the penalty of sin and the power of death over us, free through Christ Jesus. If you receive Christ as your Savior, you will in effect be accepting the offering He made on your behalf, the free gift of grace. The Bible says, *"For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it's a gift of God and not of works lest any man should brag about it."* I mean it was a gift, God gave us a gift. This gift is His Son who gave His life for us. 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 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 [or confidence] of eternal life."* That's the most important thing for you to remember in regard to what this show is about. It's always about you understanding the plan of God for your life. In the last few shows, well the last show we gave a special show for Redding California and hopefully you've been praying for that group of people out in Redding and that tremendous Carr fire and all the homes that were destroyed in Redding and round about area. The reason I did is because I broadcast a radio show in Redding every Sunday morning. I wanted those great folks to know we were thinking about them. We're praying for them, praying that God would bless them and give them the means to withstand what they face and rebuild as necessary. Today I want to continue our study of The Fantastic Four. If you've been listening, you know the Bible talks about The Fantastic Four in Proverbs 2:10-11. *"When wisdom enters your heart [that's one of them] and when knowledge is pleasant to your soul, [that's the second one] discretion will then preserve you and understanding will keep you."* These are the four

things: wisdom, knowledge, discretion and understanding. Miss Deborah Weiss who is an international expert on free speech and efforts by the Sharia supremacists and others who want to suppress free speech in this country, I want to read to you something that she said, I thought it was very interesting. She warns in her introduction of Islamic influence in Hollywood, that's Miss Deborah Weiss, W.E.I.S.S., she's an international expert on free speech and the efforts made by the Sharia supremacists to suppress it. She said, "The West is in a war with the global jihad movement. It's primarily a war of ideas and the mind is the battlefield." Did you hear this? The mind is the battlefield. "Muslim Brotherhood front groups have targeted Hollywood as one of the many vehicles through which to conduct its civilization jihad through censorship, disinformation, and infiltration," she says. May I remind you that Satan has been at this for centuries and this is just his latest tool, his latest vehicle to use. He's been after your thoughts to change the way that you think. He wants to influence your thinking, to get you into the cosmic system. He doesn't want you to think in terms of Romans 12:3, "*Stop thinking in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think but think in terms of humility,*" that's what the Bible says. The Bible says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*" Satan has always been after your thoughts. He wants you to turn self-centered. That's one of the traits of arrogance: self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption, all lead to self-destruction. I want to talk to you about the battle for your thoughts and I would be honored if you would let me tell you how to become rich. Rich, you want to be rich? "Yeah, yeah, I watch that show on TV about winning the lottery and boy, if I could just win the lottery, I'd be happy." Unfortunately, that's not true. **Unhappy people take their unhappiness with them wherever they go** but I can tell you how to be rich. I can tell you from the Bible how to be rich. In Colossians 2:2-3 Paul wrote this, "*That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding,*" that's our word we were talking about, one of The Fantastic Four. Remember, "*When wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you and understanding will keep you.*" Understanding, the Greek word *sunesis*, S.U.N.E.S.I.S. "*When your hearts are comforted being knit together in love and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God and of the Father and of Christ Jesus in whom [here it is, now you want to be rich, listen] are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,*" another one of The Fantastic Four, knowledge. Knowledge is a treasure. "*Discretion will preserve you, understanding will keep you.*" "*Knowledge is pleasant to your soul.*" **Knowledge is a treasure. Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior is the key to eternal wealth.** I want you to remember this statement, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior is the key to eternal wealth. Paul wrote these words for the church at Laodicea for one purpose and that was to encourage them and to have some congregational unity in the church and he tells them that they can be made wealthy with a full understanding of God's mystery that is in Christ Jesus. The mystery is this, "*Christ in you the hope of glory,*" Colossians 1:27. No one ever, ever in the Old Testament conceived, thought of, or could comprehend the concept that the Shekinah Glory of the Old Testament would come and camp in them. Remember the Shekinah Glory over

the tabernacle, the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day? The Shekinah Glory will live in you, it's Christ Jesus. *"For in Him are all the hidden treasures of wisdom [there's one of The Fantastic Four] and knowledge"* Colossians 2:3. There you go, wisdom, *sophia*, knowledge, *gnosis*. Wisdom is a wonderful thing. Wisdom comes from two things. When you put together the concept of understanding, *suneisis*, and the concept of knowledge, *gnosis*, when you put these two things together you get wisdom and wisdom is the wealth, it's the treasure, it's the greatest thing in the world to have. Here are some principles for you. 1. True wealth has nothing to do with finances. **True wealth has everything to do with God's grace plan freely revealed to us through Christ Jesus, "Christ in you."** Jesus Christ will live in you. He will establish a tabernacle inside of you. God the Holy Spirit will empower you. God the Father will live in you. This is the great mystery of the Church Age and it's the most encouraging, unbelievable, fantastic wealth the world has ever known. 2. Your own wealth cannot buy eternal life. You may have a fat bank account that has a lot of money in it, not like mine, but maybe yours does but it won't buy you eternal life. 3. Your wealth cannot buy peace with God. 4. Your wealth will not leave this planet with you. Remember the rich man in Torments back in the book of Genesis prayed, "Father Abraham, send somebody to tell my family. Just send somebody to tell my family." The rich man and Lazarus, remember this illustration? Your wealth will not buy you out of the Lake of Fire. Once you are cast into the Lake of Fire, Revelation 20, you'll never come out and it's not because God is angry at you. It's because you rejected the greatest gift the world ever could have had, the gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus. You stuck your nose up at it. You said, "No." You said, "I'm smarter than this, I don't need this," and you now will learn the hard way. This is what happens. You're either going to be born twice or you're going to die twice. The first birthday, that's the time you're born into this world. Your parents conceived you and you're born. The second birthday is the day you are born again, spiritually speaking. Your human spirit is made alive by God the Holy Spirit who indwells you. Now the first death, *"It's appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment,"* and then the second death, *"Whosoever's name was not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death."* **Money, wealth will not buy you out of the Lake of Fire. Lastly, your wealth can be a huge distraction, Matthew 19:24, "And again I say to you, it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven."** The question that I would like to ask you this morning is what can you take away from this? What can you learn from this? What can you put to use in your life of what you've heard me say here today? *"Understanding will keep you,"* Proverbs says. One of The Fantastic Four, Proverbs 2:11, *"Understanding will keep you."* Understanding is the Hebrew word *tabun* and it's a spiritual skill. In the Greek New Testament it's the word *sunesis*, S.U.N.E.S.I.S. Understanding will what? Will keep you. The Holy Spirit can disclose divine intelligence to you by means of what? **He discloses divine intelligence to you by means of the teaching of the Scripture, by means of the teaching of the Word of God. You have the privilege, you have the opportunity to have God's playbook opened up for you. You have the privilege and the opportunity to have**

understanding of what life is all about and you don't even have to steal the playbook. I don't know if you remember, a few years ago, the Patriots were convicted for stealing the opposing team's playbooks. The football team, the NFL Patriots, were fined \$250,000 for stealing the playbooks. The coach Belichick was fined \$500,000 from the league for doing this as well. You don't have to steal the playbook. It's already been given to you. It's right here. All you have to do is learn what's in the book. It's already there for you. **Think of the advantage you have over those in the devil's world, those who live in the cosmic system who don't even have a clue as to what their future holds.** I mean, they just have to look backwards. "Oh, it was great. 20 years ago." "Oh, it was great 30 years ago." They look back because they don't have anything to look forward to. **The unbeliever in the cosmic system can only look back to find his happiness.** You, on the other hand, have a personal sense of destiny, problem-solving device number six in the FLOT line of your soul and that's looking forward. Think of the fear of the unknown that so many unbelievers possess, people that don't know Christ don't know what's going happen. You see, fear is actually an emotional sin for the believer. Did you know this? It's a mental attitude sin. "*What time I'm afraid, I will trust in thee,*" the Bible says in Psalm 56:3. You're not allowed to have fear because that's assuming an unassigned responsibility, God can handle the situation. **Fear is an emotional sin for the believer and fear and the spiritual life are not compatible.** They don't go together, they don't work together. **The spiritual life is not a life of fear because fear eliminates your personal sense of destiny. You know what fear does? Fear sees a problem and it freaks out. The opposite of fear is faith. Faith sees the solution and then marches on.** The mechanics to overcome any fear in your life is simply the faith-rest drill. Living by fear means you are constantly in anxiety and in emotional revolt of your soul. If your emotions control you and you're afraid all the time, then your soul gets locked in with negative volition and you will blackout. You won't be able to see what's happening. You won't even understand what's happening. There is something in the Bible about scar tissue, scar tissue of the soul and you will black yourself out. Your heart will begin to be hard as you live under the emotional control of your soul and you will destroy your own self. Understanding can keep you from doing that if you're interested in learning what God has to say about it. See, you will actually have understanding about spiritual mechanics. You can have understanding about spiritual skills, spiritual rewards, the real treasure in your soul. **The great treasure is understanding, understanding what lies ahead, how the story ends and what will happen in between even within the course of American history.** If we continue to follow the path of destruction as taught in the Bible, you will understand where this nation is headed. In Hosea 4:6, "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you and you will no longer be a priest nation for Me since you forgot the laws of your God, I will also forget your children.*" This is a warning to the Jews, a warning from God through the prophet Hosea and what does it say? "***My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.***" **Is this not one of The Fantastic Four?** "*Wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul.*" No knowledge, no understanding of God, no understanding of the plan

of God. When you reject the knowledge, someone comes along, maybe like this radio show, or another show, or another teacher, preacher and gives you knowledge and you reject it, then you're setting yourself up for a life of misery. I want to ask you a simple little question today and it won't take a genius to figure this out because I'm certainly not a genius but I know the answer to this question. How will we know when America, the freedom of the USA, good old USA, how will we know when we're toast? How will we know when we're done for? The answer is we're here - spiritual values lacking, social unrest, moral values gone, citizens emotionally out of control, politically explosive and mentally lacking, and a dumbed down America. When you see these things happen, when you see America become politically explosive, when you see people that are so dumb that when they're interviewed on the street they don't even know who the vice president is, they don't even know any member of Senate or Congress, they know nothing except the celebrities. Oh, they know who the celebrities are, yeah sure. They know nothing about the people that make this country work. A lot of young people are dumbed down with social media. A lot of people are emotionally out of control. There's a lot of social unrest. Spiritual values are gone. Everything that use to be evil is now touted to be good and everything that use to be good is now said to be very evil. Proverbs 14:34 warns us, "*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.*" Righteousness, *sdaqa* in the Hebrew, and reproach, *hesed*, shame. Take a look at this country and think, is this nation being exalted or are we a reproach to God? If you look across the board I think you can figure that one out. **Here is what you must remember. Righteousness is not inherited, it has to be acquired.** I'm not talking about self-righteousness, not you acting like you're somebody, Mr. Goody Two Shoes and better than the rest of the world. A religious, self-righteous person is the most obnoxious person in the world. These are the people that crucified our Lord Jesus Christ. I'm talking about in a moral sense. Righteousness has a beneficial effect because it lifts up people. Now self-righteousness on the other hand can destroy freedom. The Bible says in this passage, "*Sin is a reproach,*" or a disgrace to a nation and all you have to do is get on the internet just a little bit and see how unrighteous we are. It doesn't take long to look at what's going on in this country and to see where people's desires and habits are and there are millions and millions and millions of Americans that have no interest in God and are addicted to things that are sinful. **No nation gets away with moral depravity.** God's moral laws to Israel are found in Leviticus 20:10-21. I will not read this for you. I would like for you to read it yourselves. This was God's moral law to Israel found in Leviticus 20:10-21, read it. These are the laws He set up for Israel to function under freedom and prosperity. Look and see how we've violated the same laws because no nation gets away with moral depravity and yet our nation today is neck deep in sin and moral sickness. I'm sure your pastor has told you this many times and part of the reason is because of the prosperity and the freedom we have often will lead to sin and sickness. I mean people have got money, people have social media, people have got the internet, people have sin natures, and they have freedom. No one's looking over them, telling them not to do this and not to do that. **A sin nature out of control leads to a moral problem.** Here's a principle you should remember. Just as Jeremiah

warned the Jews in the Babylonian exile in Jeremiah 6:10, this is what he said. *“To whom can I speak and give warning? Their ears are closed, they won't listen. The Word of the Lord is a reproach to them and they have no delight in it.”* In other words, they were offended by God's preaching, God's Word. Jeremiah 6:15, *“Were they ashamed when they committed abominations?”* Hebrew word *toeba*, disgusting things, morally disgusting things, spiritually disgusting things, idolatry, worship of idols and Baal. Were they ashamed when they committed these abominations? No. The Bible says in 1 Kings 14:22-24, *“Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed above all their fathers had done. And they also built high places and images in groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. And there were also sodomites in the land [today it's medically called androphilia or gynephilia] and they did these things according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord had already cast out before the children of Israel.”* Judah did the same thing. Judah went into the same Baal worship. Jeremiah 6:15, *“Not only were they not ashamed, they could not even blush when they were confronted with it.”* Any client nation that tolerates and endorses these sort of practices that I just read to you, guarantees that discipline is coming, national discipline on the client nation, as we are in it today. **Never, let me warn you right now, never get between the Lord and His punishment of a nation.** In other words you're not here to take your own revenge. Some of you have thoughts about certain things and you're out of line. **God didn't send you to straighten this country out. He sent you to, “Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” to replicate the life of Christ.** Not to have a revolution inside, not to get everybody to carry guns to shoot the bad guys. Romans 12:19, listen. *“Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, vengeance is Mine and I will repay says the Lord.”* As goes the believer, so goes the client nation and so how goes America today? Could you answer this, how goes America today? The trend today is to disassociate with the local church, to use social media due to convenience. In other words, we want our spiritual lives to be convenient and want church to fit our schedule, not us to fit the schedule of the church unless of course it's the traditional Sunday morning service, the nod to God crowd that goes before going to grandma's for dinner. Social media in spiritual matters does not play well for accuracy I promise you. Anybody can say anything and the authority of the pastor is soon removed. Remember these things I've told you. What's happening in America? Are we toast? There is a train wreck coming to this country and you've heard me say it, I can hear the whistle blowing. I can see the light down the track and unless things change, we are toast, we are done for. The only thing that will stop it is you. **If you take your spiritual life seriously, if God can count on you, you can stop our national train wreck by having a historical impact on your nation, by being a spiritually mature believer and glorifying Jesus Christ to the maximum.** Oh, I hope you're listening and I hope you're paying attention. If you have anymore questions don't you hesitate to contact me anytime, I'll be glad to hear from you. Until next week when I'm back hopefully, same time, same place, same channel, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Fantastic Four - Part 5

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 676 aired on August 26, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. Thank you for praying for us, being a part of the radio broadcast. So many of you I don't even know, I've never met you, but you faithfully listen every Sunday morning. We have been studying The Fantastic Four. We did take a short break and dedicated a show to those in Redding, California who were struggling with the fires up there and today we want to continue our study. The Fantastic Four is not the Stan Lee cartoon characters that came out a few years ago in the movies and comic books. **The Fantastic Four comes from Proverbs 2:10-11, “When wisdom enters into your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you, understanding will keep you,”** amazing, fantastic four things: wisdom, knowledge, discretion and understanding. This is how you're made rich according to the Bible. It's having this wisdom, the great treasure of the Word of God is a word treasure. The word treasure in the Greek New Testament is the word *thesauros* and it means a word study. We have a treasury of the Word of God. As we continue our study, would it be possible for you to know if America is toast? How would it be possible for you to know if America is done for, if we're over? We have been looking at some ways that you could tell. The last thing I remember telling you was Romans 12:19, *“Don't take your own revenge, beloved, leave room for the wrath of God for it is written, vengeance is mine and I will repay, says the Lord.”* Nowhere does God authorize crusader arrogance to take up weapons and try to overthrow the government because you don't like what the government is doing. Many of us don't like things that have been going on in the government for a long time, but this doesn't give us the right to overthrow. Let the Lord handle it. Romans 13:1 says no one has been elected that God does not allow. What we're going through in this country the Lord is well aware of it and the issue is for you and for me to become spiritually mature so our nation can have blessing, historical blessing by association with us. That's the concept because here's the principle. **As goes the believer in the United States of America, so goes this client nation.** How about it, how goes your life? Then we talked about the trend today to disassociate with the local church and use social media for convenience sake. In other words people seem to want their spiritual lives to be convenient today. We want church to fit into our schedule, not us fit the schedule of the church, unless it's the traditional Sunday a.m. service before we go to grandmother's house for lunch or Luby's or wherever you go. **Social media in spiritual matters does not play well for accuracy because on the social internet, anybody can say anything and the authority of the pastor is removed.** One pastor that I read about in Toronto said, “If coming to Christ means coming to your church in a set location at a set hour, you need a new strategy.” I disagree with this statement. I think having a local church and having a set meeting time and coming to learn the Word of God is critical. But I do not think someone has to come to your church to be saved. They can accept Christ in any place if you do your job and if I do my job. This particular pastor from Toronto goes on to say, “In the same way solo pastors will likely be replaced by a team of communicators and leaders. A few years ago we

split the roles of lead pastor and lead communicator at my church and even lead communicators like me only teach 30 to 35 times a year.” In my opinion, that's pitiful. I think God set up one shepherd for the sheep. I believe that you have a local church and you have a shepherd, you don't need five shepherds. **You need one shepherd who will study and teach you the Word of God. I think this is where the problem begins in America, people are not hungry for the Word of God.** Many pastors that I know wind up being cruise ship directors, having a lot of programs, trying to keep everybody involved. It seems if they spent their time studying and teaching that they might not be appreciated because people put unrealistic demands on them and expect them to do things that the deacons quite frankly ought to be doing, this is the way it goes. I can tell you that in my church, my pastor teaches twice on Sunday morning, once on Wednesday night, once on Thursday night, four solid hours of teaching from the pulpit of the church, four solid hours a week. His father before him taught Sunday morning, Sunday night, Monday night, Tuesday night, Wednesday night, Thursday night, Friday night. This was the class schedule at church before he passed away and I can assure you, you couldn't get a seat. You had to go early, at least 30 to 40 minutes early to even get a seat or you'd be sitting in the overflow room of the auditorium. Trying to find someone who will spend time studying and teaching the Word of God is kind of hard. This particular pastor in Toronto said, “Try to find an under 40 influential pastor of a growing church who's more into teaching than preaching, because there really aren't that many.” You see, as a believer in Jesus Christ, if you go to church on Sunday morning you don't need another gospel sermon. You've already been saved. You need a message on how to “*Grow in grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*” You need information that will help you grow and become Christ-like so that you can replicate the thinking of Christ. Philippians 2:5 says “*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ.*” 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 each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word.*” **If you don't have the Word of God taught to you, you cannot get divine viewpoint. Divine viewpoint is the only thing that will insulate you from the cosmic system because the world will attack your thinking 24 hours a day.** The world will appeal to your emotions 24 hours a day. So if you have a teaching pastor who teaches four or five hours a week, this is amazing. I know so many of you say, “I can't find a church like this in my location.” Well guess what, you can get the information by MP3 or DVD and you can study at home until God shows you where to be. If you don't know where to go, I can tell you where to order MP3s, how to order DVDs, how you can study at home until the Lord makes a local church available because I do believe that you need a local church where you can be fed and where you can serve your Savior. The question we have to ask today is where are the men with the gift of pastor-teacher that should be preparing for the ministry? Where are they? What happened to the attitude of pastors studying and teaching and studying and teaching? When did the attitude change to where now they travel and see, go here and go there. They don't have to stay in their pulpit, they can just take off and run around the country and run around the world and visit mission fields. Listen, it is critical that you and I have

a pastor that studies and teaches God's Word consistently, weekly. I know there are times they can take off for a brief vacation. There are times they can take off for sickness, but in the long run they should be teaching the Word of God weekly, consistently to the congregation. A lot of evil practices are now called good and acceptable, where a lot of the good things that we use to believe in are now called evil and not acceptable. It's interesting, in my travels I often quiz young students when I speak in schools and I quiz adults about what does it take to be a good Christian. Most of them don't have a clue. If I asked you this question, "What does it take to be a good Christian," what would you say? If I had just accepted Christ and I came to you and I said, "Could you tell me how to be a good Christian," what would your answer be? Would you tell me, "I've got to pray, I've got to read my Bible, and I've got to obey God, go to God in prayer, read God's Word, obey God, witness for Christ, grow." There used to be a pamphlet back in the 1970s, titled "GROW" and this was how you were to grow spiritually. Well these are things that good Christians do but this is not necessarily how you become a good Christian. **Most people, when asked this question, fail to even mention that until you understand the ministry of God the Holy Spirit, you will never be a good Christian because you can't live the Christian life in the energy of the flesh.** The first thing any young convert, any young person that accepts Christ as Savior, the first thing they have to understand is the battle of the flesh. They have to understand how to recover from their sin. They have to understand how not to quench the Holy Spirit, how not to grieve the Holy Spirit, because our Lord sent the Holy Spirit to mentor us, to guide us, and lead us. He's our *paraklete* the Greek word says and unless people understand this, they can't live the Christian life in the energy of the flesh because they only manufacture human good. Human good is anything an unbeliever can do as well and that's all burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. So do you understand this? If I asked you, "How do I become a good Christian?" You should be able to tell me, "Well first of all Rick, until you understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit you're not going to get past first base because you can't live the Christian life in the energy of the flesh. You have to understand how to let the Holy Spirit control your life and how to recover when you sin and fail and how to keep advancing under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor so that you grow in grace." Nobody told me these things after I got saved and it was almost two years before I figured it out. Everybody just told me get emotional, "Rah-rah for Jesus," and let's do this and let's do that. Nobody told me how to overcome the flesh. Nobody told me how to overcome the temptations. They just said, "Be strong brother. Stand in there against it brother." No one told me Galatians 5:17, "*The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh and these are contrary one to the other,*" so that you can't do the things you should do. People have to understand this. Today if you want to know how we are going down the road to doom, remember socialism is knocking at the door right now. Socialism is knocking at the door. Even the riots held in Portland and across the Midwest all by the groups that call themselves ANTIFA, they're socialists, they burn the American flag. We're in trouble. A lot of young people are drinking the kool-aid I assure you. Internationalism is becoming an accepted concept and the Bible never endorses internationalism. The Bible

destroyed this concept at the Tower of Babel when God Himself came down and scattered the people into different languages, different geographical regions. He never intends for us to be in a one world order because then Satan can control in one world order. You know, if you look across the nation and across the continent, many of our enemies no longer even fear us since we appear to be weak internally, not externally. We have an amazingly strong, powerful, effective military but internally we appear to be weak. There appears to be no national unity or even any desire to stand together as a free people. We know what's coming sooner or later if we continue down this road because in the book of Judges we find things written about how God dealt with rebellious Jews in the time of the judges. You know it sounds a lot like us. Listen to Judges 2:11, "*After the death of Joshua, the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and they served Baal.*" I read an article written by Scott Brown, pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Wake Forest, North Carolina and it compared Baal worship to what goes on today and it sounds very similar. This is what he said and I will quote him now. "What was Baal worship and why was it so popular? It is a mistake to think that Baal worship is some kind of other worldly practice that never happens today. On the contrary, it happens all the time in the form of cultural variations of the same general patterns that we see in 2 Kings 21:1-9 and also in 2 Kings 17:7-23. We know that there were usually lots of people gathered at these ceremonies, often up on a high hill just like a theater or stadium and they gathered there to observe public sex just like we see in the movies and televisions and on the internet. You can read about this in Numbers 22:41 and 1 Kings 12:25-33. We think here in America that our watching these things is different than the idolatry of the old but that's just not so. The whole community would come out and all the best pagan ideas for success in crops and fertility were promoted just like a business seminar that promotes un-biblical ideas that justify the worldliness of its origin." Scott went on to say that, "Wicked personalities or promoters and the performers were respected. They were given the platforms like rock stars and Hollywood's people. Some of the performers were great dancers and others were great musicians, you can read about it in 1 Kings 15:12. People danced around the Asherah poles which were nothing more than a phallic symbol. It's quite possible that these poles functioned somewhat like poles are used at so-called gentlemen's clubs today. The people also acted out lustful, licentious, bawdy scenes for the enjoyment of all who came to watch, Isaiah 57:5-8, Deuteronomy 23:17. They had all the different kinds of sexual experiences on display including men with women, men with men, and all the combinations that are popular today in our sitcoms we watch on television and news reports. On top of that, they invited the crowd to even participate, 1 Kings 14:24. The children though were the real losers as some of them were actually murdered, sacrificed on the altar to Baal, 2 Kings 16:3-4. To participate you had to reject your children. So Baal worship in reality corresponds exactly to the activities that most people freely participate in today and they do so without really understanding the nature of idolatry. **Idolatry today is the enjoyment of things raised up against Jesus Christ.** The people were involved because they like the excitement and the liberty and the business that it facilitated plus the music was great and the entertainment was exciting. So the believers in Yahweh were

conflicted. They did not agree with everything that was happening at the parties, but they had a really hard time giving them up because they liked the social aspect and did not want to be thought of as weird by their neighbors, 2 Kings 23:7-20. Furthermore, personal success and networking were dependent on being in attendance at these events so if you quit going to the parties, you would not be able to do business like before. Your network would dry up and the guilds which promoted the high places demanded support. Therefore, to support the high places was to support the guild. Support was both based on participation and financial contributions. It was all tied up with the rules of doing business just like the modern human resource policies regarding diversity. Anyone who questioned the activity ended up on the wrong side of public opinion like Elijah. Ahab summarize the attitude people had toward Elijah. Ahab, that wicked king said, *“Is that you O troubler of Israel?”* And Elijah said, *“I have not troubled Israel but you and your father's house have and that you have forsaken the mandates of the Lord”* 1 Kings 18:17.” End of the article by the pastor in North Carolina. In Judges 2:16-19 listen carefully. *“Nevertheless, the Lord raised up judges [people like Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Sampson] and delivered the people out of the hand of those that spoiled them. And they would not listen to their judges but they went a whoring after other gods and bowed themselves unto them, and they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in [hello America] obeying the commandments of the Lord, but they did not do so [their fathers did, but they didn't.] And when the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them out of the hands of the enemies all the days of the judge; for it repented the Lord because of their groaning by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. But it came to pass, when the judge was dead that they went right back, returned and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, to bow down unto them, and they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their own stubborn way.”* Hello America, that's us to the tee. Do you understand what God expects out of you? Do you understand your options in life? In life's experience, you're only going to get one shot, you know, no redos, no makeovers. I read in the paper every day were some celebrity has passed away, some politician is passing away, your time is coming and my time is coming. We are going to pass away because the Bible says, *“It's appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment.”* So in your experience you're going to get just one shot, that's it. **It's crucial that you maintain spiritual balance and stability in your life if you're a believer in Jesus Christ.** Balance and stability. Balance is the filling of the Holy Spirit. Do you know how to do this? Do you know how to be filled with the Holy Spirit? You're indwelt with the Holy Spirit the day you get saved, Ephesians 1:13, and sealed by the Holy Spirit. But when you sin, you quench the Holy Spirit and you grieve the Holy Spirit. However, when you go to God and use the recovery process taught in the Bible, you can place yourself back under the leading of the Holy Spirit. 1 John 1:9 is how you do it. It's problem-solving device number one on the FLOT line of your soul, we often call it rebound, *“If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and to purify us from all wrongdoing.”* So anytime you confess any known sin to God, you are automatically filled with the Holy Spirit. Anytime you commit a sin,

you are automatically quenching the Holy Spirit and grieving the Holy Spirit. I know you're saying, "I can't keep up with all my sins." Well join the crowd because the Bible says, "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and purify us from all wrongdoing,*" even ones you don't remember. This is how you're filled with the Spirit. You look at your life and say, "Father, is there any unconfessed sin in my life?" If there is, name it, tell Him what you did. "*If we name our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us.*" If you hide it, you are going to live under the quenching and the grieving of the Holy Spirit. You will come under warning discipline, intense discipline, and eventually dying discipline. **If you stay filled with the Holy Spirit and you operate under grace orientation, a wonderful problem-solving device, then you can have stability from doctrinal orientation, learning the mind of Christ, staying out of the cosmic system. Having divine viewpoint will orient your life and it will be what's called in the Bible, "Discretion and understanding."** You see, advancement in the spiritual life comes from this balance of residency in your soul, stability including doctrinal orientation and balance including the filling of the Holy Spirit in grace orientation. We know that we must advance in the spiritual life and the only way that can happen is when we have this balance of residency in our soul. We know we are suppose to grow spiritually, the Bible tells us that. In Hebrews 5:11-14 the writer wrote about those people that are dull of hearing, don't want to pay attention. In 2 Peter 3:18 the apostle Peter wrote "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" Why is spiritual growth so important? What's important about it? Well, Romans 12:1-2, "*Brethren, and because of this I exhort you [brothers and sisters] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice alive, holy, and pleasing to God which is your reasonable service. Don't be transformed to conform to the present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so you can test and approve what is the will of God, what is the good and well pleasing and perfect will of God.*" **It's your reasonable service to grow spiritually. It's appreciation for what He did for you through Christ Jesus.** You know, at this point in time there's no way that you can appreciate fully what God has provided on your behalf but once you cross the finish line, once you move from time to eternity, you will become completely aware. The only way to present yourself as holy and pleasing to God is to understand what all that entails. **You change the way you think, it'll change the way you live. Then you'll get under objective optimism, which is doctrinal orientation, rather than subjective doom.** You discover the good, well pleasing, perfect will of God set forth for your life. **You have a vehicle, it's called your life. You have to learn how to drive it so you can maximize your time and your performance on this earth. The way we do it as believers is to become a *dulos*, a free slave dedicated to our Master's desire.** Paul said in Galatians 1:10, "*For do I now persuade men or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I please man, I should not be the servant of Christ.*" Are you serving your Master's interest? Do you look for your Master's return? Do you represent your Master with integrity or do you have unrealistic expectations about what your Master expects from you? Come back next week and we'll continue this.

Your Reasonable Service

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 678 aired on September 2, 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 all of this without any type of manipulation. We don't try to con you, we're not trying to hustle you, we are not going to ask you for money or solicit any membership. We just want to give you some accurate information, information designed to verify and identify God's plan for your life. If you can respond to this by orienting and adjusting to the plan, you have the opportunity to have an amazing, amazing life in Christ. The FLOT Line comes every Sunday morning on this radio show. We broadcast this by faith. We know if God's in it, He'll pay for it so we don't solicit money. We would like to tell you that we've been on the road traveling quite a bit. We have a new book we've written called *Life's Toughest Years* written for teenagers and this book is available. If you contact our website, rickhughesministries.org, it's free for the asking. We also have MP3s available of various schools that we've been in where we talk to teenagers and if you have grandchildren or children, you might want to hear these messages. It's all free, God's grace. Thank you for listening to The FLOT Line this morning. Thank you for dropping by and I hope you enjoy this show today. Remember FLOT, F.L.O.T., stands for the forward line of troops. It's a military metaphor and what we're trying to convey is the thought that in your soul you can establish a forward line of troops or a main line of resistance so that you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. Adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. That's right, if we learn God's Word and use these tremendous problem-solving devices as a FLOT line in our soul, then we can stop all these outside sources of adversity from becoming the inside source of stress. Stress is never something a Christian should entertain. We never have to worry, we never have to be afraid, we never have to be bitter, we never have to be angry, we never had to be full of guilt. These are mental attitude sins and we don't have to live like this. We have a new way to live. We think a new way. The Bible says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus,"* Philippians 2:5. And Proverbs 23:7, *"As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is,"* so the real you is how you think. The issue is, do you want to think human viewpoint which is what the world tells you happiness is such as circumstances and people? Or you can think divine viewpoint where the Lord Jesus Christ said in Luke 11:28, *"Happiness belongs to those who hear My Father's Word and keep it."* It's about you having a wonderful life, about you having a magnificent time while you're here, and if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Savior, you have this opportunity if you take God's Word and learn it. That's why the Bible says in 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."* It all starts with this good news that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God has redeemed me and you out of the slave market of sin and our debt to God has been paid and we are now free of this penalty of death. We have freedom from the power of sin and we are

told in Romans 6:12, *“Don't let sin reign in our mortal bodies any longer.”* Sometimes I wonder if people understand what God really expects out of them. That's a fair question I could ask you this morning. **What does God expect from you? It is based on what I call The Fantastic Four, Proverbs 2:10-11, knowledge and understanding with the result that you have wisdom and insight in your heart, in your mind.** It's not you contemplating something, it is application. If you understand God's Word, you know what your options are in life. Well, let's start here. **You have the option of thinking human viewpoint or you have the option of thinking divine viewpoint.** You are a victim of your decisions. You are a product of your decisions. *“If we sow to the wind, we reap the whirlwind”* the Bible says. So you are responsible for every decision that you make and every decision that you make is based on your choices or your options. What are your options? That's where the Word of God comes in. What does the Bible say about this? What do my friends say about that? Who am I going to listen to? If you listen to the Word of God, if you listen to the Bible, then you're going to have the opportunity to have a wonderful life. But if you listen to some expert who says, “I've been there, done that. Let me tell you what you ought to do,” well you can just bet on it that you're going to be miserable. The choice must be made in relation to believing in the Lord Jesus Christ because arrogance rejects God's plan and it substitutes works for grace. There's only one way into God's plan. **There is only one way to enter the Royal Family of God and that's through faith alone in Christ alone.** That's why the Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9, *“For by grace are you saved through faith. It's a gift of God not of works lest any man would boast about it.”* It's repeated in Titus 3:5-7, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done are we saved 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, that being justified by His grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”* This word *hope* is the word confidence, the confidence that we have an eternal life. So your first option is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now what do you do with this new life you've been given because the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, *“If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away and all things become new.”* So what are you going to do with this new life you get in Christ? What's going to be your basis for living? What are going to be the rules that you live by? **Because in life we only get one shot. There are no redo's, no makeovers so it's crucial that we as believers in Jesus Christ maintain spiritual momentum by having balance and stability in our life.** Do you have balance and stability? I know you just thought, “What does he mean by this?” Well, balance comes from the filling of the Holy Spirit, problem-solving device number two, and balance comes from grace orientation. **If you know how to be filled with the Holy Spirit and if you understand grace orientation, then you can have balance in your spiritual life. Stability in your spiritual life comes through doctrinal [Biblical] orientation.** Both grace orientation and doctrinal orientation are two of the problem-solving devices we've taught so many times on this show. Remember, we have a book called *Christian Problem-Solving*. If you want it, write to me. We'll send it to you free and it lists all 10 problem-solving

devices. Grace orientation and doctrinal orientation are two of them. You either live by grace or you live by works. You either live by doctrine or you live by human viewpoint, it's up to you. **Romans 11:33 says it this way, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God."** You want to be rich I assume. You want to have a good and wonderful life I assume. The riches that God provides comes from wisdom, the word *sophia* and from the knowledge of God. You know, the word understanding is the Greek word pronounced *suneisis* and it means two things coming together. When you have knowledge, which is the insight of the Word of God and you have understanding that comes together with it, they form a river of wisdom. It's wonderful to have wisdom from the Word of God because it will protect you. There is no wisdom without knowledge and understanding. These grace provisions that I'm talking to you about, they're barely explored in our human life. I mean what God has provided, the depth of the wisdom and the knowledge of God, it's barely explored. We only know so much. We have a Bible, we can know what's in the Bible. But I can assure you in the future, once you cross over to the other side, you will know more than you ever could have imagined in your lifetime. Earthly wisdom is nothing compared to the spiritual riches that are revealed to us through God the Holy Spirit, especially to the believer that is growing. I did say growing now, growing believer. You're not growing if you're staying out of fellowship and you're not filled with the Holy Spirit. And you're not growing if you're not taking in the Word of God in a consistent manner. **Stability and advancement in your spiritual life are made by this balance in your life, staying filled with the Holy Spirit and the consistent intake of the Word of God.** That's how you advance in your spiritual life. But circumstances can really throw you off sometimes and you lose your routine - it's very, very hard to keep a routine in your life. Professional athletes do, Christians don't. They let the details of life and circumstances distract them and they're not consistent in attending church or attending a Bible class. They're not consistent in having a routine to study every day. They're not consistent in confessing their sin. Understand that circumstances can throw you off balance. Now I want you to go in your Bible with me, I'll read it to you, Romans 12:1-3. This is in regard to the question that I asked you, what does God expect from you? Let me read what Paul wrote, okay? He said, *"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service."* Did you hear that? This is the second time he said this by the way. **What does God expect from you? That you present your body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God. This is expected of you, it's reasonable.** Then Paul goes on and says the only way you can do it, *"Don't be conformed to this world but be transformed by the way you think by the renewing of your mind, so that [purpose clause] you can prove what is good and acceptable and the perfect will of God."* **For you to fulfill your spiritual destiny you're going to have to change the way you think.** You can't think in terms of self more highly than you ought to think, the Bible says. Listen to verse 3, *"For I say through the grace given unto me, to every man that's among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think but to think soberly,"* this means with humility. In order for you to fulfill your spiritual destiny, you're

going to have to change the way you think, there's no way around it. You can't think more highly of yourself than you should. You can't have some unrealistic self image like the Pharisee in Luke 18 who said, "I am worthy of you God. I fast, I tithe, I do all this good stuff. I'm a religious, self-righteous person," ad nauseam. The poor publican sitting beside him said, "*God be merciful to me a sinner.*" "This is the one that is saved," the Lord Jesus Christ said. So if you're going to understand what God wants out of you, you've got to understand what it means to present your body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God. Just what exactly does this mean? It also says it's our reasonable service, so let's break it down. Paul said in Romans 12:1, "*I beseech you,*" and it's a verb, an indicative mood present tense reality verb of *parakaleo*, he's inviting them, he's calling them. "I'm inviting you," it's a verb of exhortation where Paul gives an open invitation. It is not a mandate. **It's an invitation to the believers in Rome that they would surrender their personal will and desires to God's divine will and desires for their life.** That's the first question I have to ask you, have you done this? It's a volitional decision that you are encouraged to make, but it's not mandated in this passage. It's been presented to the church before as I told you, Romans 6:13, "*Do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourself to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness.*" Wow. In positional truth you are dead to the effects of sin, not in experience but in position. In experience you still may be enslaved to sin nature habits. These habits have to be broken. **If you're going to present yourself to God which is your reasonable service, you've got to break sin nature habits.** Romans 6:12, "*Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lust.*" **Do not let sin control your thoughts and your actions.** Actions of your flesh, your mortal bodies. You see, even though Satan may have lost you to the grace of God because you expressed faith alone in Christ alone, **Satan is still going to seek to manipulate you and use you if he can impugn God's name by exposing the flaws of your sin nature.** What are the flaws of your sin nature? Well, it's your lust patterns, the various lust patterns of the soul. You see, some people lust for sex, can't get enough of it. Some people lust for money, can't get enough of it. Some people lust for drugs and alcohol, can't get enough of it. Different people have different lust patterns. The ones that are the most evil are those who lust for power, politicians especially, those who lust for recognition, approbation, those who lust for attention and do anything to get it and so we must recognize our lust patterns. **You have a lust pattern and by this I mean when you get out of fellowship with God, this is often what you're going to be drawn into.** If your flesh takes over, if you sin and do not rebound, your flesh will begin to manipulate you and control you and like quicksand, it will draw you into the lust pattern you desire, the lust pattern that's always been with you. Your lust pattern is going to always be with you until you die and get a resurrection body because it's part of your sin infected body. Romans 6:11 says, "*You are to consider yourselves dead to sin but alive to Christ.*" **This means we are to ignore the call of the flesh, dead to the lure of the flesh and be obedient to the service of the One who bought you.** This is not something you do very easily I promise you because the flesh does not want to surrender control of the spiritual life. In

Galatians 5:17 the Bible says, “*The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh and they are contrary one to another.*” There's a war going on inside of you every day for your thoughts. The flesh cries out, “Let me take control,” and the Holy Spirit beseeches you, “No, let Me take control,” and you are a victim of what you choose. Your volition makes a decision. Some of you are in trouble today because you made a volitional decision to listen to the flesh. You may have an addictive sin nature. You may have an addictive lust pattern that no one else is even aware of it but guess who is? God is because the Bible says in 2 Chronicles 16:9, “*His eyes roam to and fro all over the earth.*” There's nothing you can hide from God and so even though the lights may be dim and the door may be shut, God sees and He knows. If you're His child, if you're a Christian, He knows what you're doing. If you're not a believer in Jesus Christ the first thing you need to do when you shut the door is get on your knees and say, “God have mercy on me a sinner.” **Your Heavenly Father formed you. He is aware of the struggles you have. He knows what you're going through and thus He has made provisions for you to have victory over the flesh. These provisions are the filling of the Holy Spirit plus the dynamics of the living Word of God in your soul.** When you are filled with the Holy Spirit and you have the Word of God in your soul, you have the resources you need to say no and the resources you need to overcome the temptation. The enemy definitely has a dossier on your weaknesses, there is no doubt about that and he will attack you at your weakest point. Now, this may surprise you. What do you think is your weakest point - when you're alone. When you're alone, when you're by yourself, that's when you are the weakest and the flesh can be the strongest when you're alone. **That's when the spiritual life is really lived isn't it, when you're alone and no one's watching you.** That's where we really find out what the spiritual life does, who you are, the real you. Paul said in Romans 12:1, he wishes we would present our bodies a living and a holy sacrifice. He is referring to a clean and acceptable believer who is not tainted by the sins of the flesh by habit or by design. The word present is an aorist active infinitive in the Greek word *paristemi* and it's at a point in time. So there's a point in time, a culminative aorist, a point in time in your life when you have to make a conscious decision to grow in grace by studying, making yourself approved unto God. If you are going to grow up and be a mature believer and glorify Jesus Christ, at some point of time in your life, you have to make a decision. Now, I'm not talking about going forward in a revival and saying, “I'm here to dedicate my life to Christ,” and going out two days later and being the same old person, I've seen this. I've seen a person go forward several times to “Dedicate my life to Christ” and then he goes out and does the same old thing because he never understands the protocol plan of God and how it works. Shame on the pastors that don't teach it. Only by the means of the filling of the Holy Spirit are you able to carry out this request. **This means that you have to make a determination in your own soul to not allow yourself to be enslaved by the flesh but rather to present yourself as a free slave to your Heavenly Father. Paul says, “It's a reasonable request,” it's a reasonable service.** It's a *logikos latreia*, the Greek word reasonable service. It's rational, it's not irrational. **It is a rational expectation to serve the Lord.** It's reasonable that if you came to Jesus Christ and for example

you go to church expecting to worship God and serve Him, you can't allow your flesh to taint your fellowship with God. If you give your life to God's service, it's not just for pastors and evangelists and missionaries, it's for all of us. **Every believer is in full-time Christian service.** Listen, at this point in time in your life there's no way you can really fully appreciate what Jesus Christ our Lord has provided for you but once you cross over from time to eternity, then you will become aware of all that's been accomplished on your behalf. The only possible way for you to fulfill this request to present your body as a living holy sacrifice is to understand what it actually means. Your salvation guarantees that you're going to have a resurrected life, that you have eternal life. It guarantees that your life will be imperishable and undefiled, it's reserved for you in eternity according to 1 Peter 1:3. If you're still hanging around in this sin infected body in this world wondering what you should do with your life, you have to do some consideration. May I suggest Romans 12:1-3? **Since God has been merciful to you in providing your salvation through His Son, our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ, is it too much to ask in return that you surrender your will and destiny to Him so you can be an instrument of His righteousness?** This requires an attitude adjustment. *"Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* That's an imperative mood in the Greek in Romans 12:1-3. You're going to have to change the way you think, change yourself. Don't emulate the lost world by being sucked into the cosmic system in some frantic search for happiness, but be transformed. That's a mental attitude way of thinking, change the way you think, to morph from one form to another form and that's only accomplished through humility, you adopting the mindset of Jesus Christ. Until this happens in your life you will always be a slave to your flesh. You will always be a slave to your inner desires. **It is only Bible doctrine or what is the mind of Christ that can set you free from the slavery of the sin nature, that can change you right now but it's your choice.** You can be a slave to the lust of the flesh and live your life in shame or you can make a decision to do something about your future happiness. **May I suggest that you surrender to a new Master and serve only this Master's interest?** Matthew 25:14-30 talks about it, look it up and read it, serving the Master's interest. There's a lot of other things to say but time is short. I do want to thank you for listening. I appreciate your faithful attendance here on this radio show and I pray you'll come back next week, same time, same place. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Emotional Trends of America

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 679 aired on September 9, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. As a believer in Jesus Christ you have these phenomenal 10 problem-solving devices. If you learn them and use them, they act as a main line of resistance, a FLOT line on your soul. You say, "Why a military analogy?" Well, Paul did the same thing in Ephesians 6 where he talked about "*Putting on the armor of God, that you could stand against the strategy of the devil, put on the belt of truth, pick up the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the sword of the Spirit.*" There is nothing unusual about using a military analogy and this helps us to understand that God has a process. This process includes us learning and applying His Word into our life. If we learn it and apply it, then we are faithful to "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). Learning the Word of God is not an easy thing to do because first of all it starts with the filling of the Holy Spirit which is problem-solving device number two. If we are not filled with the Holy Spirit, then we don't pick up the information God wants us to get. For example, Jesus said, "When I go away I'm going to send a Comforter, I'm going to send a Mentor and it's the Holy Spirit," and "I've been with you and I've been teaching you, but I'm leaving and now He's going to teach you." The Bible says you can quench the Holy Spirit and you can grieve the Holy Spirit by committing sin. With unconfessed sin in your life the Holy Spirit is not able to reveal divine truth to you, He's quenched, His power is eliminated. The first most important thing in the life of any believer is to learn how to recover from sin and this is problem-solving device number one which says, "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1:9). Remember that sin can come in three areas. It can even be something you think, just that subtle something you think because the Bible says in Proverbs 23:7, "*As a man thinks in his heart, so he is.*" A mental attitude sin, sin of the thought might be worry, it might be fear, it might be anger, it might be implacability, something like this. There are also the sins of the tongue and James talks about this in the book of James. It could be lying, slander, gossip, maligning, criticizing, backbiting, these are sins. Then it could be an overt sin. It could be something you did, something you actually did like stealing or fornicating or adultery or or drunkenness, an overt sin. Sin can come in one of three areas and don't think Christians are impervious to sin. We all sin and the reason we do is we have a sin nature. The Bible says there is a battle inside of you. In Galatians 5:17, "*The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh and they are contrary one to the other.*" The objective of the believer who wants to grow and become a mature believer and glorify Jesus Christ to the maximum in his life is first of all to learn how to let the Holy Spirit control his life by the use of rebound, problem-solving device number one, by consistently confessing his sins when he knows he's committed them. Then number two, to take in God's Word on a consistent basis so he fulfills the mandate, "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" Now, I will admit some people want to grow at a slow rate and some people want to grow at a fast rate. I travel up and

down the interstates and I know some people drive 50, some people drive 90. I don't know what your rate of growth is but I can tell you this, distractions will keep you from growing altogether. If you don't make taking in the Word of God a priority in your life you will not grow spiritually. If you want to grow spiritually, then you can replicate the life of Christ and re-present Him to your friends and glorify God to the max. If you don't grow spiritually, if you just operate under the energy of the flesh, in other words you're trying to be a good boy and look like a nice Christian and you go to church and you don't cuss and you don't drink, you don't dance etc., well these are all fine wonderful things for you to do. But that's not living the mature Christian life. It's much, much, much more than just a few physical limitations of personal sin in your life. You have to grow. You see, this is the one thing Satan doesn't want you to do. *"He goes around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour"* (1 Peter 5:8). We know he's the god of this world, he doesn't need any competition here and when you grow as a believer and begin to reflect Jesus Christ through your life, you become competition. **You become a light to the world and you attract people. You are salt to preserve a nation. This is what Satan does not want. He does not want you to grow in grace. He does not want you to become a mature believer.** Let's look at it this way, when you accept Christ, you're a baby Christian. I accepted Christ and may be for a year or two, I didn't go very far because I didn't have a good pastor to teach me anything. I just tried to figure it out on my own. Most of the time it was emotional but finally when I found a pastor, God led me to a man who was a serious student of the Bible and who could teach the Bible to me. It wasn't about his personality. It wasn't about whether or not he would hold my hand and tell me, I'd be okay, "Don't worry about it." He actually told me to sit down, shut up, and learn something. I had to because I never realized I was going to have a life of being in the ministry, but I realized that I needed to know something because I knew nothing. Through the ministry of my pastor I began to learn the Word of God. As I learned the Word of God, I grew from being a baby Christian to being a student, hopefully to being an adult mature believer. One of the problems today is a lot of churches don't want a pastor like this. They don't want a pastor that does a lot of teaching. They want a pastor that teaches a little bit and then does a lot of other things, kind of manages their church like a cruise ship, make sure everybody has a good time. Now, I guess that's okay but I want a pastor that will feed me. I want a pastor, if he's got the gift, to study and teach and teach and teach. As I was talking to one of my friends this week, you can never get out of the first grade if you only go an hour and a half a week. If that's your routine of going to church, 30 minutes on Sunday morning, 30 minutes on Sunday night, and 30 minutes on Wednesday night, that's an hour and a half week. You're never, ever, ever going to become a spiritually mature believer. That's why the writer of Hebrews said, "I've got a lot of things to say to you but I can't say them because you can't digest them. You still need the bottle. You still need milk," and that's a believer that hasn't grown. That's a believer that's still waddling around in his diapers. We have to grow up. I remember one time I was visiting a church and guy told me, he confronted me, and he said, "I'm not gifted to quote Scripture like you are." Well I'm not gifted to quote Scripture, I'm the biggest dummy you've ever seen, but I did study and I did learn and I

did apply and I do remember. Even when I go fishing, bass fishing which I love to do, I remember where I caught a bass and what I caught the bass on. I can remember the Bible verse and what the Bible verse means to me. The problem is if you don't study, you don't remember anything because you didn't read anything to start with. **If you get under a good pastor and you're studying God's Word, then you can grow and once you grow, you begin to have an invisible impact on your nation. You begin to be what's called the pivot, the group of mature believers in that nation.** We live in the United States of America and it's an amazing place. It's a client nation. Here we are living in a client nation called America. Here we are with plenty of opportunities to grow and to glorify God with everything that we have in our life. We live in a client nation. We represent God. **We are the client nation for God in this world.** You may say, "What's a client nation?" Two things I'm concerned with. I'm concerned with what is a client nation and then what is the pivot within this client nation. The pivot is what you are suppose to be. It's like the 300 that Gideon chose, a few well-qualified people. God doesn't need millions, He just needs you to be well-qualified. What's a client nation? **A client nation is a national entity such as America under the patronage of God. We are assigned the responsibility for the preservation, for the communication, and for the fulfillment of the Bible, the canon of Scripture.** That's our job, to take God's Word, guard God's Word, deliver God's Word, across the face of the world. A client nation to God is a nation under divine protection. As long as we are a client nation, He protects us. He guarantees us this protection and the reason is because within the client nation there's a large pivot. There's a large group, a large core of mature believers. There are a lot of believers in America. I see churches everywhere I go, church after church after church, and I have no doubt that many of these people are sincerely saved but I don't see a lot of mature believers. I don't see a lot of people that know their way around the Bible. I don't see a lot of people that know the Scripture and know how to apply it into their life and part of this is because I don't meet a lot of pastors that are teaching very much. I know some and they're wonderful and they've been in their pulpits, 20, 30, 40 years, that's what we need. A client nation is under divine protection because it has a large pivot of mature believers. These type of believers are a blessing by association to those around them and historical blessing to their nation. If you're a mature believer living in Mississippi, or you're a mature believer living in Alabama, you're a mature believer living in California, you're a mature believer living Wyoming, or you're a mature believer living wherever, you have an impact. You have an impact to your community and to those around you who are blessed by association to you. **Contrarily, a client nation like us can be destroyed by believers who abandon the plan of God, who spin away from the plan of God and reject God's Word.** This would cause the pivot to shrink or to become smaller and the nation loses its client nation status with God when we undergo discipline. The pivot shrinks and down we go. The good thing about this is, once the nation goes under, and it could, that's what we're going to get to today, at least the pivot survives and comes out the other side. If you are serious about learning God's Word, you can count on one thing. Whatever happens in the future, if you're growing in grace and replicating the life of Christ

you will be protected. You will be delivered. **God always delivers a remnant of His people.** Now, God directs and controls history on the basis of client nations like USA and if we are client nation, here is what we must do. **First, we must evangelize our own population at home.** I made a statement the other day, somewhere I was speaking I said, I don't think we'll ever see another Billy Graham, another big, giant crusade. I'm afraid these times are gone because people don't want it. People are not interested in the Word of God much anymore. People are not interested in evangelism and holding big crusades because they feel like they might be a target and something bad might happen. They don't want it in a public venue. Nobody wants to use a university campus to preach the gospel, it's against the law. You can't be talking about Jesus on the campus. It's crazy what's happening in this nation. We've got to evangelize our own population. We do it through the radio. We do it through the television. We do through the local church. And you must do it through your own testimony, through your lifestyle, through your own neighbor, through your own community. That's your job, not the pastor's job, your job, to live your life in such a way that it reflects Jesus Christ and your neighbors find you attractive and they want to know what it is about you that's different. You must evangelize your own population. **Second, a nation like America who is a client nation to God must communicate Bible doctrine to the believers in this nation.** We must have men in pulpits that teach God's Word faithfully. We must have men in pulpits, not men that are worried about building membership. That's all fine and dandy you've got 25,000 members, that's nice, but we need men in pulpits that will build mature believers whether it's 100 at a time or whether it's 500 at a time. Men who will study and teach, study and teach, and sacrifice their life to teaching the Word of God to their congregation. **Third, we must be responsible for the custodianship of God's Word.** We've got to make sure that it's not covered up, taken away, destroyed. There are a lot of people today that would like to do away with the Bible, do away with the Word of God. It's already been taken out of the public venue. We've already done everything in the world we can to get rid of it in the public venue. We must be responsible to guard the Word of God. **Next, we must provide a haven for the Jew.** God says, "If you protect Me, I'll protect you. If you look after them, I'll look out after you." "*Those that bless you, I will bless and those that curse you, I will curse*" (Genesis 12:3). It's clear in the Bible, we must be a haven for the Jew. **And we are responsible as client nation to send out missionaries around the world to evangelize other nations.** Whether it's in the Philippines, whether it's in South America, whether it's in Russia or Africa, wherever, there's got to be missionaries going out, taking God's Word, preaching God's Word, leading people to Christ, introducing young men in the ministry to the Word of God so that they can pastor their own people. **When the importance of God's Word is ignored, when the Word of God is shut down and people become ignorant about it, then the client nation status is in danger.** For example in Ephesians 4:18-19 the Bible talks about scar tissue, people that have a lot of scar tissue and we have this in America. I want to talk about this here in just a minute, a lot of hard hearts, people whose hearts are very hard. If you read Ephesians 4:18-19 you'll see what scar tissue does to someone. Then in 2 Corinthians 13:5 Paul said, "*Examine*

yourselves as to whether you're in the faith," and this is what I'm asking you, examine yourself. Are you in the faith? I don't mean are you saved, I mean are you growing? ***"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Do you not know that Jesus Christ is in you unless indeed you fail the test?"*** You've been disqualified. This means you're out of fellowship and you're not growing and you're no longer a member the pivot and you're going backwards. I hope that's not you. The pivot is the remnant of mature believers in a nation, those people who become mature believers and adjust to God by their own positive volition to the Word. If it's a large pivot, then the nation is delivered. If it's a small pivot, the nation is in trouble because the size of the pivot in history determines the outcome of what's going to happen to this nation. The question I have to ask you is, what size is the pivot in America? Is there a large contingency of mature believers in this country or is there a large contingency of religious people in this country? Religion is not Christianity. Christianity is a relationship. As a believer in Jesus Christ with a personal relationship with Him, He said in Matthew 11:28-29, *"Come unto Me all ye that labor and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke and learn of Me"* Learn, learn, learn of Me, you must learn. That's 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"* (2 Timothy 2:5). If you don't understand your way around the Bible, if you don't understand what the Bible is about, then even taking communion is a waste of time for you because you're just doing the ritual and there is no reality to it. There has to be a reality to it. You have to know what the cup represents. You have to know what the bread represents, it's a test. Can you recall the doctrines that are going on behind these articles of the communion? If judgment falls on this nation I promise you one thing, if you're in the pivot you will be secure. If you've adjusted to God's Word, you'll be okay. Is the judgment going to fall on this nation? Well, I think possibly it may. You see, mature believers like hopefully you and me, we are suppose to be blessing by association. We're suppose to have an historical impact. But if the pivot is small, then historical disaster is on the horizon and it's looks to me like the pivot is very small, very, very small. The United States as a client nation is reflected even in our Constitution. We still have all the ingredients but it looks like things are getting worse. I mean, we have a pivot of mature believers but a lot of the believers are spinning off, going into reversionism, backsliding. A lot of evangelism is just lip service. The Word of God is rarely taught properly or accurately anymore. A lot of missionaries no longer go out or go out and do everything but teach the Word of God and we are in trouble. You want to see how much trouble we're in? Paul talks about it, I'm going to read this to you. This comes out of 2 Timothy 3:1-7 where Paul talks about what's going to happen in the last days. This could be the last days in reference to the return of Jesus Christ in history. I'm going to use it as the last days of a client nation like America. **In the latter times the trends of the client nation begin to get emotional.** Listen as I read this and see if you identify with it, with what's going on in the United States of America and if you do, you can see why God is holding us accountable. **2 Timothy 3:1-7, "Realize this, in the last days difficult times will come because men will be lovers of self."** Lovers of self, this is one of the arrogance skills, it's

called self-absorption. Arrogant people self-justify, they self-deceive, and they get self-absorbed. Self-absorption means you think you're something you're not. You have an unrealistic self-image of your life. If you have an unrealistic self-image you expect people to treat you in a way you're not worthy of being treated. *"Men will be lovers of self and lovers of money,"* well that's easy, frantic search for happiness in the details of life. Everybody's saying, "You know, life's a tough thing. The more bread you got, the easier it is to swallow." You think money is going to be the cure, money is going to make you happy, it will give you security. Wrong, the Bible is clear on this. This says *"Lovers of money,"* can't wait to get it, frantic search for happiness. Then it talks about *"They will be boastful,"* excessive pride in their achievements. *"Arrogant, revilers,"* using verbal abuse and slander to malign, even because of your faith they will malign you, slander you, criticize you. Here's a key. **It's not patriotism that holds this nation together. I'm patriotic, you're patriotic. I love the flag, you love the flag. What holds us together is our spiritual heritage and that's what we're losing.** *"Disobedient to parents,"* that's where we start losing it right there, breakdown of authority in the home. *"Ungrateful,"* no appreciation for what is provided, especially freedom that was bought and paid for by blood, the sacrifice of the lives of many great wonderful American men and women who died in combat to give you freedom and you no longer appreciate it. If there's ever a nation that has no appreciation for the sacrifice of the military, it is us today. In some ways, it's unbelievable. *"Unholy,"* which means no respect for God or His Word. *"Unloving,"* that's not the word for love normally found there, *agapao* or *phileo*, this is a word called *astorgos*. This Greek word means without any affection, inhuman. Then the Bible goes on to say they will be *"irreconcilable, malicious, gossips, without self-control, brutal people, haters of good, treacherous."* Wow, does this sound like our client nation today? *"Conceded,"* there's another unrealistic self-image of insolence and pride. *"Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,"* in other words people love the gifts and forget the Giver. Then verse 5, *"Holding a form of godliness, although they deny the power,"* that's a self-righteous pretender who acts like a Christian he's a pretender. **"Avoid these people," the Bible says.** This is a mandate to stay away from idiots that live like this with no restraints and no values. We live in a nation that thrives on emotion both in politics and in religion, just watch TV or look at the Supreme Court nomination process and you'll see emotions out-of-control. Young Americans have a heavy amount of scar tissue in their lives because they have been into things they shouldn't have been. They've been into premarital sex, drugs, alcohol, everything you can imagine at 14, 15, 16 years old. No ability to concentrate is another problem that happens when there's a lot of scar tissue and the conscience is destroyed. What we have is a nation full of scarred up consciences and young people that are about to come on the scene to take charge who don't have a clue. As older believers, a generation that's going to be passing away soon, what are we leaving them? What are you leaving them? What are you leaving your children and your grandchildren? **Are you the man or woman God called you to be?** It's your reasonable service and expectation, it's not unreasonable. I hope you're listening and learning. Please pray for our nation that we survive the coming years.

Study on Evil

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 680 aired on September 16, 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 please listen up. Stay with me, stick around, simply 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, never, never any manipulation. No solicitations at all. We're just here to give you some information, information that will hopefully help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you can do this, you always have the privilege and the opportunity to orient and adjust to the plan, that's up to you. Thank you for giving me a few moments of your time, thank you for listening today. Let me remind you The FLOT Line is designed to teach you some Biblical truths and introduce you to an in-depth way of studying and learning God's Word. My job is to do this, to be an open window to show you where you can grow, how you can grow, how you can learn, and it starts with the good news. The best news is that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, has redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. Thus our debt to God has been paid. We are now free of the penalty of death and even of the power of sin in our life. If we receive Christ as our Savior, we in effect accept the offering that He made on our behalf. That's a free gift complements of the grace of God. Why could I say it's a free gift? Because Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it's a gift [there it is] of God and not of works lest any man should brag"* or boast. Then again 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 means of His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* It's a free gift of God. We are justified by His grace. We enter the royal family through faith alone in Christ alone. The study today that I want to go into and share with you is a study on evil. You might call it an evil alert. This is one of the reasons why you need a FLOT Line in your soul. The FLOT line is your main line of resistance and you have to have this because the Bible tells you, *"Put on the armor of God so that you can stand against the strategy of the devil"* (Ephesians 6:11). Don't ever make the mistake of thinking the devil doesn't have a strategy. His strategy is to discourage you and to defeat you from ever becoming a mature believer. If you become a mature believer, you can give maximum glorification to God. You can replicate the life of Christ by thinking like He thought. That's the worst thing that the enemy could have happen. He doesn't want you being a winner believer. He doesn't want you glorifying God to the max. He has a strategy and only by having a main line of resistance in your soul can you be aware of what this strategy is. You've got to have some discernment, wisdom, knowledge and understanding, the magnificent four in Proverbs 2:10-11. We've talked about them on this show. Today I'm going to take you to a study on evil. What is evil? Where did it come from? What motivated me to do this was my very own pastor teaching me John 17:15 as he's doing a study on the life of Christ which is now over 1,200 hours. What a magnificent study, started many years ago in 2010 and still going. This is a study that's

freely available to any believer anywhere who wants to get it. Contact me if you want to get this study on the life of Christ and you're willing to listen to all 1,200 hrs. It is the most extensive study on the life of Christ that I've ever heard and it is absolutely amazing. My pastor was teaching this last week, John 17:15, *"I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one."* I would like to share this information with you. John 17 is the Lord's prayer, the real Lord's prayer, not the other one that people talk about sometimes. This is where the Lord prays for His disciples. He's praying for them and He's teaching them, it's a didactic prayer. It's a teaching prayer so as they're listening and recording the information, they're learning. In John 17:6 He manifested the Father's name to the men whom the Father gave Him. In John 17:8 He said, *"I gave them the words You gave Me to say and they understand now that I came from My Father."* Then He asked in John 17:11 that they may all be of one mind, and that's critical, one mind, single-minded. This is something Paul talks about in Ephesians 4:13, that we may have unity of thought as mature believers, that we not be divided, that we would not be conquered this way. He asked that they may all be of one mind. **In John 17:15 the Lord Jesus asked the Father to "Keep them from the evil one."** In Matthew 6:9-13 we have traditionally what's called the Lord's prayer and it ends with the words, *"Deliver us from the evil one."* Now you may have heard, "For Thine be the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen." This was added by a translator. The verse actually in the original Greek manuscripts ends with, *"Deliver us from the evil one,"* and the evil one is the Greek word *poneros*. It's a word used for Satan and it could be translated the malignant one. Satan knows who you are. Satan has a plan for you but let's remember something. Satan is not omnipresent, he cannot be in California and in Texas and in Alabama and in New York at the same time. There are many demons which are in effect nothing but fallen angels that followed him in his rebellion in heaven. They are the ones that keep an extensive intel report on you, what your weaknesses are, what your lust patterns are, what your trends are. **When Satan wants to try to derail you or try to discourage you, he's going to appeal to your lust patterns.** He knows when you're frustrated, angry, hostile, and that's the time that he will attack. This word *poneros* being the malignant one. Our Lord Jesus Christ had an encounter with Satan in Matthew 4:1-11 when He was personally tempted by Satan while He was in the wilderness. The Holy Spirit had taken the Lord Jesus Christ into the wilderness. He fasted 40 days and then He was in a weakened state. That's when Satan approached Him and tempted Him, but let me show you something interesting. He did not tempt him with sex. He did not tempt him with drugs. He did not tempt him with anything like this because first of all, the Lord Jesus Christ didn't have a sin nature. He was born sinless. He didn't have Adam's original sin imputed to Him because His mother was a virgin. There was no man involved in the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ so Adam's original sin did not pass on to Him. Now He could have chosen to sin and He could have chosen to sin in this particular passage, but He did not. The temptations that Satan threw at Him were not related to his lust patterns because he did not have lust patterns. He did not have a sin nature trend and it's important you remember this. He was tempted by the devil in the wilderness in another way, in a

way that all of us are tempted many times. Not with sins of the flesh but an appeal to His arrogance and His self-pity, that's what Satan appealed to. He appealed to His arrogance and His self-pity. Might I say that arrogance was the original sin of Satan in eternity past when he assumed that he could be like the Most High God and assume the throne of God. Self-pity, well that's a terrible thing to get into because this is when we begin to look at self and feel sorry for ourself. I pray you're not into this today. It's easy to get into it and this leads to the mental attitude sins of worry and fear and guilt, things like this. Our Lord knew firsthand the tests that these men were going to face, He knew this. He knew they had a sin nature. He knew they were sons of Adam, and He knew they needed prayer and He interceded for them. In John 17:15, *"Keep them from the evil one."* Now here's good news for you. He also intercedes for you right now. He is in heaven at the right hand of the Father and 1 John 2:1-2 says He's our defender before the throne of God when the accuser throws down his claims against you. Satan is able to point you out and say, "What a loser this Rick Hughes guy is. I can't believe you're using him, he's a real loser. Then the Lord Jesus Christ can stand up and say, "He might be a loser but he's Mine. He's believed in Me. He's received Me as a Savior." Thus I'm redeemed, not because I'm a good person, not because I don't sin, not because I don't drink or smoke or chew, but because I have trusted in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. I have a defender in Heaven. I have a defense attorney and you do also. You have the same thing. You will fail, you will make mistakes, Satan will accuse you, and the Lord Jesus Christ will defend you since you are His own. You put your faith in Him. The Lord knew firsthand what these men were going to face and He prayed that the Father would keep them from the evil one. What exactly is evil? That's the question. What exactly is this stuff he perpetrates on us, evil? What does this mean? Most people just think of evil in the terms of something that's bad. Bad stuff, that's evil and they generally equate it to sin. They say, "Well all sin is evil," and that's correct. Sin is evil but there's much more to it than this. **Evil is essentially the policy of Satan as he rules this world. It's called the cosmic system. It's a human system of good and this system insinuates that man can redeem himself by being good, by doing good deeds, that's evil.** The evil that Satan perpetrates in organized religion is exactly this, that if you do good deeds, if you tithe, if you join up, if you get baptized, if you don't drink, smoke, cuss, chew or runaround those that do, that you'll go to heaven because you've been a good person. Well this doesn't work. The Bible says, *"There are none that are good, no, not even one"* (Romans 3:10). The Bible says that, *"All of our very own righteousness are like a filthy rag"* (Isaiah 64:6). He doesn't think like we think and so we have a tendency to think that God will redeem us if we're good and that's not true. The only redemption that we have is the redemptive solution found through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Either we adjust to the justice of God by faith alone in Christ alone or the justice of God will adjust to us. That's the punishment that we face when we die without having received Jesus Christ as our Savior. That's not God's will. The Bible says, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). It's never God's will to condemn you to the Lake of Fire but you will condemn

yourself if you refuse to accept Christ as Savior, if you refuse to accept the redemptive solution that God provided for you. **Evil is a way of covering this redemptive solution up with the policy that you can save yourself. Evil is this human system of good that insinuates you can redeem yourself.** You can not redeem yourself. This type of thinking, this religious thinking, it's erroneous. It appeals to man's basic sense of arrogance, an unrealistic self-image and unrealistic expectations. All arrogance starts with self-justification. "Why would God condemn me? I haven't been a bad person. Look over there at that guy. That guy is really a bad person." You can see all of this in Luke 18:9-17 where the Pharisee was in the temple praying and he said, "Thank you God I'm not like that publican over there. I don't do this and I don't do that." The publican was saved and the problem was the Pharisee was not. The publican asked for grace and said, "*God be merciful to me a sinner,*" he knew what he was. Whereas the self-righteous, religious Pharisee thought he was God's man for the hour because he didn't do bad things, because he fasted, he prayed, he tithed and this type of thinking is erroneous. **Grace and Bible doctrine represent the genius of God. Grace is God's policy and always has been God's policy.** "*For by grace are you saved through faith, it's a gift of God, not of works*" (Ephesians 2:8). Doctrine or the Word of God, the Bible is "*Alive and powerful, sharper than a two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit and the joints and the marrow and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart*" (Hebrews 4:12). That's the Word of God. As we have the Word of God in a manuscript called the Bible and we have men who have the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher, their job is to explain what's in this book to us so that we can then apply it in our life and use it to glorify God to the maximum. We have the most unique life in the world. The Christian life is absolutely, totally unique and the instructions on how to use it are all found in the Scripture, in Bible doctrine. When a pastor doesn't teach doctrine, when he doesn't teach the Word of God, then nobody gets instruction. That's a sad thing because many pastors just get up and give salvation messages every Sunday and you can't learn from this. I mean, yes, you need to give the gospel but people that are saved don't need the gospel, they need doctrine. They need to grow. They need to understand the mechanics of the Word of God and the principles taught in the Word of God that will deliver them while they're here in the devil's world because you don't belong here, you're just passing through. Grace and doctrine represent the genius of God in relationship to you and me. The opposite is evil. **Evil represents the genius of Satan because by means of evil he tries to vindicate himself so that he won't have to go to the Lake of Fire.** If he can vindicate himself, if he can produce a "good world" (which he can't) then he feels like he can be vindicated and that God is unfair in sending him to the Lake of Fire. This is the problem that we have in our nation today. People think that if we become this or if we become that, that this political view or that political view will solve all the problems of man. Remember this, man has a sinful nature and whoever gets in control of this nation has a sin nature and nothing can solve the sin nature but regeneration, being born again. Once you believe in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven, cleansed. It was all judged on the cross paid for by Christ, but you are not forgiven until you accept this payment. Then you also have the ability

experientially to live your life dead to sin where the Bible says, *“Don't let sin reign in your mortal body any longer”* (Romans 6:12). The Bible tells you, you have a war between the flesh (sin nature) and the Holy Spirit, Galatians 5:17, they fight against each other. You have the opportunity to learn how to use God's magnificent problem-solving devices. You have the opportunity to deploy your very own FLOT line on your soul so that you can have a main line of resistance against the strategy of the devil. **You can have discernment against the strategy of the devil. He is a genius. He's smarter than us and he has this genius system of works and good and it all smells right, looks right, sounds right but it is not right because the most evil thing in this entire world is organized religion.** Remember, Christianity is not religion. **Christianity is a relationship with Jesus Christ living in you. Religion is you trying to approbate God by your good works and that's evil. Christianity is God being satisfied with the work of Christ on the cross.** That's why the Bible says, *“He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him”* (2 Corinthians 5:21). Just as grace and doctrine represent the genius of God, then evil represents the genius of Satan. Evil is the human good panacea and it attempts to solve the problems of life apart from the Word of God, apart from establishment concepts. Do you know what the divine establishments are? It starts with freedom, then marriage, family and nationalism, not internationalism. God destroyed the concept of internationalism at the Tower of Babel when people all tried to come together and speak one language. It didn't work, that's not God's plan. Internationalism is never God's plan. God designed you to be free, He gave you volition. He wants you to have a choice. God designed marriage and God designed family. These are all part of the way that we train and raise our children. We give them a conscience that protects them through their life by giving them good norms and standards. This is the plan of God for you. **These human good panaceas that attempt to solve the problems of man apart from the Word of God and divine establishment concepts are all evil.** Many people are so dumb they don't realize they're being manipulated by an oligarch, an oligarch who has a lot of money, who pays people to demonstrate and to get violent and to disrupt and it's all so they can manipulate people to get someone in power that they can exploit. Oh by the way, once the oligarch gets through with manipulating you, he will dispose of you, he doesn't need you anymore. That is not the way God the Father works. God the Father works in a different way completely. He doesn't manipulate people. He gives you the freedom to choose. When we're talking about evil, it comes in a lot of different forms. It can come in the form of socialism. It can come in the form of political internationalism. It can come in the form of legalism, religion, even humanitarianism, all designed to make man better, to prove that man is basically good. **Man is not basically good. The world's problems can never be solved apart from the Word of God and the laws of divine establishment,** remember this. How does evil conquer? **Evil conquers by dividing, thus our Lord prayed that the disciples would not be divided.** He prayed there would not be any infighting for recognition like they had done earlier in Matthew 10:35-45. They competed with each other for who was going to be the best in the Kingdom. **This is how evil conquers, so don't get sucked into**

human good, trying to change the devil's world, that's not your job. Your job is to represent Jesus Christ to the lost man and to stand firm on the Word of God, learning and applying all that is recorded in the Bible. Satan has devised a system whereby people can be nice, people can be lovely, they can look good to society, and yet behind the façade of good, there lurks an evil, destructive person who's often self-deceived himself. Arrogance is the system that Satan works by. It's designed to distract you and to get you involved in entertainment, improving the devil's world, the welfare state, yada, yada, yada. "It's all going to be better. Vote for me and ignore the Bible. You don't need God. You need this, you need that." It makes me sick what I see on the internet today and what's going on in society. **Evil is not necessarily a sin you have to confess, it's more a system of living that is exactly the opposite of God's grace system.** All evil is not sin. Sometimes evil can be human good. It's good and that's not necessarily a sin because you believe that if you're nice to everybody, that this is what God wants you to do. That God wants you to change the world by being nice and giving everybody a chicken so they can have something to eat. The difference between evil and honor is interesting, Hebrews 5:13-15, the Bible is clear. Grow up, learn to recognize the difference between evil and good because most people can't see the difference, don't recognize the difference. That's where the FLOT line is critical for you. **If you learn God's Word, if you establish a FLOT line in your soul, you will in fact be able to have the discernment to recognize the difference between good and evil.** This is Rick Hughes. I want to thank you for listening to The FLOT Line. I pray it's been an inspiration and a challenge to you. See you next week, same time, same place.

Physical Life vs Spiritual Life

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 681 aired on September 23, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. FLOT stands for the forward line of troops. What we're using is a military analogy to describe how you can live your life and stop the outside source of adversity before it ever becomes the inside source of stress. They are unique problem-solving devices found in the Word of God, in the Bible, that's right, the canon of Scripture. They can help you in your life if you orient and adjust to them. You always have the freedom and the privacy to do whatever you want to do. My job is to be accurate, to get you the information, to find you whoever you may be out there listening and spark some interest in you to where you would begin to grow spiritually, where you would have an interest in understanding what God's plan is for your life. The FLOT Line is designed to remind you of ancient Biblical truths. I didn't discover anything new. These are things that my pastor taught me a long time ago. They are phenomenal problem-solving devices. The first problem we have is we are born spiritually dead. We're going to talk about this today, spiritual birth and physical birth. We're going to deal with these two aspects of living. If you'll stick with me for just a few minutes I'll try to explain these things to you and hopefully they'll click and make sense and spark an interest in you to where you may want to learn more. Let's get this one down to start with and we'll kick it off from here. All humans are born into the *cosmos diabolicus*. That's a big fancy word for Satan's world, Satan's system, the cosmic system. We know he's the god of this world. We know that he runs the show here and we know that his time is limited. **When we're born, we are born into the devil's world.** I don't know when your birthday was, mine is in August, and I don't really know who my father is, I never met my father. My mother raised me in a single-parent home in a federal housing project in the city of Birmingham, Alabama. I was sent out to various guardians and eventually found some stability in playing football. I played football in high school, received some awards, got a scholarship to go to college and play and the rest is history. After leaving college and going down the My Way Highway, it was three years later that I found out the wonderful news that God loves me and Christ would forgive me of my sin and save me. I did not know He had been judged for me on the cross, I didn't understand this. I didn't know He had paid the penalty for my sin. Someone told me, "*For by grace are you saved through faith and not of yourselves, it's a gift from God not of works lest any man should brag about it*" (Ephesians 2:8). I wanted this gift. I wanted this peace that it offered and I received Christ as my Savior. From there I had to grow. Let's take a look at it. **In this world everything decays or dies, whether it's a man, an animal, a plant, etc.** I mean, like me, you may be three-quarters dead already. You might be approaching the door to go across to the other side. That's going to happen to all of us. It happens to everything living in this world. Everything in this world decays and dies and let's get this one straight. How did you get here? **Well, when you were born God breathed into your soul, soul life along with biological life.** Your mom and dad copulated and at birth God put a soul in you and and now you have human life. Listen to

Psalm 139:14. *"I will praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful and I know that full well."* Here's a great thing. I don't care if you're skinny or fat, short or tall, redheaded, black, white, yellow, green, it doesn't make any difference, God made you wonderfully. Don't ever complain about how you look unless you don't take care of yourself. God made you. He made you wonderfully with the unique assets that you have. As a matter of fact our human bodies are the most complex and unique organisms in this present world. Think about it, your brain is like an amazing computer. I don't know, my brain may not be. When I work on my computer sometimes, it seems to think faster than I can but I have recall and I can remember things and I have pictures in my mind. I can process information, I can make decisions, so my brain is like a computer. Our heart, if you still have one, is like a power system that pumps energy to the body. Your limbs, arms, legs, whatever, uniquely designed by God for special privilege. As a matter fact your DNA is very unique. It cannot be copied by any other person on this earth. We are truly unique individuals. **Physically God made us unique. However, because of one man's sin we've got a problem. Our problem begins with Adam's original sin that was imputed to us at birth. The minute you came out of your mother's womb and everybody said, "My, what a beautiful baby," and in fact you might have been, but you were born spiritually dead, physically alive, yes, but spiritually dead.** Romans 5:12, *"Therefore, just as through one man [through Adam] sin entered into the world, and death through sin [that's spiritual death] and then death spread to the entire human race because all have sinned."* We're born physically alive but spiritually dead. Sometimes people ask me, "What happens to a baby that dies?" A baby goes straight to heaven. They don't have any volition. They don't have the ability to choose. They don't have a frame of reference yet so obviously they are going straight to heaven. Once a child grows up and hits what we often call the age of consciousness or the age of accountability, he is responsible to make a decision for God. I don't know what this age is, no one knows what this age is, it may be different in different people. We have a dilemma. We're here in the devil's world and we're rocking along and we're buying into this human viewpoint that he spews out, such as people or circumstances can make you happy or you can gain God's favor if you're good, treat other people nice, and don't do bad things. Unfortunately this is not the way it works. **This body will deteriorate and this body that we inhabit will ultimately crash because the Bible tells us in Hebrews 9:27, "It's appointed unto man once to die but after that the judgment."** As we approach the day of our demise, the question remains, what's on the other side? Well, I can tell you this, that unless you're born twice, you will in fact die twice. Did you get me? Born twice or die twice. How is this possible? What am I talking about? Listen to the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, when He was quizzed by a religious leader during His time on this earth. In John 3:1-16, I'll simply read it to you and you'll understand what I mean about being born twice. *"There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews [this is no dummy, this is a pretty smart individual]. And the same man came to Jesus by night [he didn't want to be seen talking to Jesus, but he had some curiosity] and he said unto Him, 'Rabbi, we know You are a teacher come from*

God because no man can do the miracles You do unless God be with him.' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" Well I've already been born once. How can I be born again? Nicodemus was confused. In verse John 3:4 *"He said, 'How can a man be born when he's old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born?'* And Jesus answered, *'Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born of water [that's physical birth] and of the Spirit [that's spiritual birth] he cannot enter into the kingdom of God because that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto you, you must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes and you hear it, but you don't know where it's coming from and you don't know where it's going. So is everyone that is born of the Spirit.'* Nicodemus answered and said unto Him, *'How can these things be?'*" I mean he was a religious leader. He was a religious ruler, a man of great prominence and power and he didn't understand this. Listen to what Jesus said to him in John 3:10, *"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Are you a master of Israel and you don't know these things?'"* No, he did not know these things and it's very possible that many pastors today who have great influence and great power don't know these things either because organized religion often fails to recognize that Christianity is in fact a relationship with God through Christ Jesus not a religion. The question then becomes how does it work? How do I get born again? In John 3:12 the Lord Jesus went on and said, *"I've told you earthly things and you did not believe Me. How would you believe Me if I tell you about heavenly things? No man has ascended up to heaven but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of Man. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up [that's the cross] so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* Wait, whoever believes in Him and quits chewing gum, whoever believes in Him and quits drinking sodas, whoever believes in Him and loses weight, whoever? No, none of this. *"Whoever believes in Him,"* and see this is the verb *pisteuo* from the word faith, *pistis* in the Greek New Testament. That's your faith, you are believing. *"For God so loved the world [John 3:16, the verse you well know] that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him [there it is again] should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son [this is Jesus speaking] into the world to condemn the world [Christ didn't come to send you to hell] but the world through Him might be saved [that's why Christ came, to deliver you from hell]. And he that believeth on Him [there it is again] is not condemned but he that believeth not [that's the opposite side of the coin] is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God"* (John 3:17-18). What do you have to do to be born again? According to these verses, *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved"* (Acts 16:31). *"He that believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God"* (1 John 5:1). Paul told the Roman jailer, *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."* You can demonstrate your faith to God by simply praying and saying, "Heavenly Father, I believe that Jesus Christ is Your anointed Son and I want to receive Him as my Savior." That's a simple act of faith. That's a simple prayer of faith but it will bring shouts and applause throughout heaven when you do this. Have you ever done this? Have

you ever by faith simply told God, “I’m a sinner and I know I’m a sinner and I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son and I’m willing to receive Him as my Savior”? I hope you have. It’s the most serious, critical decision you could ever make in your life. Here’s a principle. Your first birth is a physical birth and it’s non-volitional. You didn’t have anything to do with it. You just showed up. **Your second birth is spiritual and it’s completely volitional.** What does the second birth entail? Well here it is, listen carefully. When you’re born, you should have a body and a soul and a spirit but once Adam’s original sin is imputed to you at birth, you are born spiritually dead. You still have a body. You still have a soul with mentality, with volition, with a conscience, with self-consciousness, but you’re spiritually dead. **When you go to the cross and receive Christ as your Savior by faith alone, then you are not changed in your body, you’ve still got the same body, and your soul doesn’t change, but now God the Holy Spirit comes to indwell your dead human spirit and you are made spiritually alive. Now you can have a relationship with God.** The first death is physical, non-volitional. The second death, see you don’t control when you die unless you commit suicide. Unfortunately some people do this. Do they lose their salvation? No, the Bible doesn’t say you die and go to hell if you kill yourself. People mentally unstable may do this, and if they are believers they will go to heaven, but this is never, ever God’s will for anyone to take their own life. **The first death is physical, non-volitional. The second death is eternal and it’s completely your choice.** Does the Bible talk about a second death? You better believe it does. Listen to Revelation 20:11-12. *“And I saw a great white throne and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heavens fled away and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God and the books [notice it’s plural here] were opened. And then another book [that’s a singular word, books and book] was opened which is in fact the Book of Life. And the dead were judged out of those things which are written in the books.”* These books record all the good deeds you did, all the nice things you did. You helped the little old lady across the street. You tithed at church. You didn’t cheat on your income tax. You didn’t cheat on your spouse. You didn’t chew tobacco. You didn’t smoke cigarettes. You were a good person. According to their works, they were judged. Unfortunately, *“There are none that are good, no, not even one”* (Romans 3:10). *“All of our righteousnesses is like a filthy rag in God’s eyes”* (Isaiah 64:6). If you think for one minute that your righteousness can equal the holiness of God, you are sadly mistaken. Just being in His presence you would melt. People are not even allowed to see Him or they would die in His glory. Do you think you can impress Him because of certain things that you do? Here they are, they’re now at the Great White Throne of Judgment. You’re not going to be here. This is not your judgment. If you’re a Christian, if you believed in Jesus Christ and received Him as your Savior, this is not your judgment. This is for the unbeliever. They were judged according to their works, minus good doesn’t equal the righteousness of God. Listen to Revelation 20:13-15. *“The sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell [here comes people out of hell, people that have died and gone to hell and now here they are at the Great White Throne of Judgment] delivered up the dead that were in them and they were judged every man according to their works. And then death*

and hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death. Whoever was not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire." How does your name get written in the Lamb's Book of Life? When you're born your name is recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life. When you die without receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior, your name is blotted out and you've died the first death. Believers are not said to be dead. They're said to be asleep in Christ. **If you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and you pass away, your body may go to the grave but your soul and spirit will go to the presence of God and await a resurrection body. The unbeliever goes to hell and his body goes to the grave. His soul goes to hell and he awaits the final judgment called the Great White Throne of Judgment.** Here at the Great White Throne of Judgment he's then thrown into the Lake of Fire and it's called the second death. *"Whoever was not found written in the Book of Life was thrown into the Lake of Fire."* Let's assume you've been born once by means of physical copulation and the second time by means of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ so you've had two births. This is great. What's next? Well, when you were born into this world you came in as a little baby. I've got some grandchildren, little babies, another one on the way and little babies are cute. You came in as a little baby and you wanted a bottle and you wanted food, and you had to grow up. Well 1 Peter 2:2 says, *"As newborn babies desire the sincere milk of the Word of God so that you may grow thereby."* **The Word of God is the nutrient you need in your soul so you can grow spiritually.** See, the apostle Peter recognized that just as a physical baby must grow, so all so new babies in Christ must grow. Paul essentially said the same thing in Ephesians 4:15. *"But speaking the truth in love, you may grow up into Him in all things which is the head, even Christ."* When you were born spiritually, you're born spiritually a spiritual baby and then you want to become a spiritual adolescent and you want to become eventually a spiritually mature individual. The psalmist recognized it in Psalm 92:12. *"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon."* **It is God's desire for you to grow up. There's the question we have to answer it. How do we grow spiritually?** We know how we grow physically. We eat, we metabolize, we process, but how do you grow spiritually? The answer is you live your spiritual life in your soul before it's ever demonstrated in your physical actions. In other words, the soul has the ability to think, to maintain, regard decisions. **To grow physically or to grow spiritually, either way the mentality must be trained.** If you have a physical baby and you want to feed this baby and you want him to grow physically, you also want him to grow mentally. You want him to be able to think, process, logic, reason, and understand, the same thing spiritually. **You must learn to think, process, logic, and understand in your spiritual life.** The soul has mentality, Proverbs 22:6, *"If you will train up a child in the way he should go, even when he's old he won't leave it."* In Deuteronomy 6:7, *"You shall teach God's laws to your sons and you shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up."* Talk to them, teach them, share the Word of God with your children. In Psalm 34:11, *"Come you children listen to me and I will teach you the fear of the Lord."* In Psalm 92:12, *"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and he shall grow like a cedar in*

Lebanon.” Paul instructs us in the New Testament to grow up and the only way you can do this is to train your mind to reject the thought process of the *cosmos diabolicus*, the devil's world, to reject the cosmic system way of thinking. **You must retool your thinking with the mind of Christ.** That's why Romans 12:3 says, *“Stop thinking 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.”* As a newborn babe in Christ you learn God's Word and you learn to rethink things. You don't think in terms of human dynamics and human energy. You think in terms of spiritual dynamics, using the mind of Christ. The Bible clearly says in Philippians 2:5, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”* We are told to have the mentality assets that Christ had. Is this possible? Well sure it is. How do we do this? It's in the Bible. Everything He did is in the Bible. All He taught is in the Bible and so as you learn what's in the New Testament, you learn how Jesus Christ our Lord lived. You learn how He thought. You learn how He acted and reacted to situations in His life. You learn what He taught the disciples in John 17:13, *“I'm teaching you these things so My joy might be full in you.”* **You learn these things and when we get the mind of Christ, when we stop thinking in terms of human viewpoint arrogance, then we begin to process God's Word in our soul and grow.** The only way you can ever grow is to sit under a well-qualified pastor. It's a spiritual gift, a man that can teach it to you. I'm glad you read the Bible, but it's not a novel. The Bible is a textbook. It's designed to be taught to you. As the pastor studies and teaches you, as you process the information and apply it into your life, then you do what we call **LAG, learn it, apply it, and glorify God.** Invariably some believers get distracted with the details of life and they never make spiritual growth a priority. Hebrews 5:11-13 says, *“We have many things to say. It's hard to be uttered since you are dull of hearing. For when for the time you ought to be a teacher you have need now that someone come back and teach you all over again the very first principles of the Word of God. You are like a baby that needs milk and you cannot chew strong meat. Everyone that uses milk is unskillful in the Word of God, he is still baby.”* God wants you to get past the milk stage. He wants you to get to the steak stage. He wants you to grow up spiritually. Hebrews 5:14, *“Strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern the difference between good and evil.”* This is critical for you and critical for me. Where do you stand? Is spiritual growth a priority in your life? **The advantage of thinking like Jesus Christ includes having a relaxed mental attitude, having virtue love, sharing the happiness of God, living by grace, living by divine viewpoint. It's a whole new way to live, a unique way to live in the devil's world, and it depends on spiritual growth in your life.** Yes, you've been born physically. Yes, you are alive, you're listening to me. Have you been born spiritually? Do you know God's plan for your life? It starts the moment you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. My prayer is you have listened today, you've comprehend it. As best I can I've tried to break it down for you to understand. I hope it has made sense. I hope you will apply it into your life. Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Why You Need a FLOT Line

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 682 aired on September 30, 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 just 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, but no manipulation, no solicitation, just simply accurate information. My job is to educate and your job is to evaluate what I say and if it's accurate and if it can apply to your life, then you can orient and adjust, but that's why I'm here. This is a show teaching the Bible. We call it The FLOT Line because we're talking about a military metaphor here. FLOT stands for the forward line of troops. What we're presenting is how you can establish a main line of resistance in your soul, like a forward line of troops, based on 10 unique problem-solving devices found in the Bible. **The 10 problem-solving devices, once you learn them and use them, become your personal FLOT line and it stops the outside sources of adversity before they become the inside source of stress. Having a personal FLOT line gives you wisdom, knowledge, discernment, and understanding, the Fantastic Four taught in Proverbs 2:10-11.** What a wonderful thing to have in this world. Why do you need to have a FLOT line in your soul? If you are in fact a believer in Jesus Christ, meaning you have accepted Christ through faith alone, not by being baptized thinking this gets you saved, not by church membership thinking this gets you saved. What brings a person to salvation is faith alone in Christ alone. That's why the Bible says clearly 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 so that being justified by His grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* It is a grace gift. Ephesians 2:8-9 says this, *"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,"* brag. What our Lord Jesus Christ did on the cross 100% satisfied the justice of God. There is nothing you could do that would ever impress God because the Bible says, *"There are none that are righteous, no, not even one. All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag in God's eyes."* Let's start with this. **Why do you need a FLOT Line? If you are a believer in Jesus Christ and have accepted Him as your Savior, the Bible gives a solemn warning in 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober and alert. Your enemy the devil, like a roaring lion is on the prowl, looking for someone to devour."** That's written by the apostle Peter. It's a pretty challenging verse so let's break it down. This Bible that we love and study and hold so dear to our heart came from the original languages, from the Koine Greek of the New Testament and from the Hebrew and the Aramaic of the Old Testament. You break a verse down to know what the words mean and when this word says, *"Be sober,"* this doesn't mean stay away from booze. The word for sober is *nepho*, N.E.P.H.O. It's a long E pronounced A.Y. So the Greek word *nepho* is the word sober. It means to remain calm. It means to pay attention to detail. It means do not take risk, it can mean several things. It means do not allow yourself to be influenced by strong emotion. Maintain the ability to be rational and impartial. Be

sober, remain calm, pay attention, be rational, impartial. This verb *nepho* is an aorist active imperative and what's important about this in the morphology of this verb is there is no certain time referred to since it's an indefinite or a constative aorist which means every day, every minute. The aorist tense means every day, every minute you are to remain sober if you are a believer in Jesus Christ. This takes some effort on your part. This means you must concentrate. This means that you've got to pay attention every day, moment by moment and an active voice means a believer produces the action of the verb which is you and me. It's not someone else doing it for us. It's us doing it for ourselves. The imperative mood is the royal mandate from the apostle Peter. The imperative mood is a command from an apostle, this is from God. **When you do not remain sober and alert you are sinning.** To disobey a royal command is a sin and this is a mental attitude sin. It's slacking off, it's being lazy, it's not paying attention, it's you getting sucked into the cosmic system and we'll talk about this. **That's why we have to be sober and be vigilant, because we have an enemy called a.k.a. the devil and he has a scheme, a plan for us.** What does he want to do? Since you are already saved, he can't take you to hell. What can he do? He wants to impugn the name of God by using your weaknesses and your failures to throw it up to God's face and say, "See, you're sending me to hell, but what about this loser over here? Look at what he or she did, why don't they go to hell?" Satan doesn't want to go to the Lake of Fire. He doesn't want to be sentenced there forever and so he's constantly trying to vindicate himself. He will use you to do it, your failures, your faults, your flaws to vindicate himself if you are not sharp to pay attention. Be sober, be careful, pay attention, and then the next word is, "*Be vigilant.*" The Greek word for vigilant is *gregoreo*, G.R.E.G.O.R.E.O. This word means to stand guard, to pay attention, to take heed, to be cautious, be vigilant and it's another aorist active imperative. Notice what comes up in the next verse. We are mandated by two aorist active imperative verbs: one, be sober which means maintain your ability to be rational, impartial and two, be diligent which means you need to pay attention, take heed, be cautious. How do we do this? It says in verse 9, "*Resist, steadfast in the faith.*" Resist means to oppose or withstand. You know what an antihistamine is, this verb is where the word antihistamine comes from, its *anthistemi*, A.N.T.H.I.S.T.E.M.I. It means to withstand or stand against. **How do we withstand or stand against Satan? By being sober, by being vigilant and using faith. "In the faith," is a prepositional phrase, and means using the faith-rest drill.** The word faith is a noun and so we're talking about *pistis*, the faith-rest drill. How do we do this? How do I use the faith-rest drill to stand strong against the enemy that is trying to devour me? Ephesians 6:11-18 tells you how to do it. Again we go back to another military analogy, Paul the apostle is using a military analogy just like I use for The FLOT Line show meaning the military mainline of resistance. Here Paul compares the believer to a Roman soldier and he tells the believers in Ephesus that they should, "*Put on the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood.*" The fight that you and I fight is not against other people, it's against satanic forces. He goes on to say, "*But our fight is against the rulers and the powers, against the world forces of this darkness,*

against spiritual forces of the wicked in heavenly places.” These are four demon ranks, demon rulers, demon powers, *forces of darkness, and spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places.* Just like God has an army, Satan has an army too and his demons have rank and this is their rank listed here. *“Take up the full armor of God so that [purpose clause] you will be able to resist in the evil day.”* What exactly is this? That's the day that you're attacked, the day you're lured, the day you're deceived. If you're paying attention, if you're sober, if you're vigilant, if you're standing firm in the faith, you won't be a sucker and fall for this. *“Resist in the evil day having done everything so you can keep standing firm,”* so you're not knocked off your feet, so you're not stranded. All right, here's how you do it. *“Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth.”* This is the word which means Bible doctrine. You're to *“Put the belt of truth around your waist.”* Everything that the Roman soldier wore was connected to the belt. **The belt of truth for you is the Word of God in your soul. Everything is connected to the Word of God in your soul. To the extent you have the Word of God in your soul, you have your armament.** *“Stand firm having your loins girded with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness,”* that's +R, God's righteousness. You cannot manufacture your own righteousness, you have -R, you don't have any righteousness. Where did I get this? The Bible says in Romans 3:10, *“There are none that are righteous, no not even one.”* The Bible goes on to say, *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him.”* How do you get perfect righteousness? You believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and His righteousness is imputed to you just like your sin was imputed to Him on the cross. Prior to that, you have no righteousness. So having put on the breastplate of righteousness, you're saved, you're in the Word. *“Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace,”* means you understand the good news, the gospel. That's your job, you are to represent Jesus Christ to this world. In addition to all of this, *“Taking up the shield of faith.”* The shield of faith is the faith-rest drill, problem-solving device number three. Do you know this? If not, contact me immediately. I'll send you a book called, *The Faith-Rest Life*. One of my wonderful friends, a great pastor wrote that book. I'll send it to you free. You must understand how to use faith. We've got a book called *Bible Promises and Principles* that you can tap into that will support your faith because all faith is grounded in the Word of God, the promises of God. If you don't know God's promises, you don't have any faith. As you learn the Word of God, as you take in the Word of God, it says you have your feet shod with the gospel of peace. In addition to all of this, *“Take up the shield of faith,”* and notice now, *“With which you will be able to extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one.”* **Your faith will allow you to keep standing in spite of the attack the enemy throws at you. We are in a spiritual war.** You might not think about it but when you got up today, you are to put on your combat gear. You are in the arena of contention. It's not just soldiers in Afghanistan. It's not just soldiers in Iraq. It's Christian soldiers. Do you remember singing the song, *Onward Christian Soldier?* You are that soldier. You are in a spiritual war and Paul the apostle tells you in Ephesians 6:11-18 what your armament is, how you can protect yourself. **If you will fulfill the mandate, if you will be sober, if you will be vigilant and put on the full**

armor of God, then you can keep standing against the strategy of the devil. Again, you're not wrestling against flesh and blood, you're wrestling against satanic forces. Because of this "Put on every piece of that armor so you will be able to resist him in the day he attacks you, and you can keep standing firm. Put around your loins the belt of truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness, put on your gospel shoes. In addition, take up the shield of faith and then the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit." The *machaira*, the sword of the Spirit, the sharp two-edged sword that the Roman army used to conquer the world. "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God." That's what this show is all about, the Word of God. You can take it or you can leave it. I hope you'll take it. I do my best to present it to you accurately without gimmicks. Why can I say you're a soldier? You don't feel like a soldier do you? You don't feel like you're in the combat arena. 2 Timothy 2:3-4, listen to what Paul wrote to Timothy, "Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus." No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. Yes, you are a soldier. When you get out of fellowship with God, when you have unconfessed sin in your life, you go back into the civilian lifestyle and you get entangled with the civilian pursuits such as the pursuit of happiness that the world can't offer you. I will like to quote now from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* by Walvoord and Zuck. They say, quoting them, "A Roman soldier's single-minded purpose was rigorous discipline and unquestionable obedience to his commanding officer and those things combined to make the figure of a soldier an apt one for the servant of the gospel of Jesus Christ." We must have rigorous discipline, single-minded purpose. "**For me to live is Christ," Paul said in Philippians 1:21.** Anything else is second place. Rigorous discipline, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," 2 Timothy 2:5. Unquestionable obedience, Romans 6:12, "Do not let sin reign in your mortal body any longer." These are all things that God tells us. **This is what makes us servants of the gospel when we have single-minded purpose, rigorous discipline and unquestionable obedience to the commanding officer Jesus Christ our Lord, our Savior.** You know, we're called many things in the Bible. We're called soldiers of Christ. We're called the bride of Christ. We're called the temple of the Holy Spirit. We're called disciples. We're called sheep. We're called slaves. Let's get a couple principles. **Our objective is the battle for the souls of lost individuals.** Do you know anyone in your family that's lost, who is not going to heaven, who does not believe in the gospel, the good news, who refuses to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior? Your objective is to win that person to Christ. Not to be a nuisance, not to pester them, but first and foremost to pray for them consistently and kindly support them and encourage them as they struggle through life hitting one dead end after another dead end. I mean sometimes it comes to the deathbed before a person finally comes to realize, "I'm lost and I'm going to hell." Finally on the deathbed many a person has believed in Christ and prayed to God to be saved. **Our subjective battle is not to be distracted by the cosmic system and you must be careful about this.** We cannot get distracted by the cosmic system. The Lord Jesus refers to the cosmic system as the word "the world." In John 17:14 He said this as He prayed to

the Father, *“The world hates them since they are not of the world.”* I’ve got news for you. **The world hates you if you're not of the world.** The word for world is *kosmos* and the *kosmos diabolicos* is the devil's world. **You live in the devil's world. The world we live in is a battlefield for the angelic conflict as the book of Ephesians tells you, “Put on the armor so you can stand against the strategy of the devil.”** Here are more principles. 1. All believers are engaged in the arena of contention, every one of us. 2. Some are battle ready and some are not prepared, not combat ready, haven’t completed their training yet. 3. Some are A.W.O.L. or backsliders in reversionism, they walked away from the claims of Christ. 4. These sorts of people are traitors and they are called the enemies of Jesus Christ. **Philippians 3:18 talks about believers that walked away from their purpose in life. Paul said, “For many walk of whom I’ve often told you and now I’m telling you even weeping, they have become the enemies of the cross of Christ.”** It’s a terrible, terrible, terrible thing to see a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who gets saved, who has some sort of desire to grow for a while, and then the cosmic system lures him out with promises of success and fame and prosperity and happiness and he abandons the plan of God and walks away from it and becomes an enemy of the cross. This cosmic system I’m speaking about called the world is the source of evil. All evil comes from the cosmic system. The cosmic system or the world is the source of Satan’s strategy as ruler. This is a giant mirage he offers to so many people. “This will make you happy. That will make you happy. Do this, do that.” You know, “Happiness depends on people. Happiness depends on circumstances. Happiness, happiness, happiness.” The world cannot provide it. **Christ said, “Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it,” Luke 11:27-28. But Satan as the ruler of this world will exploit this by means of our own arrogance.** By the way, that’s the very sin that caused his condemnation. Your arrogance revolves around your self-justification, your self-deception, your self-absorption, and eventually your self-destruction. Satan is good at providing a mirage for you to chase, and you will justify why it's okay to walk away from God's plan, to lay your Bible down, to quit going to church, to quit listening to the teaching of the Word of God, to get married, have kids, go fish, have fun, anything but growing in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You say, “I’m a good daddy,” well great. “I’m a good husband,” well great. **You are in a war and you are a casualty because you walked away from the Word of God.** Satan will exploit us by means of our own arrogance and we fall victim to his plan. **Satan also promotes antagonism and intolerance of anything related to God, especially God's grace.** We see this today. Anything related to the grace of God, anything about Jesus Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ, the plan of God in the public arena is hated vehemently. They hate it. Even an unbeliever, a person who is not a Christian, can fall victim to the cosmic system because of demon influence. You want to know where the worst demon influence in the world is found? It's in organized religion. Satan has his own preachers the Bible says. It says he has his own communion table. There are many, many people who think they're going to heaven because they’re members of organized religion. The Lord Jesus Christ said, *“In that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, did I not baptize in Thy name and in Thy name did I*

not do many wonderful things?’ And He said I’ll tell them, ‘I never, ever knew you,’” Matthew 7:22-23. Unbelievers fall victim to the cosmic system. **If we reject the legitimate authority found in the laws of divine establishment then we also can get sucked into the cosmic system. The laws of establishment include freedom, marriage, family, and nationalism, four things that are critical for the free function of any nation. The Bible warns us in 1 John 2:15-16, “Stop loving the world [the kosmos] or anything related to it because if anyone keeps loving the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Because all that’s in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the arrogant pattern of life [arrogant, there it is] it’s not from the Father but it’s from the world.”** The principle is the world will offer you something that it cannot fulfill. You know the wonderful thing is **God’s laws of establishment offer insulation from the influence of the cosmic system.** Listen to Ephesians 2:1-5, *“And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sin, wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world [cosmic system], according to the prince of the power of the air [that’s the devil], the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience, among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath [see, this is all changed now]. He will show the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness towards us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are you saved through faith.”* How about that? It’s a wonderful promise. You don’t have to live under the influence of the cosmic system. **You don’t have to live under the influence of the devil’s world. You have a choice.** You will bend on your knee to one or the other, it’s up to you. I hope you’re listening. I hope you’re evaluating. As I educate, you evaluate, and I hope you will apply the information that I’ve been giving you. Until next week I’m your host Rick Hughes and I would like to say thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Political Bitterness

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 683 aired on October 7, 2018

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. My job is to educate and your job is to evaluate. We're not here to manipulate anybody or to try to convince anybody that you're wrong and I'm right. We're just here to give you some information. Occasionally, it's always interesting to run into people who want to convince you how wrong you are even though you don't ask them. There are always a few people floating around out there that want to square you away and you have to be careful with those sorts of people. We're not that sort of person, we're not trying to square you away. We're just trying to offer you some information and if you don't agree with the information, listen to something else. I appreciate it if I'm able to give you some Scripture from the Word of God that will encourage you, help you, direct you in your life. Today we want to talk about something that I think is key for our times. It's called political bitterness. Last time we talked about the necessity of having a FLOT line in your soul. We showed you that from the Bible in 1 Peter 5:8, *"Be sober and alert. Your enemy the devil goes around like a roaring lion prowling about looking for someone to devour."* We showed you the reasons why you should have a FLOT line in your soul, a forward line of troops, F.L.O.T., a mainline of resistance so you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. That's why we always say adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. **Having a FLOT line in your soul keeps you from political bitterness, from becoming bitter and antagonistic toward those who appear to be demanding a different way of life.** A politician who doesn't think like you, nor act like you, who appears to be totally contrary to anything God's Word says about civility or establishment concepts. It's very easy to get aggravated with these people. It's very easy to get angry with these people especially when you see how unrealistic some of their demands are. You don't know their intentions or their desires, but it's pretty obvious they want to take this country in a different direction than where maybe you want it to go. Let me give you some principles to consider and some verses that we want to try to think about and live by in these days of contention in politics. **The first principle, number one, is no believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is charged by God to change the politics of any country.** It's not our job to convince people to be Republicans or to be libertarians or to be Democrats, it's not our job. **Our job is to represent Jesus Christ as citizens of a foreign country and not to try to change the political system.** We don't belong here, we're just sojourners the Bible says, we're just passing through. Yes, I'm an American and yes, you are an American and we have a citizenship in this country, but we actually have a dual citizenship. We have an earthly citizenship which is here and we have a heavenly citizenship. The word heaven, *ouranos*, and that's in heaven, that's with God. As a royal ambassador of Jesus Christ, we are not citizens of this country, we have a heavenly citizenship. But we serve in the devil's world. We have been left here. We are still here, we're not in heaven and so there's a reason why we're here. There's something that our Master wants us to do. As ambassadors we represent Jesus Christ just like any ambassador would represent the

President to a foreign government. Paul wrote in Philippians 3:20-21, *“Our citizenship is in heaven and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. Who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they may be like His glorious body.”* That's a reference to the Exit Resurrection, you may know it as the Rapture of the Church. *“When the Lord Jesus Christ shall appear in the air [1 Thessalonians 4] and we which are alive and remain together shall be caught up with them in the air and so shall we be with the Lord.”* I know there are people who say, “Well, the Rapture, there is no such thing as a Rapture, that’s all baloney.” Don't write me and try to straighten me out. This is what I believe, this is what I teach. If you want to teach something else, get your own radio show, how’s that? You say, “Man, you sure are being hostile today.” No, I’m being practical today. It’s interesting how people always want to point their view out and try to straighten you out. This is what I believe the Bible teaches, that there is a Rapture. The Rapture of the Church will happen. Who knows when? It could be today, it could be tomorrow but one day you’re going to be walking down the street and you're going to disappear. *“You’re going to be caught up together with the Lord in the air and so shall you evermore be with the Lord.”* This is the blessed hope that we encourage one another with because we live in times when it looks like we are in deep trouble, and we are as a nation. And remember our citizenship is not here. We’re not to be discouraged because we eagerly await a Savior from there. “Where’s there, what does that mean?” From the presence of God. You know there are three heavens. There's the heaven around this world, the skies. There's the heaven of the universe and then there's a heaven of the presence of God. When the Lord Jesus Christ returns, He will come through the universe back to this earth, and He will proclaim us as His children. He will take us back to be with God. *“Who by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control”* [Jesus Christ controls history] Philippians 3:21. *“Through Him and by Him and for Him were all things made”* Colossians 1:16. Jesus Christ is the Creator and He will transform our lowly bodies so they will be like His glorious body. You're going to get a resurrection body eventually. It's an amazing body, I don't know what it’s going to look like but I know this. There is *“no more sickness, no more pain and no more sorrow, the old things are passed away”* Revelation 21:4. This body that we live in now won't work in heaven because it has a sin infused human nature. Because the Bible says, *“For by one man sin entered in the world, and death by sin, and death is passed on all.”* This is why we have to die. We are sinners, we have received the imputation of Adam’s original sin. And when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and are born again, then our human spirit is made spiritually alive and when we die, our soul and spirit go to heaven, and the body goes to the grave. That's it, you don't need this body anymore. You're going to get a new body, a resurrection body and that will be phenomenal when this happens. Let’s review: **1. No believer’s charged by God to change the politics of the country. 2. Our job is to represent Jesus Christ as citizens of a foreign country, not to change the political system. 3. As royal ambassadors of Jesus Christ we are not citizens of this country, we have a heavenly citizenship. But we are stationed, we serve, in the devil's world. 4. We are certainly to pray for our leaders as 1 Timothy 2:1-6**

indicates. Whether you like our current President or not is not even an issue. I don't know who the President is, who he could be. It could be President Obama, it could be President Trump, it could be President Bush, it could be President Carter, it could be anyone. But this is what we are told in the Bible about our Presidents, our leaders, in **1 Timothy 2:1-6**, ***“I exhort therefore, that first of all supplications, prayers, intercession, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings, and for all that are in authority.”*** What God is asking you to do if you're a Christian and you're a Democrat and you hate the current President Donald Trump. First of all you're sinning because hatred is a sin, it's a mental attitude sin. And if you're a Republican and you hate the past President, Mr. Obama, you are sinning. You're not allowed to hate. We are suppose to love our enemies or love those that we don't consider ourself agreeable with. This says that we have to make supplication, prayer, intercession, giving of thanks for them. Listen, Jesus Christ controls history. Make this prayer, *“For kings and for all that are in authority, that we may lead.”* Why, why should I pray for these people? *“So we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty,”* 1 Timothy 2:2. That's all we want, we just want people to leave us alone. We just want to live a quiet and peaceable life and not hear the banter of partisan arguing every day. It all boils down to who wants the power, who's in power. We want power, you want power, we'll do this, you'll do that, everybody's trying to get the power. It's unbelievable what people will do to get the power, what they'll say and what they'll do. So we pray for our leaders and the person that's in power right now in this country. He's the current President and the Bible mandates we pray for this man. I was encouraged to see the University of Alabama when they visited the White House that they prayed for the President. I thought that was an awesome thing. Then Paul goes on to say, *“This is good and it's acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.”* What's good and acceptable? *“That supplications, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all that are in authority so we can live a quiet and peaceable life. It's good it's acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who would have all men to be saved.”* That's all men, A.L.L., all men. *“God is not willing that any should perish, but all be saved and come into the knowledge of the truth.”* In order to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ you have to have some information and in order to get the information, it's knowledge. Someone has to give it to you or you pick up the Bible and you read it for yourself but it's knowledge. **If you're ever going to be able to effectively talk about Jesus Christ, you must have some knowledge.** You must know what undiminished deity and true humanity is. It helps if you understand why you take communion, and what is the issue with the bread and the cup and what do they represent? It helps if you understand the Resurrection, if you understand these things. This requires you to learn the Word of God. This requires a great pastor to teach it to you and so 1 Timothy 2:4, *“Who will have all men to be saved and come into the knowledge of the truth.”* In John 17:8 this is what the Lord Jesus Christ said, *“I have given them [that's the disciples] Your Word and I have challenged them to give the Word.”* Then He prayed for the disciples and prayed for all that would believe in Him through the Word of the disciples, that's the Bible. The Lord Jesus Christ was praying for us in John 17. *“And there is one God, one mediator between God and man, and*

this is Jesus Christ Who gave Himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time,” 1 Timothy 2:5-6. The Lord Jesus Christ bore our sin on the cross. He paid for our sin. He paid for my sin and for your sin. He paid for any former President’s sin. He paid for anyone that's incarcerated, their sins as well. He paid for the sins of the world. Every sin of the world was dumped out on Him on the cross and judged in Him and that's why the Bible says, *“He that knew no sin was made sin so that we may be made the righteousness of God through Him.”* When God looked at you, you were lost. When God looked at you, you were no good and yet He loved you and He sent His Son to die for you. How do I know God loved you? The Bible says, *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.”* But love your enemy? You can do this. You say, “Maybe God could do this but I can't love those people over there because they are wicked and they are evil.” **Well, they may be wicked and they may be evil, but we are still mandated to love them. However, most people don't understand what this love is because they get it confused with a personal love. It's not a personal love.** Personal love is a great virtue. The Bible says in 1 John 5:3, *“We obey God because we love God.”* That's personal virtue, personal love for God. **But the love we are mandated to have is an impersonal love. It's a love based on who we are, not based on what they are. So it's possible for me to love the biggest jerk in town not because he's a wonderful loving person and there's something in him that I can respond to, but because I am the kind of man that God wants me to be, the kind of man that Christ was who gave His life as a sacrifice for people that hated Him.** He loved them. He even said, *“Father, forgive them. They do not understand what they're doing.”* Who does God place in authority over you? **In Romans 13:1-5 the Bible says, “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.”** Here's a principle. **Anyone in authority over you, God put them there.** That's right, God put them there. You say, “Well, but that's the biggest jerk in town, do you know what he believes?” God put him there. The Bible says this, here it is, *“There is no authority except that which God has established.”* **God allowed it to happen. Remember Jesus Christ controls history. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24 hours a day and nobody gets away with anything. God is well aware of what's going on and sometimes God allows a nation to go under divine discipline.** Discipline because we reject the concepts of divine institutions. Sometimes He may even allow people to be put over you that hate you in order to discipline you, in order to bring you back to where you need to be. *“The authorities that exist have been established by God,”* Romans 13:1-5, I'm quoting the Bible, *“Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.”* God does not authorize a revolution or rebellion. He authorizes you to love your enemy. He authorizes you to replicate the life of Jesus Christ. He authorizes you to give the gospel, not to bring a revolution. *“For rulers [verse 3] hold no terror for those who do right but for those who do wrong?”* Yeah, you bet. That's my words there. *“So do you want to be free from the fear of one in authority?”* the Bible asks. *“Then do what's right and you will be commended.*

For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. [Verse 5] Therefore, it's necessary to submit to the authorities not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience." By the way, Rome was in charge when he wrote this and Rome wasn't exactly giving Christians front row seats and praising them. They were burning them at the stake, throwing them in the lions den, watching them be executed. Do you understand what I'm saying? **You must submit to government authority. You're not allowed to run your mouth and run them down and curse them and slander them and try to convince everybody that we would be better off with a different President or we would be better off with a different government. That's not the job of the believer in Jesus Christ. God can intervene in history.** Listen to Proverbs 21:1, *"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water, He turns it wheresoever He wishes."* God is perfectly capable of turning any government authority's mind in a different direction. Let me quote what my pastor taught me a long time ago. I'm quoting from his notes that I took. "Mature believers," and I hope that's you, a mature believer, "Mature believers have an invisible impact in history. It's invisible, most people won't even know you're out there. Mature believers have blessing by association to those in their periphery, those who come around you. *"My cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,"* Psalm 23:5. When you're around a mature believer, you're going to be having blessing by association." Often history is the story of how the weak control the strong, basically in politics. Because weak, insecure, thoughtless, arrogant people often control the policy and the procedures of people in social life, people in culture, business, marriage, government as well as local churches. That's true. So through arrogance, self-centeredness, preoccupation with self, the weak in society often control and manipulate the strong. This is why irrational, self-righteous crusaders often dominate in politics and in government administration. This is how a power mad, irresponsible press can dominate and destroy great leaders or potentially great leaders. **There are two choices here: there is power politics or there is the pivot.** Two approaches to problem-solving: power politics or the pivot. Power politics is the human and satanic solutions to the problems of life, the problems in America. "Oh, we need a new leader, we need a new government., we need a new way of thinking, we need to have this, we need to be that, we need this, we need that," and they want change, change, change. Listen, if you took everybody in the United States and moved them to Mars, you would still have the same problems because the problem is the sin nature. **It doesn't make any difference who you elect or who we put in office, everybody has a sin nature.** In spite of where they are, they're still going to be the same way, so power politics is the human solution, the satanic solution. "Just let me run the show and I'll take care of you. I'll give you free this and free that and I'll make sure you never have to worry about anything again." "Oh, that sounds so good. Let's vote for this one." And then the pivot is the other side of the coin. **Pivot politics, that's you if you're a mature believer, includes people that know Christ as Savior, who advance in the plan of God through the perception and the application of the**

Word of God and reach spiritual maturity. These people, the pivot, become part of the dam that holds back divine discipline on an arrogant nation. Without a pivot, the United States of America is done for. We would be under divine discipline and we would be destroyed without a pivot. With renovated thinking we are able to function with the mindset of Christ and acquire divine viewpoint. We have to change the way we think. Divine viewpoint has to be learned, it's not inherited. 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Peter 3:18, Matthew 11:28 & 30, all talk about study, grow, and learn. You can't know the mind of Christ unless you grow, unless you learn it. Somebody has to teach it to you. So why do you need the thinking of Christ in your soul? Well, because Jesus said in Matthew 10:22, *"You are to be hated by all of these for My name's sake."* In Matthew 10:28, *"Don't be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul."* In Matthew 10:34, *"I didn't come to bring peace but a sword."* The very fact that you're a believer in Jesus Christ and believe the Bible is true, and you're not into diversity and all of this stuff, you're not trying to make everything that use to be evil good, this is going to cause you to be hated, called wicked and evil names, because you believe what the Bible says. The evil of power politics is amazing because those who seek to control will say anything and do anything to gain control and they will often use unsuspecting young people who believe the public lie. I call it drinking the Kool-Aid. If you tell it often enough, loud enough, and long enough, it's going to be believed. That's the power of the press, repeat, repeat, repeat the lie. This is the devil's world and his system is evil. Stay out of politics, stay out of condemnation and criticism. **Our mission is to lift up the Lord Jesus Christ and He will draw men to Himself.** We are the light of the world, light attracts. You know, you can be a bug zapper for the Lord Jesus Christ. Light attracts and you can attract the bugs who need the truth. Let me tell you how this goes. We are told to *"Equip ourselves for the battle that we're going to face,"* according to Ephesians 6:11-18. We do it by building a FLOT line in our soul, that's how we do it, all right? We do it by acquiring a spiritual life and submitting to God's reign, the way God trains us, okay? Ephesians 4:17, *"So I tell you this and insist on it in the Lord [that's a prepositional phrase, this is not Paul's opinion, this is from the Lord] that you do not live like Gentiles live in the futility of their thinking."* They don't have the mind of Christ, you do. Their minds are empty. *"They are darkened in their understanding [Ephesians 4:17-32] and separated from the life of God because they are ignorant and their hearts are hard. They've lost all sensitivity, they've given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed. However [Paul writes] this is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Jesus Christ. You were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Christ Jesus, and you were taught with regard to your former way of life to put it off. Put off your old self which is corrupted with deceitful desires and live a new life in the attitude of your mind, and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, put off falsehood, speak truthfully to your neighbor for we are all members of one body."* Without learning the Word of God you'll have no frame of reference for choices in life. **That's why Proverbs 2:10-11 says wisdom and understanding and knowledge and discernment are critical if you want to survive in the devil's world.**

Personal Rep of Jesus Christ

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 684 aired on October 14, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and you have a cordial invitation to hang around, stick with me, for just a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, all done without any type of manipulation. We don't try to con people. We're not going to try to sell you anything, not trying to get you to join up. We just want to give you the good news that Jesus Christ the anointed Son of God redeemed you and me out of the slave market of sin. Thus our debt to God has been paid and we are now free from the penalty and the power of sin. If we receive Christ as our Savior, we in effect accept the offering that He made on our behalf, the free gift 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 is the gift of God not of works lest any man should boast about it."* It's a heck of a way to start a radio show saying all of this but here's the bottom line. Are you sick of living like you are living? Are you tired of being the person that you are? Would you like to start your life all over again? You can. *"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 have a clean slate today by receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior. You can begin a new life, a spiritual life, a unique life that God ordained for you in eternity past and it is a wonderful way to live. You can live without worry. You can live without guilt. You can live without shame. You can live without fear. It's a wonderful life called the Christian life and it starts with faith alone in Christ alone. This is why 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 on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord, that being justified by His grace [freely by His grace] we would be made heirs according to the confidence that we have of eternal life."* What a wonderful thing to know Christ as Savior, to begin a new life. This happened to me when I was 22 years old. I was sick of myself. I was sick of living the way I was living. I was sick of the spotlight in my head that would show me all the goofy things I had done. I would try to go to bed at night and there was no peace. I didn't really know God. I didn't think about God but finally someone took me to a Bible study and I heard about God and I heard the claim that Jesus Christ died for me, took my place on the cross, was judged in my place, and that if I would trust Him, I could have eternal life. I didn't know all the complications or the ramifications or everything that would take place but I did it. I asked Him to save me. I didn't feel weird. I mean nothing funky happened. No lights blinked, no angels showed up, but my life has never been the same since then. **What happened was I became a personal representative of the Lord Jesus Christ and you are also.** You can be a personal representative of the Lord Jesus Christ. Would you like to do this? Would you like to be His representative in the devil's world? Recently while listening to my pastor teach a series on the life of Christ, and it's been quite a series well over 1,000 hours, I came to consider what it means to be a personal representative of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is

what I would like to share with you today. Notice some of the points as I go through John 17 and read a few verses. This is where the Lord Jesus Christ is praying. He's praying for His disciples and you're going to find out something else. He prayed for you in this passage right here. In John 17:6 He said this, as my pastor says a didactic prayer, a teaching prayer, and the disciples are learning, *"I have revealed You Father to those whom You gave Me out of this world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me and they have obeyed Your Word."* **This is the first key thing, obedience. You can't be obedient if you're arrogant. Arrogant people are not teachable. It takes some humility to be teachable and these men had to learn humility the hard way because they were very competitive with one another.** They were a group of fishermen, tax collectors, etc. and they had to learn. The Lord Jesus Christ taught them some hard lessons about humility. Understand that Christ's mindset was a mindset of humility, *"He humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation,"* (Philippians 2:5-7), and this is what He expected from His disciples. It wasn't about a popularity contest. It wasn't about who was the most impressive in the bunch. It's about who can be the biggest, greatest, most wonderful servant and the Lord Jesus Christ was this servant. He came to serve us by providing eternal life, free, *"They have obeyed Your Word and they know everything given Me comes from You. For I gave them the words You gave Me and they accepted them"* (John 17:7-8). Listen carefully, anything the Lord Jesus Christ said came from God the Father. He didn't conjure up words on His own. He was repeating the words of God the Father and as He repeated the words of God the Father, the disciples believed it. **God still speaks to us except instead of speaking through God the Son, now He speaks through the Bible, the canon of Scripture, which these men recorded for us.** He said, *"They believed that You sent Me."* He said, *"I pray for them. I'm not praying for the world but for those you've given Me because they are Yours. All I have is Yours and all You have is Mine and glory has come to Me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world [that's you and me], and I am coming to You, so holy Father protect them by the power of Your name"*(John 17:9-11). **There's power in the name of God the Father. As a believer in Jesus Christ we are members of the royal family of God. "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world"** (1 John 4:4). What do we need to be protected from? *"The devil goes around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour"* (1 Peter 5:8). We need protection from the strategy of the devil. Ephesians 6:11 tells you how to do this. *"Put on the armor of God so you can stand against the strategy of the devil."* The whole study about the armor of God is about you staying filled with the Spirit, using the faith-rest drill, learning the promises of God, and these are all part of the FLOT line in your soul. He asked the Father to protect them by the power of His name and then He went on to say, *"The name You gave Me so they may be one as We are one [my pastor made this clear to me that they are praying for unity]. While I was with them, I protected them and I kept them safe by the name You gave Me, none have been lost except the one doomed to destruction so the Scripture could be fulfilled. But I am coming to You now but I say these things while I'm still in this world so they may have the full measure of My joy within them. I have given them Your Word and the world has hated them, for they are not of this world"*

*anymore than I am of this world” (John 17:11-14). This is true of you too. **If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, your citizenship is in heaven.** How did you become a Christian? By believing the Word of God. How did you hear the Word? It came through the apostles who recorded it and wrote down what Jesus Christ said. Where did Jesus Christ get these words? From God the Father as He gave them to Him. There it is, I just read it to you. *“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that You protect them from the evil one [that’s Satan and his minions]. They are not of the world but even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I sent them into the world and for them I sanctified Myself [or set Myself apart] that they too may be truly set apart. [now listen to verse 20] My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message”* (John 17:15-20). The apostles wrote down what He taught them and it became the canon of Scripture, the Bible. **This is how God speaks to you, through the recorded words of Scripture.** *“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message.”* Do you hear it? He's looking in eternity future. He's looking to see you. You're going to be saved. You're going to accept Christ as your Savior. You're going to believe in Him through the message the apostles recorded and wrote down and preserved for you in the canon of Scripture. How about that? John 17:21, *“That all of them may be one [in other words unity, not scattered about. This is what the devil loves to do, he loves to cause division and create divisiveness], Father, just as You are in Me, I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world would believe You sent Me.”* No competition, no one-upmanship, all one. Same mind, same goal, same identity, that's the way we're suppose to be as Christians. Here are some principles. This prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ was a teaching prayer for the disciples so they would learn what was coming and what to expect. *“I pray for those who will believe in Me through their message.”* This is the fulfillment of the great commission given in Matthew 28:19-20 where Jesus Christ told them, *“Go ye therefore, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I commanded you. And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* There are their marching orders, they had their commission. **You as a believer in Jesus Christ have two royal commissions. You have been commissioned twice. We are commissioned as believer priests and we are commissioned as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. We are His personal representatives in the devil's world.** You, think about this for a minute now, you represent Jesus Christ. The way you dress, the way you talk, the way you live, the way you do things, you are His representative. **You are the personal representative of the Lord Jesus Christ.** As a royal priest, we represent ourselves before God. We are believer priests. We don't have to go to another priest. We can pray directly to God the Father. We don't need someone to intervene for us. When you bow your head and say, “Heavenly Father, I approach Your throne in the name of Jesus Christ Your anointed Son,” bingo. You're right there. We have a priesthood. We don't need someone to sacrifice an animal on our behalf, the Lord Jesus Christ has already been sacrificed. We represent ourselves before God. Then, on the other side of the coin, as a personal representative of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are royal*

ambassadors. This means that we represent God before man. As royal priests we represent ourselves before God. As royal ambassadors we represent God before man, man who's lost in sin, man who's lost in darkness. We have a commission to reach these people. Being royal ambassadors requires us to communicate the gospel, the good news, and it must be in the language understood by the recipient. **You have to talk to people. This is why you're here. As His personal representative He is counting on you and depending on you to represent Him to a lost and dying world.** This means that all believers, me, you, your pastor, we are all in full-time Christian service. Granted, we didn't appoint ourselves, we were appointed by God. Granted, we don't support ourselves, we are supported by God. Our instructions are in written form as recorded by the apostles straight from the mouth of the Lord Jesus Christ. We don't belong to this country to which we've been sent. Our citizenship is in heaven, that's our home, *ouranos*, heaven. I am an American by birth and proud to be an American but this is not my home. I'm passing through, I'm a sojourner, I'm passing through on my way to glory, on my way to the promised place. While I'm here I am to tolerate others, hold no grudges, have the spiritual strength to stay the course until God calls me home. 2 Corinthians 5:20 gives me my commission. *"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ [that's my royal commission, yours too] as though God were making His appeal through us [you and me] we invite you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."* **We are ministers of reconciliation. This means we give the good news of Jesus Christ to those who come into our periphery.** To say you witness through your lifestyle is being a coward. If you're not willing to give the gospel straight up, you're a coward. This doesn't mean you have to preach to everybody you meet, but you could at least give them a tract or something, we'll talk more about this later. Every person you meet is an opportunity to escort them into heaven, into God's grace. Your ambassadorship is made up not only of how you live your life but what you say. In private, you function under your priesthood, you're a believer priest. **In public, you function under your royal ambassadorship as a personal representative of the Lord Jesus Christ.** If you say, "I'm a Christian," you are the personal representative of the Lord Jesus Christ. Church age believers like you and me are not only ambassadors to human creatures but angels are keeping an eye on these things that are going on down here as well. You are a royal ambassador, you are being watched right now. Angels observed our Lord in 1 Timothy 3:16. They observe and rejoice over the conversion of just one person, (Luke 15:10-17). And fallen angels who you know as demons are organized to resist and oppose your ambassadorship and your growth in grace. This is seen in Job 1:6, in Job 2:1-3, and Ephesians 6:12. We're at war. There's a spiritual war going on. Christian service, that's you doing something for God related to your royal priesthood, includes prayer, giving, the execution of the protocol plan of God by learning, thinking, and applying to solve problems, that's the priesthood. That's you representing yourself before God. You are suppose to pray. You're suppose to give. You're suppose to live the protocol plan of God and the only way you can do it is to learn it, think it, and live it. Then the other side of the coin, your royal ambassadorship, this Christian service includes evangelism. It includes witnessing. It includes

administration in the local church with you functioning in your local church, maybe as a deacon or administration on the mission field, or some function in a Christian service organization. Christian service related to the laws of divine establishment is a wonderful way to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ. If you serve in the military, if you serve in law enforcement, if you serve in government, that's a wonderful way to represent Jesus Christ God's anointed Son, it's awesome. 2 Corinthians 5:19, *"To witness the fact that God was in Christ Jesus reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."* Have you ever thought about why people go to hell, why they spend eternity in the Lake of Fire? Is it because they are bad sinners, drunks, immoral, adulterers, what's the reason? **No one goes to hell because of their sins. Their sins have been paid for, judged on the cross. All sin was poured out on Christ.** I've told you, *"He that knew no sin was made sin for us"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). **People go to hell and spend eternity in the Lake of Fire because they reject Christ as Savior.** *"He that believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life, and he that believeth not, the wrath of God abides on him already"* (John 3:36). If anyone goes to the Lake of Fire it's because their name is not recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life, not because they're sinners, but because they rejected forgiveness. They rejected the opportunity to be saved. They rejected Christ the Savior. Jesus was clear, *"This is the will of the One that sent Me, that you believe in Me whom He has sent"* (John 6:29). **And He said, "If I am lifted up, I will draw men to Myself" (John 12:32). You must lift Him up.** You must proclaim His name, not obnoxiously. You must literally give the Word of God as an ambassador. You stand for God. You are a personal representative of Jesus Christ. You have been sent here for a mission. This mission is to lead someone else to Christ, to give them the information so they can have eternal life also, not for you to sit on it and say, "Well I witness with my lifestyle." Again, that's being a coward. Listen, anybody can be a good person. Anybody can have a moral lifestyle. Just because you live a moral lifestyle, this doesn't impress people. As soon as you open your mouth and begin to talk about Christ you're going to be alienated by certain people. That's fine. That's the way it's suppose to happen. Jesus said, *"I didn't come to bring peace. I came to bring the sword"* (Matthew 11:34). *"Father will turn against son. Son will turn against mother and daughter;"* (Luke 12:53), I mean it's all in the Bible. Why do you think it's suppose to be real easy if you talk about the Lord Jesus Christ? **If you identify as a royal ambassador, you are going to be ostracized.** You're going to be attacked. You're going to be a target. If you have a business card, what does it say, "John Doe, Professional Services?" Put on the bottom of this card next time you reprint it, "An ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ." Put it on your card. Give it to people. Don't be ashamed of it. It's the most unique calling in the world. You have been called to stand beside Christ. You have been called to represent Him. You have been sent into the devil's world with a royal commission. **"Go therefore and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ" (Mark 16:15).** Unfortunately, many Christians are so self-absorbed they never even come close to living the Christian life, they don't even know what it means. They just go through the ritual of religion without any reality to it. Ritual without reality is totally meaningless. There

has to be reality to what you do, like communion. So many churches offer communion once a month, once a quarter, two or three times a year and it's just a ritual with no reality because people don't even understand what they're doing. They cannot name any doctrine associated with the bread. They couldn't name any doctrine associated with the cup. They just eat it and drink it and say, "Okay, I'm remembering Jesus." It's a lot more than this. It's a test, it's a test of what you can remember. Many Christians are so self-absorbed they never take the time to learn anything. "Yes, I've got my ticket to heaven. Yes, I'm saved. Yes, I'm going to go to church, every Sunday morning I'm always there. I always give my tithe. I'm a good Christian. I don't drink, dance, smoke, chew or hang around with those that do," yada, yada, yada. What about the plan of God? What about, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?*" (2 Peter 3:18). What about, "*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)? What about, "*Take My yoke and learn of Me. My yoke is easy, My burden is light*" (Matthew 11:29)? What about, "*If you love Me, you will keep My mandates and they're not grievous*" (1 John 5:3)? **Each individual you meet is an opportunity for you to extend the grace hand of God in fellowship. He's waiting. You can invite them and introduce them to your Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.** If you're not confident in what you're suppose to say, then give them a tract. Put it in their hands and say, "If you take time to read this, let me know if you have any questions. Would you please take a moment to read this?" They may throw it away, that's okay. But if one of them takes time to read it, you have at least given him an invitation to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ without you saying anything if you're not confident in what to say. Maybe one out of one hundred will eventually respond but at least you offered the good news. Personal witnessing is one category of Christian service as part of your royal ambassadorship. **The Holy Spirit will take your words and He will act on them, but He only uses what's accurate.** He doesn't use what's inaccurate. If you tell someone, "If you want to be a member of the royal family of God, you've got to quit drinking and quit smoking and quit cussing and quit going to R-rated movies," this is not how you get saved. It's "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved*" (Acts 16:31). It's John 3:16, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" This is an opportunity for you to have a new life in Christ, an opportunity for you to actually be somebody, not just a number on your driver's license, but to be a royal ambassador of Jesus Christ, His personal representative in the devil's world. This is what you're called to be. It's an awesome responsibility. It's an awesome opportunity. It's an awesome privilege. Put it on your card. Put it on your mailbox. You are a royal ambassador of Jesus Christ. What a privilege to lift up the name of Christ and see people be drawn unto Him. I hope you're listening and paying attention. I hope this is meaningful for you. If you have a question you can always contact me. Until next week, same time, same place, please come back.

Love and the Essence of God

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 685 aired on October 21, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'm going to ask you to stick it out, stay with me, 30 minutes of some motivation, some inspiration, and some education and we always do this without any type of manipulation. We don't try to con people. We're not trying to hustle any money out of you. We're not going to ask you to join up, fess up, give up, nothing like this, but we will ask you to listen up. Listen as I try to verify and identify the plan of God for your life and if I can do this, then you have the freedom, you have the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan if you'd like to do so. The plan starts with the best news that you've ever heard, the best news I've ever heard, that Jesus Christ the anointed Son of God redeemed me out of the slave market of sin. In other words, my debt to God was paid for in full by the death of Christ on the cross and now I'm free of the penalty of the power of sin in my life. If you can receive Christ as your Savior, you can accept the same offering that He made on your behalf. It's a free gift complements of God because He loves you. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves. It's a gift [G.I.F.T.] of God not of works lest any man would brag about it."* Paul in Titus 3:5-7 said, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us"* How did He do this? *"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 means of His grace, we would be made heirs according to the confidence we have of eternal life."* It's all the grace gift of God. That's the good news, the best news. Here on The FLOT Line we talk about various problems and we talk about building a mainline of resistance in your soul so that you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. That's why we always say adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. Building a FLOT line means you learn ten unique problem-solving devices. If you learn them and deploy them, use them in your soul, in the thinking of your soul, in the mentality of your soul, then you can begin to advance in the plan of God in a way that's incredible. You can begin to experience the most fantastic life the world has ever seen. It's called the Christian life and it's a way to live without worry. It's a way to live without fear. It's a way to live without bitterness. It's a way to live without guilt. It's a way to live with extreme confidence knowing that the love of God surrounds you, cares for you, provides for you. What a magnificent life. Most people don't know Christ and have no idea that this is available. It is a wonderful life that's available to you but in order to take advantage of it there's one thing you have to do and that is you must love God. That's the question that I would like to ask you today. I know you likely are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ or you wouldn't be listening to this radio show but what I want to ask you is, do you love God? Now I know you're going to say, "Yes." I asked a friend this yesterday and he said, "Well, that's obvious, sure I do." **The Bible says in 1 John 4:19, "We love Him because He first loved us," and that's called reciprocal love motivation. God loved you and me before we loved Him.** Remember John

3:16, *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”* His love motivated Him to provide for us eternal life, redemption from sin, by means of the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. That's a love that is incredible and yet it's a love that's true. It is all that we know about God, everything that we've learned about God. Let me ask you a question. **What do you know about God? You say you love Him but it's hard to love someone you don't know.** It's hard to love someone you don't identify with in so many ways. I mean it's easy to get an emotional love, an emotional attachment but that doesn't carry you. All you know about God... what do you know about God? If I asked you to write a paper, *“Tell me what you know about God,”* what would you tell me? Well, everything we know about God, everything we understand about God was taught to us by the apostles who learned it from Jesus Christ. Listen to John 17:25-26, *“O Righteous Father, the world has not known You but I have known You and these have known that You sent Me and I declared unto them Your name and will declare it, that the love wherewith You love Me may be in them and I in them.”* How did the apostles come to know the love of God? Well, the Lord Jesus Christ declared it unto them. In John 17:14, *“I have given them Your Word and the world has hated them.”* In John 17:6, *“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me.”* Then John 17:20, a great verse for you. This is where the Lord Jesus Christ was praying for you before you were even born. He said in John 17:20, *“I do not pray for them alone but for all of those who will believe in Me through their word.”* That's the written Word of the apostles. **They wrote and recorded the canon of Scripture, the Bible, and we come to know God through what they wrote. And what they wrote they learned through Jesus Christ who revealed it to them.** As He said, *“The world has not known You, but I know You and these men have known You that You sent Me because I declared unto them Your name and I gave them Your Word”* (John 17:25-26). What we know about God we know from the Bible which was written by those apostles. Let's get some principles. **The qualities and the perfections which belong to God are classified as His attributes. The sum total of God's attributes are His essence.** Now, can I ask you a simple question? Do you know the attributes of God or the essence of God? Do you have any idea what it is? How can you love Him if you don't know what His essence is? The attributes or the essence of God belong to three people: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are all one in essence, They are all the same. **The believer, that's you and me, we are totally dependent upon divine revelation from the canon of Scripture, from the Bible, to understand what God is.** This means that we can know His nature. We can know His attributes. We can know what forms His divine substance or essence. The attributes of God as revealed in the Bible are only understood in the Scripture. For example, God is love. We know this, you could have written this one down, *“I understand one of the attributes of God is His love.”* It always has been His love. God doesn't fall in love like you do and I do. You know, you fell in love with your spouse or someone you're dating or whatever. God doesn't fall in love. **His love does not increase and His love does not decline. God is love.** It's His essence, His character. He is love, *“God so loved the world.”* *“We love God because He first loved us”* (1 John 4:19), so God is love. **God is holy. He has justice. He has righteousness.**

It's always existed and it's incorruptible. God is absolutely just. He's absolutely righteous. The Bible says, *"There are none that are righteous, no, not even one"* (Romans 3:10), because *"Our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag in God's eyes"* (Isaiah 64:6). *"Our thoughts are not His thoughts and our ways are not His ways"* (Isaiah 55:8). He is perfect righteousness, so +R, perfect righteousness. We are no righteousness or -R. He's absolute justice. Nothing escapes the justice of God. He always has existed like this and these two essences, His justice and His righteousness, are incorruptible. Not only does God love. Not only is God holy, **He is eternal. This means He's always existed.** He has no beginning and He has no end. This is hard for you and I to comprehend because we have a time that we are born and we have a time that we die. That's what Ecclesiastes 3:2 says. God has no beginning and He has no ending, that's why He's God. He is eternal life, never has started and never will end. You just can't figure this out. This doesn't compute in our brain, but that's what God is. **He's omniscient. This means He knows everything.** *"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro across the earth"* (2 Chronicles 16:9). **He's omnipotent. This means He's all-powerful, He can do whatever He wants to do.** There's a song that says "He could have called 10,000 angels to destroy the world and set Him free but He died alone for you and me," on the cross. **He's omnipotent and He's omnipresent. This means that God can be with me in my home and with you in your home.** God is omnipresent. This is one thing you need to remember about Satan, he is a created being. Satan is not omnipresent. He cannot be in two places at one time. God is love. God is justice. God is eternal. He's omniscient. He's omnipotent. He's omnipresent. **He's absolute veracity. He is truth.** God would never lie, never lie to you, never lie to Himself, never lie to anybody. **God is immutable. What does this mean? It means that He doesn't change. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. God is sovereignty. It means He's the King of kings and the Lord of lords, there is no other.** These are some of the attributes of God, His essence. If you had to sit down and write a paper on the reasons that you love God, you could start out because He loves me and He's holy, He's eternal, He's justice, He's absolute righteousness, He's omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, absolutely truthful, immutable and sovereignty. Could you explain what these mean? Should you even know what these mean? The answer is, well of course. If you don't understand what these mean then you don't understand the person you love. Let me introduce you to a rather large word that's found in our language called anthropathisms. This is when someone ascribes to God a human characteristic which He doesn't actually possess. These are used in the Bible so man can understand divine policy in terms of our own frame of reference. Once you learn what the essence of God is and you can understand what He's provided for you in His love, then you're free to reciprocate this love. An example of an anthropathism, "He's got the whole world in His hands." God doesn't have hands. "He sees you," well God doesn't have eyes. See, we want to compare Him to a human. We want to make Him human and He's not. He's God. I don't know what He looks like, we can't see Him. The Bible says not one of us could see Him and live (Exodus 33:20). We've seen Christ and Jesus said, *"If you've seen Me you've seen the Father"* (John 14:9), part of His glory was revealed. More of it will come in the future. I have an idea that

if we saw Jesus Christ in His complete glory or God in His complete glory, that we would simply be a puddle of wax. We would melt in His presence, that's how holy He is. We use these terms, the hand of God, the eyes of God, the mind of God to give human characteristics so we can understand in our own frame of reference what the essence of God is. We can understand what He provided for us in His love and we are free to reciprocate this love. We call this a problem-solving device. **Virtue love is a problem-solving device, problem-solving device number six. It is the greatest motivation in the Christian's life. If you want to be obedient, it has to start here, 1 John 5:3, "If we love Him then we will obey Him."** Here's a question, do you always obey God? I know I don't. I know I have a sin nature and I sin and I know you do too. I try to obey Him. I seek to obey Him but I don't always do this. This leads to a question, does God ever get disappointed with me when I sin? Does God get upset with me when I sin? We are told in the Scripture not to grieve the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 4:30. The Greek word for grieve is the word *lupeo* and it's a present active imperative verb. *Lupeo* means to cause pain or grief or to offend. The present tense is there never is a time we are to offend the Holy Spirit. The active voice is the subject produces the action of the verb, that's you and I. The imperative mood is the mood of command, so we're under command from God not to offend the Holy Spirit. Sin offends the Holy Spirit. Sin breaks fellowship with God and what we do is we put our self on non-speaking terms. What father does not grieve the broken fellowship of a child who won't speak to him? The child of God, you and me out of fellowship, we have reason to hide from God because of our shame, because of our guilt, or sometimes because we're bitter toward God, believing God caused something to happen to us that we didn't like, something that was bad. If we get out of fellowship that's the way we live. What does it mean to be out of fellowship? It means to have unconfessed sin in your life, grieving the Holy Spirit and quenching His power. If we truly love God we have to understand God's essence and we cannot get bitter toward God because something bad happened. We don't need to have shame and guilt because we disappointed God. We do what the Bible says, "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to purify us from all wrongdoing*" (1 John 1:9). Love comes under four headings for the child of God: love toward God, love toward our spouse (right man right woman), love toward our friends, and love toward the brethren. All of this is taught in the Bible. Love toward God, Deuteronomy 6:5, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength.*" This is an Old Testament passage but it's true in the New Testament as well. **We are mandated to love God and how can we love someone we don't know?** How can we appreciate someone we never met? How can we have confidence in someone we don't understand? If we love God then we can begin to appreciate and understand what He does for us, but the only way you can ever love God is to understand God, to understand His essence, to understand what He is and what He can do and will do for you. Love toward your right man or right woman is a wonderful love. That's a personal love, that's your spouse. God designed it this way. Love toward your friends, that's a friendship type love, nothing wrong with this, it's a good thing. Loving the brethren, well, sometimes we've got to love them with impersonal love.

Remember, love has two sides to it, the personal side which is personal virtue and the impersonal side. Motivational virtue in life is personal love for God. It always has been, it always will be. When you're told in the Bible you've got to "Love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Mark 12:31), if your neighbor's a jerk, an idiot, a weirdo, how are you suppose to love him? You love him the same way God loves you, "*God so loved the world.*" Weren't you an idiot, a weirdo, a jerk when He loved you before you ever accepted Christ? Before you became a member of God's royal family what state were you in? Lost, offensive to God. So you may have a neighbor that is lost and offensive to you. Can you love him? Yes, but you love him based on your character not his. You love him based on what's in your soul, not what's in his soul. The truth about impersonal love, it's a tremendous problem-solving device. I wish I had time to teach it to you but I don't. It's one of our problem-solving devices. We'll go back over these soon enough for you I'm sure. **Personal love for God is your motivational virtue. Impersonal love for others is your functional virtue.** You can love people that you dislike. You can love those that don't like you and that's loving the brethren. This sort of love has to be learned in order to execute. In other words, how could you ever use impersonal love as some sort of problem-solving device if you don't even know what it is? Can you? If you really truly love God, what are some of the results of loving God? **Motivation and appreciation, obedience, prayer, adoration, these are all some of the results of loving God.** The Bible also warns you about having displaced love, love that you should not have. The Bible says in 1 John 2:15-16, "*Stop loving the world, anything related to the world. If anyone keeps loving the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Because all that's in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the arrogant pattern of life, it's not from the Father but from the world.*" It's called the cosmic system. **The devil rules the cosmic system and you are mandated, don't love the cosmos and don't love the cosmic system, the world, and don't love anything related to it.** In other words, your happiness does not come from people or from circumstances. Your happiness, as Jesus said in Luke 11:27-28, comes from hearing God's Word and keeping it. If you are loving the world, what the world offers, success, prominence, attention, approval, if you're loving the world, this means that you are under some sort of demon influence in your motivation or in your thought pattern. I didn't say demon possession, I said demon influence. Christians can be demon influenced, not demon possessed. What's the motivation for this thought pattern in your life? What motivates you to make these decisions that you act on, the actions that come from the decisions? So you can get ahead in the world, you can have what the world offers, you can gain the attention of the world? People say, "Follow your dreams and you'll be successful" and "Follow your dreams you can be rich, you can be famous, you can be successful, you can have this, you can have that." That's what the world offers, it's a temporal happiness. It's a mirage because a lot of people have been rich and famous and died very unhappy. You don't have to live like this. There's nothing wrong with being rich and famous, that's not what I'm saying, as long as you understand the real issue. Don't love the cosmic system, there's nothing there for you. You don't belong here, you're passing through. **Love God. How do you love Him? With all your**

heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. You love Him based on who He is, not based on what you are. You love Him because of His fidelity, not your fidelity. You love Him because of His essence, not your essence. We distort God's love all the time by superimposing our own standards on God. We've just had some huge disasters in this country this year from fires on the California coast to hurricanes on the southern coast and drought in the mid-country. In times of disaster people often ask a silly question. They say, "How can a loving God do this to me?" This sort of blasphemy often results from misunderstanding what God's love really is. You see, divine knowledge or omniscience doesn't cancel or change God's love. God knows every thought that every person has ever had throughout history, He's God. Many of the thoughts about God are not kind thoughts. This doesn't change God at all. **God does not stop loving us or turn away from us because we insult Him or we blaspheme Him. We don't have the power or the ability to change the love of God because His love is perfect.** Because God foreknew human failure in eternity past, He didn't cancel His love for those who fail. He does not condone sin but He does not stop loving the sinner. God does not condone legalism or human good but He does not stop loving the legalist or the self-righteous person who is full of his own self-importance. God never cancels His love for His creatures even though we, on the other hand, have different ideas about what He does and we don't understand. In the last times the Bible warns us, "*People will be lovers of self and lovers of money and boastful and revilers and disobedient*" (2 Timothy 3:1-2). Listen, there's a lot of things to love but the only thing that ever sustains you in difficult times is the love of God. Do you love God? If you have fellowship with Christians who have their eyes on self, you will quickly get your eyes on yourself and you can't learn anything when you're arrogant. If you love money, you're preoccupied with the things that money can get you, the world. If you boast about yourself and your money, you're arrogant and not occupied with Christ. If you're arrogant, you're going to malign other people that don't think like you think. It all starts with loving God. You have no capacity for anything if you're ungrateful, unholy, and unloving. There is nothing wrong with pleasure, that's great. When it takes precedence over love for God, then you will never, ever be able to reach spiritual adulthood in your life and glorify God to the maximum. That's all He asks out of you. "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18), who loved you, gave Himself as a ransom for you, paid for your sin, went to the cross, was crucified, died, resurrected, and ascended to the right hand of the Father and He will come back. He will come back soon and I pray that when He comes back, you will be ready. I sure hope you're listening. I sure hope you paying attention. I sure hope you're encouraged by this study, small, brief study on the love and essence of God. Do you love God? **Love for God is critical in your life if you are going to obey Him and advance in the Christian life.** Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes say thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Spiritual Legacy

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Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. There's a wonderful way to live and it's the Christian life. It's a very unique life and I hope that you are interested in learning about it. This whole show is predicated on teaching you the mechanics of the Christian life. I'm not a pastor, I'm not here to be your pastor. I'm just a window of fresh air, a breath of opportunity. If you are interested in learning God's Word on a consistent basis, if you're one of those rare people that says, "I can't get enough of it. I want to know more, how can I learn more?" Then you're listening to the right place. I can direct you to well-qualified pastors across the country who in fact do teach the Word of God from their pulpits and have been there, some of them as many as 40 years, great men of God that teach just like I do, line by line, word by word, verse by verse with no appeals for money, no gimmicks, no games. It's all about growing up spiritually. That's what it's all about, having a FLOT line in your soul so you can grow up spiritually. Most people never really think about growing up spiritually. They think about growing up physically, their physical life. As you get older, you begin to change and you grow physically, you grow from a baby to a teenager to an adult, to maybe an older person. That's not to say an older person is not an adult but you know what I mean, you go through phases. Well, spiritually speaking, the Bible says we have to grow up spiritually. 2 Peter 3:18, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" Grow is a mandate in the Greek, it's not a request, it's an order. **As a Christian we are mandated to grow spiritually**, grow in our spiritual life. If you accepted Jesus Christ when you were 10 or 12 or 15 and now you're 50, have you grown? How much have you grown? What do you know about the plan of God? What can you quote? What can you tell people? Just what kind of spiritual growth has been in your life? Honestly most people never grow. They get involved in church, they get involved in the ritual and there's very little reality to it sometimes. They get involved in a routine and it's hard to grow if you're not being fed. I like to eat, you like to eat, we have to be fed. If we're not fed spiritually, we're not going to grow. That's the job of a well-qualified pastor, to feed you and not 30 minutes a week, not an hour a week, a lot more than this. My own pastor teaches about four hours a week, four hours from the pulpit every week. It's a wonderful way to study consistently on a daily basis, breaking it down, taking the Word of God in every day. I pray that this is something you would consider in your life because you want to leave a legacy. You don't want to show up at the Judgment Seat of Christ and have the Lord say, "Have a seat. I'll get to you in a few thousand years." **You want to hear, "Well done My good and faithful servant."** **Building a spiritual legacy is very important.** My own pastor was teaching this the other day and this motivated me to mention it to you. God is always looking for a few MVPs. You know, being football season we talk about the MVP of the Sugar Bowl, the MVP of the Orange Bowl, the MVP of the Super Bowl, or whatever. The MVP that God is looking for doesn't stand for most valuable player. **MVP stands for someone who has momentum, someone who has virtue, and someone who has poise. Momentum, virtue**

and poise, without these three things you will never build a spiritual legacy in your life. A legacy is something transmitted by, or received from, an ancestor or predecessor or from the past. You won't always be here, but you want to leave a legacy for those behind you and it's not physical that we're talking about. It's not the money you leave them. It's not the property you leave them. **The important thing as a believer in Jesus Christ is that you re-present Christ and leave a spiritual legacy.** That's what the disciples were challenged to do. The Lord Jesus Christ speaking to the disciples in John 17:25-26 as He prayed He said, *"O righteous Father, the world has not known You but I have known You and these men here have known that You sent Me and I declared unto them Your name and I will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."* The Lord Jesus Christ said, *"I have known you."* Known is something that you must acquire. You don't just wake up one day and have knowledge. You get knowledge from experience and so the Lord Jesus Christ knew God the Father. Don't you remember the Bible says when Jesus was 12, *"He increased in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and man"* (Luke 2:52)? To have wisdom you have to have *gnosis* and you have to have another word called understanding. Put these two together and you have discernment or wisdom, *gnosis* and understanding. **It's important you remember that the Lord Jesus Christ, even though He was the God-man, undiminished deity and true humanity in one body forever, as a man had to learn the Bible He had at the time.** He had to learn the law of Moses. He had to learn the Old Testament prophets. There was not a New Testament. There is not a recorded Scripture like we have today. **As a man and a child, He had to learn just like you have to learn.** Even though it was written about Him, it was also written to Him. When He talked about Old Testament prophecies and principles, these were things He learned. He wasn't speaking as God. He was speaking as a man and things that He learned. He said, *"I declared it to them."* This meant that He made it known or had revealed it to them. **The spiritual legacy of our Lord Jesus Christ was that He revealed His Father to those disciples. Then those disciples, their legacy, was to reveal to us everything about Christ that they heard, saw, and learned.** They revealed it. The legacy of the apostles is seen in 2 Peter 1:16, my pastor brought this up the other day when we were studying. I'd like to share it with you. In 2 Peter 1:16-19 Peter said, *"For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we ourselves were eyewitnesses of His Majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the majestic glory saying, 'This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.'" Peter said we ourselves heard this, we heard it, we heard it said. "We heard this and we were with Him on that sacred mountain when that came [that's the Mount of Transfiguration]. We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable and you will do well to pay attention as it is a light shining in the dark places until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your heart."* The legacy of Peter and the apostles was leaving behind the New Testament Canon of Scripture, the Word of God that we have today. The Holy Spirit inspired them. Peter said, *"we didn't come up with some cleverly disguised thing."* It wasn't something we devised on our own. It was from God the Holy Spirit

and their legacy is exactly this. **Just as Christ revealed the Father to the disciples, they in turn revealed Christ to us and the Father to us, so this legacy Peter had was the written Word of God passed on to us.** Not the legacy found in a temporal life, not wealth, not possessions, but the legacy of a spiritual life such as Peter left for you and our Lord left for the apostles. Now what is going to be your legacy? That's the question. Are you prepared to be an MVP for God? You will never be the MVP that has a legacy, if you're not prepared. Let's start with the M, the V and the P. **M stands for momentum. Momentum is hearing the Word of God and keeping it on a consistent basis.** No one can have any momentum if they don't hear and keep the Word of God. Thus in Luke 11:27-28, the Lord Jesus Christ said, "*Happiness belongs to those people who hear and keep My Father's Word.*" Hearing and keeping is the essence of momentum in your life. You hear under The Four C's I call it, where a communicator communicates, where the Holy Spirit captures, where you comprehend, and then where you comply. If the Holy Spirit communicates through your pastor and he captures this information for you, it comes down to your mind so you can understand it and you comprehend what the pastor said, then you still have to, by faith, comply with it. You have to be obedient to it. There is no momentum in your life without obedience. I mean, you can hear the Word of God taught and taught and taught but if you don't obey it, you do not have momentum. No one's perfect, no one can do everything right every time, that's why we have problem-solving device number one in the FLOT line of our soul which is rebound. When we sin, we go to the Father and we rebound. We confess our sin when we fail and the Bible says, "*He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all of our wrongdoing.*" If you're going to leave a spiritual legacy, if you going to be the MVP for God in your family, there must be consistent momentum. You must study God's Word consistently and I'm not talking about reading a small devotional book every morning. That's not studying God's Word. Studying God's Word is you sitting under a well-qualified pastor, hopefully on a consistent basis every week, four or five times a week, and letting him teach you the Word. Whether you're in person or whether you're at home with a DVD or an MP3, you've got your Bible and your notebook out, and you're studying, you're learning. **You're consistently learning principles and promises and applying them into your life and that's where the momentum comes from.** That's what will eventually change the way you think, so that you will begin to assimilate things from divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint. You will do what Romans 12:1-3 says, "*Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think but think in terms of humility because God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word.*" That's the critical issue, thinking from His Word. What does the Bible say about this? **Every decision you make in your life must be run by the Word of God. What does the Bible say about this?** When you don't do this, when you don't have any momentum, when you just take your best shot on luck and hope that you did the right thing, probably 9 out of 10 times you're going to mess it up. **You must know the Word of God.** You must have some momentum. You must be under a great pastor that teaches you the Bible so you can apply it and live it in your life. Then there's the virtue part, V for virtue. You want to leave a

legacy? You need to have virtue or integrity. That's what God is looking for. **God is looking for men and women with virtue and integrity.** Christians that stay under the filling of the Holy Spirit, operate under the faith-rest drill, understand grace orientation and Biblical orientation, men and women with integrity. Not dual soul people, saying one thing, doing something else, the Bible calls this a *dipsuchos*, two souled. You can't say one thing and do something else. You'll wind up in sin every time. That's not to say you can't recover from the sin because all of us strive to do what's right, but we fail constantly. You know you do, don't look at me like that, "I never fail." Yes you do. You worry, you get upset, you get angry, you get impatient, mental attitude sins come into your life just like anyone else, or maybe it's the more obvious sins. When you sin, it doesn't mean you're not saved anymore but it certainly means you not demonstrating integrity in your life. God wants you to have integrity, He want you to have virtue. He wants you to live virtuous and virtue is an amazing thing. **Virtue love is the greatest and it starts with us loving God.** "*We love God because He first loved us,*" the Bible says in **1 John 4:19**. That's reciprocal love and that's virtuous because the Bible says, "*If we love Him we will obey Him [1 John 5:3] and His mandates won't be hard.*" What are we suppose to obey? Here's something Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-29, "*Come to Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, I will give you rest. Take My yoke and learn [learn, learn] from Me,*" learn. What does the Bible say? "*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). What does the Bible say? "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). **Learn, study, grow, that's your spiritual life. That's how you develop integrity. That's how you become the virtuous man or the virtuous woman that God is looking for.** Virtue love has two parts to it - personal love for God the Father, yes and also impersonal love for others that you might not even like. The ability to love a jerk, the ability to love a weirdo, an obnoxious person, you can do it because you love them based on who you are, not based on who they are. You're loving them based on your integrity, not theirs. This means you can be relaxed around them, you can assist them when you need to. It doesn't mean you have to run over there and hug their neck and say, "I love you, Jesus told me to tell you I love you," that's not what it means. It means that you're never to get upset around people that don't like you or people that are obnoxious to you. That you are to be just as kind, just as wonderful to them as you would be to your best friends. That's virtue, that's integrity, that's using virtue love as a problem-solving device. If a person comes into your office that you can't stand, you can get the hackles on the back of your neck flared up, your eyeballs can get wide open, and you can stare at him with this hatred or you can nod and say, "Hello, how are you?" and use the faith-rest drill. Turn it over to the Lord, let the Lord handle this situation, you can't handle it. You probably already tried to handle it and that's the reason it's a little messed up now. Momentum, virtue and poise. **Poise is the ability to think under pressure.** The Bible says in Philippians 2:5, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*" If you can't think under pressure, you don't have poise. **This means you can't let your emotions dictate what you should or should not do.** You can't let your emotions gain control because Satan is really

good at manipulating your emotions. You'll think you're doing the right thing but inevitably it will be the wrong thing. If you want to build a spiritual legacy, listen to these verses. 1 Corinthians 10:31 tells you, *“Whatever then that you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God,”* all of it to the glory of God. **There’s a spiritual legacy for you, do everything to the glory of God.** “Only one life you live and it will soon be passed. Only what's done for Christ will last.” That's a poem I've heard and it's a great poem. Only what's done for Christ will last. In Luke 6:26, *“Woe to you when all men speak well of you for their fathers use to treat the false prophets in the same way.”* You're not trying to win a popularity contest at church. You're not trying to win a popularity contest at the Civitans or at the Rotarians. You're trying to hear God say, *“Well done My good and faithful servant.”* Here are some principles. Human good does not build a spiritual legacy. What exactly is human good? There are two types of good. There is human good and there's divine good. Let me explain the difference. The protocol plan of God says that everything must be done in a right way and thus there's a right way to do things and a wrong way to do things. If you do a right thing in a wrong way, it's still going to be wrong. Is it right to pray? Yes. Is there a right way to pray and a wrong way to pray? Yes. What's the wrong way to pray? The Bible says, *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”* If you are praying with unconfessed sin in your life, then you are building human good. If you give money with unconfessed sin in your life, you're building human good. If you teach Sunday school, if you attend church, if you whatever with unconfessed sin in your life, doing a right thing but in the wrong way, it's human good. All of this human good will be recognized and destroyed at what 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 calls the Judgment Seat of Christ. **You can't build a legacy on human good but if you're filled with the Holy Spirit using rebound, confessing any known sin to God, and then you pray, then that's divine good.** Then when you go to church, that's divine good and by that I mean you are filled with the Spirit. If you are filled with the Holy Spirit because you've confessed any known sin to God, then anything you do for Him is divine good and it is rewardable. **Divine good glorifies God. This is the lasting legacy you're looking for.** That's the lasting legacy you want to leave your family and your friends. **You glorified God with your life.** You were an MVP. You had momentum, you had virtue, and you had poise. You cannot live your life if you don't know what to live. **See, spiritual legacy is determined by what you reveal about Christ. That's your job.** Your job is to reveal Christ. Just like the disciples had the same job, you have the same job they had. The same things they experienced, you experience. **Your job is to do this and if you don't reveal Christ, you have no legacy.** How do you reveal Christ? **You reflect Him, you reflect His thinking.** *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”* You re-present Him to your friends. Your church in the community represents the body of Christ but your job is to reflect Him and re-present Him. In you, God the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ. Christ lives in you, the hope of glory. Christ in me the hope of glory. The Lord Jesus Christ of the Old Testament, the Shekinah Glory, was in the temple, the tabernacle and dwelt over it by night in the pillar of fire and by day in a cloud, and that's what's in you. The Shekinah Glory lives in you! You're told not to defile this temple in 1

Corinthians 3, so remember this. You want to leave a legacy for your children, a legacy for your church, for your family? **Your spiritual legacy must be built around what you revealed about Christ in your life.** The recognition of a spiritual legacy at the Judgment Seat of Christ is seen in 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. The gold, the silver, the precious stones in this passage are the lasting legacy you gave. The wood, the hay, and the stubble are the things you did, right things in wrong ways and they will be burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ because they didn't bring God glory. You were out of fellowship. You had quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit and what you did at that time, any unbeliever could have done. You're not an unbeliever, you're a believer. You're filled with the Holy Spirit supposedly. You're a child of God supposedly and you're not to live like the unbeliever lives. He can be moral. He can be self-righteous. He can not cuss and not drink and not smoke and not go to dirty movies, I mean come on. The Christian life is a lot, lot, lot more than just this kind of stuff. It's going to be revealed, your legacy will be known at the Judgment Seat of Christ and your eternal recognition should be what it says in Matthew 25:21, *"His Lord said unto him, 'Well done My good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I'll make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of the Lord.'"* The key there is fidelity, faithfulness. This is what God expects out of you. **No one can have a spiritual legacy without fidelity, without being faithful. Faithful to stay filled with the Holy Spirit. Faithful to take in God's Word on consistent basis. Faithful to reflect Jesus Christ in the way you think, in the way you talk, in the way you live.** Faithful, spiritually faithful, this is what God is looking for when He searches the earth to and fro, one faithful man or woman. He finds that man, he's a member of the pivot in America. A pivot member, a faithful believer, someone that holds the nation together with an invisible, historical impact in his life, that's got to be you. This impact may be invisible but it's a legacy that will last forever. You must be the person. You must take it seriously and quit fiddling around with your Christian life, quit going through the ritual when there is no reality to it. You know as well as I know, you're not being fulfilled spiritually, you're not growing spiritually, you're not learning anything. It's time you take it serious. I pray what I'm saying today about having the spiritual legacy and you being a person that has momentum, virtue, and poise in your life, I pray that this will encourage you and it will be an inspiration to you, that this will open your eyes and let yourself see what you are. Again, **"There's only one life, twill soon be passed and only what's done for Christ will last," that's C.T. Studd, his poem.** He wrote it and it's significantly true for you and for me. Only what's done for Christ will last. A right thing must be done in the right way. Are you listening? Can you apply this into your life? Is it going to make any difference or am I talking to a wall? I hope you're listening. I hope you're paying attention because I have great hope that you are going to be the man or the woman that preserves our nation in time of adversity. Your spiritual life will hold us together. Think about it. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Soul Renovation - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 687 aired on November 4, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. Today we want to talk about soul renovation, renovating your soul. Now remember, everybody has a soul and this is why we talk about having a FLOT line in your soul. A FLOT line in your soul is a main line of resistance inside of you made up of 10 unique problem-solving devices that we will discuss today. If you learn the Word of God and use these problem-solving devices, then you form a defensive perimeter around your thinking, around the mentality of your soul so that the outside sources of adversity don't invade and set off the inside source of stress. Adversity is inevitable but stress is optional and that's why we need a FLOT line. Everybody has a soul. Your soul is made up of your mentality for one. You can think, you can logic, you can reason, you can comprehend. You can choose, that's another part of your soul. That's called your volition. You have mentality, God gave you the ability to think. We don't all have the same mentality, we're not all on the same page IQwise, but spiritual IQ is different than human IQ. **We all have equal privilege and equal opportunity spiritually before the Lord** so we can be on the same page together with one another, that's for sure. The volition of the soul is your chooser, your decider. It's where you make a decision in your soul whether or not you want to obey or whether or not you want to disobey. The Bible says in 1 John 5:3, *"If you love Me, you will keep My mandates and My mandates are not grievous,"* so when it comes to obeying God, the motivator, the greatest motivator is personal love for God. You also have a conscience. Your conscience is where your norms and standards are housed. You say, "What's a norm and standard?" Well, when you were young, your parents taught you certain norms in your life, such as pick up after yourself, don't invade people's privacy, don't steal from your brother or sister, go to the bathroom, brush your teeth, take a shower, comb your hair. You have to have certain norms to fit into society. Then hopefully your parents introduced you to standards from the Bible such as the Ten Commandments, then you have some standards. If you have norms and standards in your life, this protects you from destroying yourself. Without norms and standards, you don't have any options, you have no choices. You don't know what your choices are and so more than likely you will destroy yourself without norms and standards. You have a soul and we're talking about renovating your soul, we're talking about changing the way you think in your mentality, changing the way you do things in your volition, changing how you are protected in your conscience and your self-consciousness. That's another part of your soul, that's your awareness of self - you can look in a mirror and pick yourself out. Among ten other people, you could figure out which one is you. If there are one hundred people in the picture, you can point to it and say, "That's me." I'm aware of myself, I'm self-conscious. Now, if you're going to change your soul, here is the key to this thing. Changing your actions doesn't work. Someone says, "I need to change," and I get letters like this all the time. Changing your actions won't work. **To renovate (change) your soul you must renovate the way you think.** The Bible is clear about this in regard to having a FLOT line in your soul. The Bible says in Romans

12:1-3, *“Stop thinking of self in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think but think in terms of humility because God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word.”* What does this mean, a standard of thinking from His Word? Here's what it means. ***“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus,”*** **Philippians 2:5.** **Think like Christ thought. How do we know how He thought? We have the New Testament. Everything He said was recorded for us so we can study how He thought. When we learn the Word of God we are learning the mind of Christ. When we have a FLOT line in our soul, we are thinking like He thought.** If you're worried about a child or a grandchild or a friend who's acting irresponsibly, they cannot just change the way they act. They can say, “Oh, I'm going to do better. I'm not going to do that anymore,” and nine out of ten times this doesn't work. **If you don't change the way you think, you can't change the way you act.** Until you learn and apply the Word of God into your life, you will continue to follow the same trends of your sin nature that you always followed and even with the Word of God, you may still fail occasionally. You may fail, you may go back and do certain sins that you deplore. You hate yourself for doing it, but this doesn't mean you're not saved anymore. This doesn't mean you're not a child of God. It just means you failed. You became carnal, you became fleshly. That's why we have problem-solving device number one, rebound. You can confess your sin to God and He will be faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you and when you take the Word of God and metabolize it, meaning like food you eat it and digest it and convert it into energy. **When you metabolize the Word of God, then the patterns of the sin nature will begin to change.** Thus, you will begin to fulfill the original purpose of your life. Having a main line of resistance, having a FLOT line in your soul is so critical. That's what this show is built upon and you should be able to name these 10 problem-solving devices. Remember this, nothing gets solved until we believe in Christ. That's the best news I could tell you, that Christ is the anointed Son of God and by His action, you and I are redeemed out of the slave market of sin. Thus our debt to God has been paid and we are free now, free of the penalty of death and free from the power of sin if we receive Christ as our Savior. When we accept the gift that He made on our behalf, it's a free gift complements of God. Listen to the Bible, Ephesians 2:8-9. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it's a gift of God not of works lest any man should brag about it.”* Titus 3:5-7 says, *“Not by works of righteousness we did.”* No, we can't save ourselves but when we believe that Jesus Christ is the anointed Son of God, as John 3:16 says, *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”* Believes in Him, is He or is He not the uniquely born Son of God? That's why Christ said in John 7:40. *“I am sent that you might believe on Me who He has sent.”* Who is He? Is He the Son of God? You need to ask your friends this, “Do you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God?” If they say no, then obviously they're not believers. They don't believe. If they say yes, then you have a believer and then you may say, “Well, have you accepted Him as your Savior? You can do this simply as an act of faith.” The Bible says, *“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,”* and by faith you can simply say, “Heavenly Father, I know I'm a sinner. I know I

deserve hell but I'm asking you today to receive me as Your child. **I believe in Jesus Christ. I want to receive Him as my Savior.**” **It is an act of faith, the words are not even important.** It’s the contrition of your heart that God is looking at. Are you willing to accept Christ? Are you willing to say, “I want my life back? I want to start over. I want to renovate my soul. I want to accept Jesus Christ as my Savior.” There are so many men and women in prison today that would not be there had they done this, had they accepted Christ and learned God's Word, they would not be there. Essentially, they didn't have much of a choice because their conscience wasn't programmed by their parents. My conscience was not programmed by my parents. I never knew my father and my mother never took me to church and it wasn't until I was 22 years old that I heard the gospel clearly for the first time and I believed in Jesus Christ and prayed to God and asked to receive Him as my Savior. It worked, it definitely worked. I didn't feel it, it didn't knock me down or anything, but it worked. Now I'm a child of God by faith alone in Christ alone. My thinking had to be renovated and I had to find a great pastor that would teach me the Bible, which I did. God led me to a uniquely qualified pastor who taught me God's Word and much of what you hear me talk about on these radio shows are things I learned from him. I was a sheep and he was the shepherd and he's no longer with us, but there are other men that have taken a church and they are fantastic teachers of the Word of God. **I continue to study and listen on a daily basis. You should too because we continue to renovate our thinking.** If you're going to have a renovated soul, if you're going to have this main line of resistance or FLOT line inside of you, it's critical because you can't live the Christian life without understanding this. The Christian life is not lived by, “I want to’s.” The Christian life is not lived by “I will try to do better.” **The Christian life is lived by learning and applying the Word of God.** That's why the Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:15, *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* That's why the Bible mandates that we *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,”* and that's why Christ Himself said in Matthew 11:29-30, *“Take My yoke and learn of Me. My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”* God's not going to ask you to do something hard. He’s not going to ask you to do something impossible, but He is going to ask you to stay in fellowship and learn and apply His Word. Stay in fellowship, that's where the first problem-solving device comes in. Once we accept Christ the Savior, we’re placed in the royal family of God. It is an unchangeable tenure. We are born again into God's family and Jesus said, *“I will never leave you. I will never forsake you.”* He said, *“I give unto them eternal life and they will never perish, neither shall any man ever pluck them out of My Father's hand.”* It's a done deal. If you've trusted in Christ, you received Him as your Savior, you are in the royal family of God. However, you might not be in fellowship with God because sin breaks fellowship. Sin quenches the Holy Spirit. Sin grieves the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us this plainly, so as a child of God, when I sin, I'm out of fellowship. I'm not out of the relationship, I'm out of fellowship and thus I have to go and do exactly what has always been done, name my sin to God. The Bible says in 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all of our wrongdoing.”* It’s exactly the

same thing that happened in Psalm 32:4-5, the same thing David did. We must name or cite our sin. When we do this, we can regain our fellowship with God and once we're back in fellowship, we are of course again filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit indwells you at the moment of salvation. Ephesians 1:13 tells you this, that the Holy Spirit seals you at the day of salvation. He also fills you and when you sin, He is quenched or He is grieved, but when you confess your sins as per 1 John 1:9 and rebound, problem-solving device number one, then we're back in fellowship. The Holy Spirit didn't leave you, you didn't kick Him out. You just quenched Him, grieved Him and you let your sin nature take over. You've got a sin nature. It's always been with you since the day you were born and it wants to control your life. That's why the Bible tells us in Galatians 5:17, "*The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh and they are contrary one to the other so we can't do the things we want to do.*" You cannot afford to let your sin nature control you. **You must operate under problem-solving device number two, the filling of the Holy Spirit.** He's called the Comforter and Jesus said in John 15:26, "*When He comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, He's the Spirit of truth and He shall testify of Me.*" He is called in John 14:26, "*The Comforter, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name will teach you all things and bring them to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you.*" How do you think those disciples wrote the New Testament? The Holy Spirit brought to remembrance many years after Christ had been crucified the words that He said and they were canonized and put into the Bible. Thus we have it. The filling of the Holy Spirit, you and I cannot operate in the Christian life in the flesh alone. There are a lot of Christians that operate in the flesh and what they're doing is establishing a legacy of wood, hay, and stubble. It will all be burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ because it didn't glorify God. It wasn't done under the filling of the Holy Spirit. Under the filling of the Holy Spirit we must worship God. The Bible says in John 4:24, "*God is a Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and truth.*" When you want to worship God, you must be filled with the Holy Spirit and you must be exposed to the truth of the Word of God, that's the absolute truth. It's amazing, the Holy Spirit lives in me and lives in you. When you and I sin, we quench Him. We grieve Him. When we rebound, then we put Him back in control. I know sometimes we sing like two different people and that's true because there is a battle going on inside us and the Bible is clear and says, as I told you before, "*The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars the flesh but if we will walk in the Spirit we should not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*" The Holy Spirit, when He controls you life, He can use you in spite of your abilities or even your inabilities. But if He does not control you then the greatest talent, the greatest ability, the greatest personality, the greatest eloquence in the world are useless. Maybe you're a singer, maybe you're one of those people that really loves to sing and you have a tremendous voice, and a tremendous repertoire of the things that you can sing but when you are not filled with the Holy Spirit and you're singing in the energy of the flesh, nada, void, nothing. It's just noise and it doesn't glorify God. Oh, it sounded great. You did a great job of performing but it's wood, hay, and stubble because it was produced in the energy of the flesh. We must stay filled with the Holy Spirit. That's the only way we can be rewarded in

eternity future for these things that we did in God's name. Then we come to the soul, strength in the soul. The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:19, *"Don't quench the Spirit."* Ephesians 4:30, *"Don't grieve the Spirit."* The soul strength of that believer is this invisible FLOT line, this invisible mainline of resistance, and how do you keep it strong? ***"Your Word I hid in my heart so I might not sin against Thee,"*** Psalm 119:11. **That's where you get the strength and that's how you understand what God's plan is.** Philippians 2:13, *"It is God who works in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure,"* so remember that. Learn His Word, let God the Holy Spirit control your life, and that's just the first two steps of the FLOT line in your soul. There are 10 problem-solving devices. Every problem we face was known by God in eternity past and He provided the solution for each one of these things, but it requires protocol. You must follow an absolute, a right thing must be done in a right way or it's all human good. It's of the flesh. Therefore following the protocol of God, you have to understand faith-rest, problem-solving device number three. When we crack the sound barrier, I mean you know a pilot in a jet, it takes a lot of speed, but if you want to crack the faith barrier, you must stand absolutely still. Ephesians 4:13, *"Moses told the Jews, 'Standstill and watch what God is about to do.'"* The only way you can standstill with confidence is standing on the Word of God. Ephesians 6 talks about picking up the shield of faith with which we use to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one. You must know the Word of God. There's no works, no movement involved. You just believe and you wait on the Lord to keep His Word to you. If you trusted in Christ to save you, which you did, that's the biggest event in your life, then why can you not trust Him for your needs and your problems and your difficulties that arise in everyday life? Are there real answers for all the heartaches? Yep. Real answers for all the problems in universities and frustrations? Yep. In John 16:33, *"These things I spoke unto you [Jesus said] that in Me you might have peace. In the world you'll have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I overcame the world."* **There is peace in Jesus Christ. Salvation not only means you're going to heaven but that you now have the means to renovate your thinking and stabilize your soul so you can meet every problem, every difficulty with tranquility and faith.** That's the only way you can live in a place of hopelessness, it's the only way you can exist in a helpless situation. **You can then see the extraordinary power and grace of God,** if there's no human solution when you are numb from the shock or the pressure and you're obviously in trouble and sometimes you can't even pray. Often it's only in a desperate situation that you avail yourself of God's perfect provision, faith and put yourself in His perfect place. Wait and you'll have peace, wait on the Lord. The faith-rest drill is incredibly important to you, problem-solving device number three. You must operate under the faith-rest drill. The faith-rest drill is you standing upon the Word of God in your soul and using the Word of God. The Lord said in Isaiah 41:10, *"Fear not, I am with you. Don't be dismayed. I am your God. I will strengthen you and yeah, I will help you. I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness."* Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:7, *"Cast all your cares on Him because He cares for you."* In Psalm 55:22, *"Cast your burdens upon the Lord, and He shall sustain you. He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."* And Proverbs 3:5-6, *"Trust in the*

Lord with all of your heart. Lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.” **This is the faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God. This is the strength in the Christian life. Mix God's promises with your faith and you stand.** Hebrews 4:2, *“The Word they heard did not profit them because it was not mixed with faith.”* See, if you know what the Bible says and yet you don't use the faith to believe it, then it does you no good at all. The only way the promises, over 7,000 in the Bible, the only way it can profit you is if you mix it with faith and this includes knowing them and believing them. Hebrews 4:3, *“For we who have believed do enter into rest.”* Many people spend their whole life seeking that elusive thing called happiness. They spend money they don't have to buy things they don't need to impress those weirdos they don't even like. We're trying to find something to give us some stimulation, something to give us some satisfaction, some sort of peace and blessing. The more we search for it under our own power, the more we reject what God has provided for us. **If you're going to live by faith you must claim the promises of God by faith. You must lean on Him.** These promises are designed to give you stability, strength, and the ability to face situations. I mean you can have some sort of relative fleeting happiness in your life from your family, some things and some positions in life but for you, the believer in Jesus Christ, in order to have this perfect peace, this permanent happiness, it must come through faith-rest, not depending on human factors. There's only one way to do it, His way. The Thy Way Highway as a friend wrote to me and said, “Not the My Way Highway, the Thy Way Highway.” God gave you His resources. He's made it easy for you. That's why Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, *“Come to Me and I will give you rest.”* What a great promise this is. **You know that through stability, we can handle two of life's toughest tests. One of them is prosperity, being prosperous.** That's a very tough test and yet there are a lot of preachers that preach a prosperity gospel. They want you to be prosperous. **Most people fail the prosperity test because it distracts them from the plan of God for their life. Then there's the approbation test and that's people promoting you beyond your ability to handle it.** Through stability we become a blessing to others because God's peace magnetizes us, makes us a magnet and people begin to be drawn to us to find out what makes you so different. That's a big paradox in life because we often have to become completely miserable before we become completely happy. God seems to take away all of our crutches doesn't He, so that we will lean on Him and learn from Him? Faith-rest means claim a promise from God. *“Thy Word I have hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee,”* Psalm 119:11, that's where it starts. **We use these promises with Biblical rationales.** A rationale is an underlying reason which justifies or explains why you're doing what you do. God will never let you down. A Biblical rationale is a logistical process of moving toward a Biblical conclusion, *“If God be for us, who can be against us?”* (Romans 8:31). There you go, rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit, faith-rest drill, just three of the problem-solving devices making up the mainline resistance in your soul called your FLOT line. **When you build a FLOT line, you renovate your thinking and that's what this show is about.** We've got a lot more to say about this so I hope you'll stick with me and come back next week.

Soul Renovation - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 688 aired on November 11, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes you have an invitation to listen up, stay with me. It will be just a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, education, and always no manipulation. Information to help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you're interested you can orient and adjust to the plan, that's up to you. Our show, The FLOT Line, is designed to give you problem-solving devices found in the Word of God. This was taught to me by my pastor many years ago and I'm re-teaching them to you. They are from the Bible, the Word of God, and it's not some new discovery. You'll recognize it when you hear it, but sometimes I say it in a way you haven't heard it said before, that helps you to comprehend it just a little bit more. We talked last week about soul renovation and I told you that no one can renovate what's on the outside until they renovate what's on the inside. If someone goes to a meeting and says, "I'm going to do better and I will promise I'll do better," until they change the way they think, they will not do better. They will always go back and repeat their errors and their mistakes, so before you can change your actions, you have to change your soul. Remember that your soul has mentality. It has the ability to think and logic and reason and comprehend. Remember that your soul has volition, it has the ability to choose. "Yes, I will." "No I won't." Your soul is the main frame of conscience where your norms and standards are housed. These are things you learned as a child. Norms, things that protect you all your life and your standards, these are the rules that you obey and live by in your life. You have to have norms and standards to have a normal life. Without any norms and standards you will be a criminal and you will do whatever you want to do and justify it with your own arrogance. **Actually, your soul is the invisible part of you that lives forever.** The body does not live forever. The body is decaying and will go into the grave and rot away. That's fine, it has to because it's identified with Adam's original sin. We have a sin nature and this body won't function in heaven. Thus, God Himself will give us a new body, a glorious body, a body like that of our Savior Jesus Christ the anointed Son of God. As we get our new body, we will be able to operate in this new body in heaven. What a wonderful thing it will be but while we're here, we are visitors in the devil's world. We don't belong here, we're passing through if in fact you are a Christian and thus the Bible says you need to have a main line of resistance in your soul so you can stop the outside sources of adversity from ever becoming the inside sources of stress. We know that we are told in the Bible in Ephesians 6:11 to "*Put on the armor of God so we can stand against the strategy of the devil.*" **We know the devil has a strategy on how to defeat you, how to discourage you, how to get you disillusioned.** He's very good at this. We know that he is not omnipresent like God is. God our Father is indeed omnipresent and He's immanent and transcendent, but not Satan. Satan is a created being. He can only be in one place at one time. Thus, if you say Satan's after you, I don't think that's really true because I think he has much bigger fish to get after than me or you. However, there are fallen angels that followed him

out of heaven and they are what we call demons today and they have the doctrine of demons. The doctrine of demons is taught in the Bible. It is false doctrine such as salvation by works, spirituality by works. In other words, "I'm a good Christian because I don't smoke, drink, or chew or hang out with those that do." That's not what makes a good Christian. "I'm going to heaven because I don't drink and cuss." That's not how you get to heaven. How you get to heaven is faith alone in Christ alone. That's why the Bible says, "*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 upon us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord so that being justified by His grace [not our works] we would be made heirs according to the confidence we have of eternal life.*" This show is called The FLOT Line, F.L.O.T., forward line of troops. **This forward line of troops is your main line of resistance to stand against the strategy of the devil and it consists of 10 unique problem-solving devices.** This is pretty well the way you can highlight the Christian life which our Lord Jesus Christ lived first. He came into the devil's world and He lived in the devil's world and He showed us how we can do it. Some of these things I'm going to tell you, He did not need because, for example, He did not need rebound. He did not need to confess His sins because He never sinned and He did not need to be occupied with Christ because He was Christ, but these are two things you and I must do. The rest of these problem-solving devices, you will see how our Lord used them consistently in His life. If you can learn the Word of God and metabolize what you learn, meaning not just letting it become knowledge but let it become full knowledge. The difference in this is found in the Greek New Testament where knowledge is called *gnosis*, G.N.O.S.I.S., the Greek word *gnosis*. However, the word we're looking for is *epignosis*, E.P.I.G.N.O.S.I.S., and that's the word full knowledge. Knowledge heard is one thing, knowledge heard and applied is another thing. **Until you learn and apply the Word of God, you will continue to follow the same trends your sin nature has always had you locked into. You'll never be able to break away from them because you will try to renovate the way you think without renovating it through Bible doctrine. Bible doctrine or the Word of God metabolized will remove these old patterns and thus help you fulfill your purpose in life.** Last Sunday we went through the first three problem-solving devices. We went through rebound which solves the problem of our personal sin. We went through the filling of the Holy Spirit which solves the problem of the energy of the flesh, and how we operate in the flesh and how it won't work. We went through the faith-rest drill, how we stand behind the promises of God and trust God. **Today we'll move to Biblical orientation and grace orientation to follow.** Why should you study the Bible, what's the deal about this? Well, if you're going to have a main line of resistance, there has to be some capacity, there has to be some thoughts in there. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:15, a mandate in the Greek New Testament using the words *spoudazo*, S.P.O.U.D.A.Z.O., and this is the word translated into the English, study. This verb is an imperative mood verb in the context of the Scripture which means this is a divine command. "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" Rightly dividing is an interesting word called *orthotomeo*, the Greek word

O.R.T.H.O.T.O.M.E.O. and it means to cut straight. Ironically, we get a word from this that we use in our English, orthodontist, to straighten your teeth. This means to teach Scripture accurately and learn it accurately. **We are mandated to study the Word of God, this is how we build a main line of resistance in our soul, so that we can rightly divide or to make it out straight, the Word of God.** Here's the principle. Dividing is the division, rightly dividing, that's division. Bible study certainly causes division. Some people study for the wrong reasons. Some people study the wrong way. Some even teach with hidden agendas where they try to build a clique. Some teach from ignorance not really knowing the languages and therefore misinterpreting the Scripture when they teach it, and some claim they even have extra Biblical revelation that God revealed stuff to them that He didn't reveal to anybody else and that's garbage. Here is your principle - if God told us to be careful that we get it straight, then He must have known there is a possibility that you and I could mess it up. That's why the Bible says, "*He is not the author of confusion,*" 1 Corinthians 14:33. "*He is not the author of confusion [and this word confusion means instability or disorder or disturbance] but of peace as in all the churches of the saints.*" He's not the author of confusion. By the way in the very next verse it says, "*Let the women keep silent in church.*" That's kind of strange, don't be talking out of line, "*Let the women keep silent in the church.*" Is it wrong for a woman to talk in church? If the pastor is teaching the Word of God, it's wrong for anybody to talk in church because teaching the Word of God demands academic discipline. Therefore, there should always be quietness and reverence when the Word of God is taught. The Bible does not contradict itself. God never gets unfair and He never gets emotional. There is another verse that says why we should have Biblical orientation and this is 2 Peter 3:18 where we're told to, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" This word grow is another verb, it's pronounced *auxano*, A.U.X.A.N.O. and like the last word *spoudazo*, study, this word grow, *auxano*, is a present active imperative in the morphology of this verb. It's another command. The active voice says you do it. The present tense is there never is a time when you're not to grow. As long as you are here, you are to grow. I have known people that were on their deathbed and they were listening to the teaching of the Scripture. There never will be a time in your life when you can say, "Okay, I've got it. I now know it all. I now can go fishing." Fine, go fishing but you don't have it all, you don't know it all. "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" If I ask you to explain how grace functions, could you tell me? There's saving grace, there's living grace, there's dying grace, and there's even surpassing grace. So we must "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ so that it may be well with you and you may live a long time on the earth,*" Ephesians 6:1-2. The Bible says why we should study, so we could live a long life. You can actually shorten your life, you can. You can get under the sin unto death as a believer, you get out of fellowship and don't rebound. You can mismanage your health, abuse your body, you can run with the wrong crowd and this will get you an early death. "*Grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,*" a divine commandment from God. Now this is critical. Today we are at the crossroads of history in

America. I've said this on the show many times. **There's only one thing that can deliver us and that's you. As a maturing believer, your life will hold off God's judgment on this nation. We are in trouble as a nation.** It doesn't take a genius to realize that everything that use to be wrong is now considered to be okay and everything that use to be right is now considered to be prejudicial and wrong. America has turned upside down. We've given in to the demands of diversity and we have lost our direction and we have gotten distracted because of our prosperity. That's the hardest test for anybody to face, prosperity. The end result is we are in serious trouble with God because, *"Unto whom much has been given, much is expected,"* Luke 12:48. God has blessed us in a phenomenal way and there are tremendous things that He expects of us. I hope you're listening, I hope you're paying attention because Biblical orientation is critical for your life. **Then there is grace orientation.** This is where you have to understand and live by the concepts of grace. God graced you out. He loved you when you were unlovable. *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,"* He loved you when you were unlovable and that's grace. *"For by grace are you saved through faith. It's a gift from God."* **We have the wonderful saving grace of God to us provided through the sacrificial death of our Savior, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ the anointed son of God. Also we have living grace. God has provided grace for us to live every day. Every time you take a breath of air, that's the grace of God.** Every time you walk and don't float up into the atmosphere due to the gravity, that's the grace of God. Every time you wake up and look outside and see the sunrise, that's the grace of God. **We have living grace He provides, not only protection for your physical life, but He has provided everything you need to renovate your soul life.** You have a Bible. You have a New Testament. You have a canon of Scripture. You have a gift of pastor-teacher. You have the indwelling and the filling of the Holy Spirit. You have your very own spiritual gift that God equipped you with. These are all grace assets and by understanding and using these things, then the potential for a phenomenal life awaits you, if you orient to grace. Living grace is amazing. Not legalism. Legalism is what our Lord fought. The legalists were the ones that crucified our Lord. They were the ones that wanted to get Him in trouble because He picked an ear of corn on the Sabbath or He healed somebody on the Sabbath. Really, it was all about a threat to their power. If we get into legalism. then we start trying to manipulate people. We start telling people, "You can't chew bubblegum and dance. That's a big sin. You can't drink colas and eat crackers. That's a big sin." I'm being facetious, but you understand. There are so many legalistic things that organized religion throws on you that when I first got saved I didn't think I could live the Christian life. I couldn't do all that stuff and then I finally found out that wasn't the Christian life at all. This was what man was telling me was the Christian life. **The Christian life is grace orientation, learning the grace of God, exploiting the grace of God, promoting the grace of God, sharing the grace of God. What a wonderful, wonderful thing to be able to grace those out that are your friends, grace them out because God graced you out.** Gracing people out means taking care of them, paying for their meals, paying for their whatever they need, helping them in any way you can without expecting anything in return. You grace them out just

like God graced you out. Grace orientation, Biblical orientation, these are key assets in our lives for a FLOT line in our soul and I'm just skimming across the surface. I could really teach you, I'm serious, 10 to 15 hours on grace orientation, going through the Bible line by line, word by word, verse by verse and I just skimmed over it like a rock skimming across the flat surface of the pond. You've seen it, "hop, hop, hop" that's all I'm doing here, just hopping across, giving, highlighting these unique problem-solving devices. We have a book called *Christian Problem-Solving* that we'll be glad to send you and it lists all of these and mentions them to a degree, but there is much more detail than what's in this book, but it's how you start. If you have a hunger to know these things, then we can provide a place for you to start. **Another problem-solving device is you having a personal sense of destiny. Every Church Age believer has a destiny, something we are destined to do, God's appointed course for our life.** The minute that we believed in Jesus Christ we took off on this fantastic voyage. You know our Lord Jesus Christ had a destiny, from the womb to the tomb, yes He did. He knew why He came and He knew where He was going and He knew when it would happen and He told the disciples it would happen. Of course they had unrealistic self-images and they didn't believe it. Even when He told Peter, "You're going to deny Me in the morning before the rooster crows," Peter arrogantly claimed, "I would never do that. I would die for you," but he did. You and I have failed Christ so many times. Don't act like you're self-righteous, you have blown it and I have blown it. If it wasn't for the grace of God, we actually would be a greasy spot right now. He loves you, He forgave you, He restored you, and you are still here and you're listening and learning this morning and there's so much more to learn. My prayer is always that I will find positive volition across these radio waves, that I will find somebody in Denver, somebody in California, somebody in Wyoming, somebody in Mississippi, somebody in New York, somebody in Alabama, somebody who wants to grow and is tired of playing games. Somebody who wants it all, somebody who wants to learn it all, that's what I pray for and look for with this radio show. I'm a recruiter for God. I'm looking for positive volition. I'm looking for hungry people that are willing to dig it out and learn it and use it and apply it and become invisible heroes in God's plan with a tremendous historical impact through their lives. That's your destiny. It's important you remember this. **The destiny that you have is like a door you walk through and go out the other side and for the first time in your life you will be living on God's agenda, not your agenda.** 2 Timothy 1:12, *"I know whom I have believed in and I am persuaded He is able to keep that which I've committed to Him against that day."* God has a plan and His plan is perfect for you. When you learn this plan, when you see this plan, when you see your spiritual gift unfold, it's an amazing thing. This does not imply that we've going to be successful in our spiritual life, that's not what I'm telling you, it all depends on your attitude toward Bible doctrine. You have God's faithful provision of eternal life. He gives it whether you are faithful or not. God is never unfaithful. He's always faithful. You're the one that's unfaithful. I'm the one that fails, not Him. There's no sin that we could ever commit that would cause God to cancel the unique things He gives us at salvation. He's not going to do this. We are in God's royal family. We are in the

Church Age. We have a sense of destiny. We know what this dispensation is designed for, the calling out of the royal family of God, and this is complements of our Lord Jesus Christ. We know He's coming back for the Exit Resurrection. We know that at the sound of the trumpet, *"The dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain together shall be caught up together with them in the clouds and so shall we evermore be with the Lord."* We know we will return with Him at the millennial reign of Christ where He will rule in Jerusalem for a thousand years, and we will be here in our resurrection bodies, ruling and reigning with Him. If you have this sense of destiny, this eliminates all your boredom and all your self-pity and all your self-induced problems. There's no room for this because you know what's out there, you know what's ahead of you. I know He's given me equal privilege and equal opportunity to grow and learn and apply it in my life, but none of these things that I'm telling you can ever become a reality if you don't learn it and apply it in your life. You see, being aware of your destiny, that motivates you to seek it out and to fulfill it. This motivates you to achieve spiritual self-esteem where you have some cognitive self-confidence in your life. You don't have to depend on other people. This motivates you to move to spiritual autonomy where you had cognitive independence and then spiritual maturity where you have cognitive invincibility. There you are, self-centered and arrogant, nothing happening but self-confidence and independence and invincibility is what God wants you to have. As a mature believer in spiritual maturity, if you're going to have a spiritual sense of destiny, this will outweigh any problem, any disaster, any heartache, anything that may come your way. Just listen to the psalmist in Psalm 40:8. *"I delight to do Your will O my God."* Listen to what Jesus said in John 4:34, *"My food is to do the will of the One that sent Me and finish His work."* Then Paul testified to the church in Colossae, *"Since the day we heard of you, we don't cease to pray for you [Colossians 1:9] and ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."* The knowledge of His will, what is your destiny? What does God have in store for you? That's critical, that's really critical. You have a personal sense of destiny. It started the day you believed in Jesus Christ and the day that God imputed to you 40 irrevocable assets, that's when it started and now here you are a few years later. The question I have for you is, have you realized this destiny? Have you seized the opportunities in front of you? Have you glorified Jesus Christ to the max by renovating your soul and beginning to think like He thought? Romans 12:1-3 mandated us to do this along with Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* You need to leave a legacy, we've talked about this. You will not leave a spiritual legacy if you're self-centered. **You will not leave a spiritual legacy if you're not learning and applying the Word of God in your life. You will not have an impact for Jesus Christ in your community, in your family if you can't replicate His thinking. That's why He left you here, to replicate Him, to re-present Him to your neighbors, to your family, to your friends.** There is no legacy if you can't represent Christ to your children and your grandchildren so think about these things. It is critical that you understand them. I'll always be here for you as long as God provides and we trust He will. This is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Personal Love for God

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 689 aired on November 18, 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 stick it out, stay with me, listen up. It's simply a time of motivation, inspiration, some education, and we do it without any type of manipulation which means we don't play games. We're not trying to con you for money, not trying to hit you up to join anything, to fess up anything, we just want to give you some information. Hopefully this information will verify and identify the plan of God for your life and if you want to, you have the freedom, you have the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. That's what the FLOT Line is about, giving you the plan of God, showing you how you can use tremendous problem-solving devices taught in the Bible to stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress. These Bible problem-solving devices are for Christians, people who have made a decision to believe in Jesus Christ. The FLOT Line is designed to remind Christians of these Biblical truths and hopefully to introduce you to a way of studying and a way of learning that will appeal to you. See, my job is not to harass you, just verify and identify the plan and this plan starts with the reboot. I call it the reboot, you know, your computer shuts down, you reboot, get it going again. Well, as a person that is born into this world, we are born spiritually dead the Bible says. *"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 *"The wages of sin is death,"* so we need a reboot. This reboot is seen in John 3 where Jesus told Nicodemus, the scholarly Pharisee, that he needed to be born again, born a second time. Nicodemus was a bit confused and the Lord Jesus Christ said, *"I'm surprised you don't understand this."* The reboot is the second birth. *"It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment,"* the Bible says. The Bible also says, *"He that is in Christ is a new creation. Old things are passed away and all things have become new."* How does this happen? *"For by grace you are saved through faith,"* according to Ephesians 2:8-9, *"And that not of yourselves. It's the gift of God and not of works."* The reboot is a gift, a gift from God, a gift for you to start your life all over again regardless of what's in the past. *"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation,"* a chance to redeem yourself out of the slave market of sin because of what Christ did for you on the cross. He paid the penalty for my sin. He paid the penalty for your sin. We are the ones that should've been there, but He was judged in our place. This redeemed us, this satisfied the justice of God, and now we have an open invitation to become members of the royal family of God. When we move into the family of God with the reboot believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are born again. We start a new life and this life goes through three phases. Phase 1 salvation, phase 2 what we do after we are saved, and phase 3 what we'll do in eternity. We are in phase 2 now. What do we do? How do we live? What's it all about? Simply put, there's a plan, God has a plan for each of us. We have to learn the plan, we have to execute the plan. The plan has protocol. It demands that you do it in a right way. A right thing has to be done in a right way and so as we learn the plan and execute the plan, we *"Grow*

in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” We become the man or the woman that God intended for us to be. We glorify God to the maximum. We replicate the life of Jesus Christ and we have a phenomenal impact in our universe, a phenomenal impact in our nation and in our family. It's an invisible historical impact that lasts throughout all eternity. That's what we're talking about. I have a question. A couple of weeks ago I asked if you love God and I wasn't sure what your answer might be. **Part of the problem-solving devices is personal love for God. The Bible is clear in 1 Peter 1:8, “Whom you have not seen, you love. Though you do not see Him, yet believing you rejoice with joy inexpressible, full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your soul.”** “Is it possible to love someone you've never seen?” The answer is yes. I've never seen God, you've never seen Him, we've never seen the Lord Jesus Christ, we live by faith. And by faith, as we study God's Word and we come to see His tremendous love for us, *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”* We see His tremendous care for us. **“We love Him because He first loved us,”** 1 John 4:19. **As we develop this rapport with God by learning His Word, we learn to love Him.** You can't love someone you don't know, come on, you know this. People say, “I love God,” but they don't even know Him. If you learn about Him and learn His character, His essence, His plan for your life, then you can love Him. Jesus in John 20:29 said to Thomas the doubter, *“Because you have seen Me, you believe? Blessed are those who have not seen Me and yet they have believed.”* In Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus said to a lawyer who was asking a leading question, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your mind. This is the first mandate,”** and what our Lord was quoting was Deuteronomy 6:5. In Deuteronomy 6:5-7 as written by Moses, *“These words I command you, and they shall be in your heart. You should teach them with diligence to your children, talk of them when you sit in your house, talk of them when you walk and when you lie down and when you rise up.”* This is telling us the Word of God might be important. It might be important, don't you think so? One of the problems we have in our nation today is we have shut down on giving the Word of God to our children. And somehow we feel it may be offensive if we go into a school and talk about Jesus Christ. True, it may offend a couple of people, but we have a whole generations of young people who have not ever heard of the Ten Commandments, do not know what the Bible says, have not been allowed to be given a Gideon Bible and don't want prayer at a football game. It's crazy but that's what's going on in America today. Everything that use to be good is now all evil and everything that use to be evil, well we applaud it and accept it as really good in the name of diversity. The Bible says that we must love God. In 1 John 5:3, **“This is the love of God, that we keep His mandates and His mandates are not a burden.”** **If you love God, this is the motivation to obey God. Personal love for God is the number one motivation in life.** This is why we do what we do, because we love Him. **This is the greatest virtue you and I could have, personal love for God.** The Lord Jesus Christ had an issue with the church at Ephesus in the book of Revelation and He pointed out a problem. He said in Revelation 2:2, *“I know your works. I know your labor. I know your patience. I know you cannot stand evil and you test the prophets that you have perceived. You*

have patience and you have not become weary,” but there was one thing missing at this church. Their faith had become so technical it wasn't personal and listen to what was said about this. *“You have left your first love,”* what a terrible thing to say, *“You have left your first love.”* Their faith had gotten so technical, so mechanical that they failed to still be in love with God. Now Paul talked about the same church later in Ephesians 1:15 and said, *“I heard of your faith and your love for all the saints, and I keep praying for you.”* This is something that Paul said in Philippians 1:9, *“I pray that your love may abound still more and more in all knowledge and discernment so that you can approve the things that are excellent, things that are from the Lord so you can live without offense until the day Christ comes back.”* Having personal love for God is not something that you just work up in your mind. It's something you develop in your soul. It's an appreciation for Who and what He is. *“We love Him because He [God] first loved us.”* We've never seen Him. We don't know what He looks like but we know what He does. We know what He provides. Every breath of air you take is complements of the grace of God. Every day you wake up is complements of the grace of God. That family you have, those grandchildren you have, complements of the grace of God. How would you recognize this sort of believer, this believer that really loves God? How could you tell? They would be obedient. **The Bible says, “If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard,” 1 John 5:3.** God is not going to ask you to do something that would jeopardize your life. He's not going to ask you to do something that would harm someone else. He just is going to ask you to be obedient. Now if you have a sin nature like I do and you have a war in your flesh like I do, of course the Bible says we all do. *“The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh, they are contrary one to the other so we can't do the things we should do.”* The Bible mandates in Ephesians 5 that we should walk in the Spirit, that we should be filled with the Spirit, and so the filling of the Holy Spirit is an obedience mandate, it is us obeying God. How are we filled with the Spirit? Well we are indwelt with the Spirit when we accept Christ as our Savior and we're filled with the Spirit anytime we rebound, problem-solving device number one. Anytime we rebound our personal sins, we are filled with the Spirit. How would you recognize a believer that really loves God? He's obedient and he's respectful and cautious. He doesn't take God for granted. He doesn't think he and God are big buddy buddies, you know. We're talking about the God of the universe, we're talking about our Lord and our Savior. And this doesn't mean that we should be controlled by our emotions either because you know emotions are a wonderful appreciator, but this is not the type of love I'm talking about. The type of love I'm talking about is a respectful capacity for loving the character of God for what He's provided for us through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. This sort of believer wouldn't be mechanical and he wouldn't be legalistic. He would not lose his spontaneity. He would act freely. He would act cautiously, naturally, without being forced to do certain things. You know some people pray only certain times of the day or they give only in a certain way. And if you don't worship the way they worship, then you're not really worshiping, whatever, whatever, whatever. Revelation 2:5, back to it, *“You left your first love,”* your motivation to be obedient, you left it. They lost their reciprocal love motivation, the church at

Ephesus, that wonderful church lost it and we are warned in 1 John 3:18, *“My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue only, but in deed and in truth.”* In 1 John 3:22, *“And this is His mandate, that we believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another as He gave us the mandate.”* In Matthew 22:39, *“Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”* And then in 1 John 4:19, *“We love Him because He first loved us.”* Do you love Him? Do you know Him? Do you understand the God that you know? You see this is a real problem and the Bible talks about this in the book of Jeremiah. God said, “I want somebody who not only knows Me, but somebody who understands Me.” How can we understand the God that we don't know? For example, do you understand He's sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, immutability, veracity, omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence. I know I just rattled off a lot of big words but do you know any of these? Because if you love God, you're going to know every one of these. It's not just an emotional thing. It's a great capacity, it's a great appreciation, it's something that you dedicate your life to learning and serving the Person that you love. One of the greatest distortions that Satan has in this world is in this area of love. People think that love solves problems and that if we could just find the right one to fall in love with, we'll be happy forever. I've got news for you, marriage doesn't solve problems. It compounds problems. So we're talking about a love that's not an emotional love. The love of God has been distorted by Satan I believe in every aspect of life. You know, “If you really love God, you won't execute anybody. Just because they murdered 25 people, doesn't mean we should execute them.” You have people that are so-called believers that march on some prison where they're going to execute some guy that's a vicious murderer and they'll say, “Well you know, if you love God you should not do that.” And you've got to love all the evil stuff nowadays, stuff that is repulsive. Stuff that use to be evil is now good as I've told you. And of course, the big thing today is we've got to love these people. You can love people from a distance you know, it doesn't mean you have put your arm around their neck and hug them. There are just two kinds of people who claim to love everybody and hopefully you and I are not one of them because it's usually a drunk or an idiot, neither of whom has any discernment. If you're going to love God, it starts off with understanding His character. There's love for God, love for your spouse, and then friendship love, that's wonderful, and there are two sources of love in this life. One comes through the filling of the Holy Spirit and one comes through the spiritual life. **In 1 John 2:5, “Whoever keeps His Word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. Because of this we know we are in Him.”** 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins,”* that's the rebound technique. So when we rebound and are filled with the Holy Spirit, Galatians says, *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, mercy.”* We get love produced by the filling of the Holy Spirit but also as we grow spiritually. Love is manifested in our life with obedience. This is the virtuous love that we're talking about. **Love for God is the motivational virtue that motivates you to be obedient.** Love for others, even the ones you don't like, is a functional virtue. In James 2:8-9, the royal law talks about loving your neighbor as you love yourself. This doesn't mean that you've got to go hug their

neck but it means you've got to stay relaxed. You've got to understand this. I'm sure there are people in your life you don't like, there are a few in my life I don't like either but the Lord Jesus Christ died not only for us but also for the ones that we don't like. If He died for them, why do we think we are privileged to not like them? Why do we think we have the right to spurn them or talk about them or gossip or malign them? We don't. He died for them and if we are going to be Christ-like, we have to love our enemies just as He loved them and this doesn't mean that we're going to hang out with them all the time. But it means this, that you can have a relaxed mental attitude in their presence, that you don't have to get nasty and angry and vindictive, that you can live your life under the filling of the Holy Spirit using the mechanics of Bible doctrine in your soul and be completely at ease around the biggest jerk you know of in your whole town. That's impersonal love. It's you being able to provide for him what God provided for you. It's a wonderful thing, functional virtue, loving those people that are unlovable. You know, that's exactly what God did for you. You were unlovable. In John 3:16, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life,*" you were that person. You were the unlovable person and He loved you. You didn't have His righteousness. You didn't have His integrity but He loved you. He loved you based on His character, not your character. **He loved you based on what He was, not who you are. And as you accept Christ as Savior and come to know Him, then you develop this reciprocal love where you love Him back.** You know, love is only as strong as the essence of the character of the person who professes to love. It's not just an overt expression or physical touch. It's a character asset. If you love your spouse, you only love them based on as much as your character. What's your character like? Do you have integrity? Do you have honesty? Are you virtuous toward your spouse? You know, it's a mental attitude, not an emotion. Emotions are not stable but the mental attitude is stable. This love for God, this personal love for God doesn't turn on and off or appear and disappear, it's always the same. People that don't have capacity for love, I feel sorry for them because they are always uptight. They don't have a sense of humor. They take themselves way too seriously. These sort of people are hard to hang out with if they take themselves way too serious. Here's what you've got to remember. God was in business before you got here and He's going to be in business long after you're gone so chill out, relax. He's got it under control and you know, experience doesn't make a good lover. Two men in the Bible who knew more about love than anybody that I've studied, neither one of them were married, Paul and Jeremiah. It's amazing to hear them talk about love and neither one of them were married. The more experiences one has with the opposite sex, the further away they are from really knowing what love is all about because experience has no bearing on true love. What makes a man a good lover is knowledge. "*I pray that your knowledge would increase [Philippians 1:9] with great virtue.*" The Word of God in your soul, "*Approves those things that are excellent, helps you to be sincere without offense to the day of Christ,*" Philippians 1:10. So the more of the Word of God you learn, the more you realize the importance of loving God, the more you become obedient to God and love the Lord Jesus Christ. The more you love God, the more

capacity you have for love. Thus the more capacity you have to love your spouse, to love your friends. The Word of God maintains this, that you love on an even balance. Don't scatter you love around on objects that are never designed to be the objects of love. You know you've got some of these in your life. Some of your hobbies, "I love this, I love that." You can enjoy the assets that God gives you but your love is directional and functional toward God, toward your spouse, maybe toward a few friends. The principle of the verse, **Philippians 1:11**, "*Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Christ Jesus unto the glory and the praise of God,*" that's **the result of the capacity for love**. Filled with the fruits of righteousness is the capacity for love. Capacity for love is phenomenal and Paul prays that the love in the church at Philippi would abound with production of divine good, divine good not human good. Remember divine good is whatever you do for God under the filling of the Holy Spirit. Whatever you do for God under this activity of the sin nature is human good and this will be burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. You want to show up in heaven with a basket full of divine good, those things you've done while you were filled with the Holy Spirit. Divine good has a maximum impact in your life and in the lives of those around you. It's not a point system but it is the automatic result of you having a love for God. You would be obedient, you would obey God, you would be seeking God's will in your life. And when you have the Word of God in your soul, then you have these norms and standards that guide you, norms and standards that direct you and that's the amazing thing about personal love for God. **Personal love for God is stability in your life, it's a spiritual weapon**. The Holy Spirit pulls the trigger when you're filled with Spirit and then you love, you love based on this, "*Now that you've purified your souls by your obedience to the truth [1 Peter 1:22] so that you have genuine love for one another, deeply from the heart.*" Genuine love, wonderful capacity for love, friendship love, it's an amazing thing. You know, there are so many of you I have never met in my life. I just talk to you on the radio but I have no doubt we could be wonderful friends and we would have friendship love capability, respectful love one for another based on our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Think about this, think about this in regard to your family. The thing that draws you close to another person is mutual thinking, when you think alike. When you think alike, when you think the Word of God, when you operate on the Word of God, you become close to people and that's where the friendship love comes in, it's an amazing thing. No hardness of the heart, no sin separating you one from another, but staying filled with the Holy Spirit, purified by God's Word, using rebound and handling this and that's the key to understanding the spiritual life. There is a spiritual life and it includes rebound, the filling of the Spirit, the faith-rest drill, grace orientation, doctrinal orientation, a personal sense of destiny, personal love for God, impersonal love for others, sharing the happiness of God, and occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ. These are the problem-solving devices we'll talk more about. By the way, we have a bookmark with these listed on it. If you'd like it, just contact us, we'll send it to you free of charge. Personal love for God is the greatest virtue you could have in your life. Please think about this and please come back next week. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Virtue of Impersonal Love

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 690 aired on November 25, 2018

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few moments please stay with me. It will be a time of motivation, some inspiration, some education, and we always do this without any type of manipulation. If this is your first time to tune in, please stick around. It's just 30 minutes of learning something. We're not asking you for money, we're not trying to solicit membership, we're not trying to sell anything. We're just giving you information. Hopefully the information will verify and identify the plan of God for your life and if you would like to orient and adjust to the plan, that's up to you. My job is to be accurate, to get it right, not to make an emotional appeal, but just to tell you like it is so please stay with me. The FLOT Line is always about renovating your soul, soul renovation, changing the way that you think. A FLOT line is an invisible barrier or defense, a main line of resistance that you put in your soul. How do you do this? By learning God's Word, particularly 10 unique problem-solving devices that we teach. When you learn these 10 problem-solving devices, and this is not something that I invented, this is not something I discovered, this is age old Biblical doctrines that have always been there put in a way maybe you've never heard before. When you learn these problem-solving devices you have the potential to stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. We know we all face stress and we know we all face adversities. Adversity is inevitable but stress is in fact optional. And the reason is adversity is what circumstances do to you and stress is what you do to yourself. If you are interested in learning the problem-solving devices, if you're interested in what this unique Christian life is about, nothing weird, nothing charismatic, nothing Holy Ghosty, just the mechanics of how it works. If you're interested in how the Christian life works, then you're listening to the right show because we're going to talk about this in detail and mechanically how you must learn the plan of God. You know, a football team has a process they have to go through and all the players have to buy into the process. If they in fact do, then they can have a winning team. Well you know most Christians are all on the same team but we don't all have the same process. Some football teams are better than others, they've got better coaches or they've got better players. As far as Christ goes, we're all on the same team but we don't all understand the same process. This show is about teaching you the mechanics of how to live the Christian life so that when you do arrive in heaven, you will hear your Lord say, *"Well done My good and My faithful servant."* You don't want to get there having wasted a lot of time and Him saying, "Have a seat. I'll get to you in a few years," so we want to learn the process. If we renovate our thinking as the Bible mandates we must do in Romans 12:1-3, *"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,"* there it is, change the way you think. Most of us have a tendency to think in terms of human viewpoint and the critical process is to begin to think in terms of divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint, divine viewpoint. You know, as we approach the Thanksgiving

season there are a lot of things to be thankful for and I'm sure that around your home you have been very thankful that you had dinner with your family. You probably said, "What are we thankful for today?" A lot of people are thankful for material possessions. A lot of people are thankful for peace and happiness and things like this. However, the real thankfulness is the wonderful gift, the greatest gift in the world that God gave us which is His Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. This is a free gift of God. The Bible clearly says, *"For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it's the gift of God and not of works lest any man should brag about it."* The greatest thing that we have to be thankful for is, *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God by means of Him."* He went to the cross. He died in our place. He was judged for our sin. He paid the penalty. Your sins will not send you to hell, I want you to hear this, your sins will not send you to hell, your sins were paid for. "Well, what sends me to hell?" *"He that believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life, and he that believes it not, the wrath of God abides on him already."* What sends a person to hell is rejecting Jesus Christ as Savior, rejecting the forgiveness that God offered him, and trying to appease God with your own righteousness, your own goodness. You know, "Yeah, well God, I tithed. Well God, I went to church, Well God, I didn't cuss, I didn't drink, and I didn't smoke, and I was faithful to my spouse." Of course the Bible says that, *"All of our good works are like a filthy rag in God's eyes. There are none that are righteous, not even one."* The only righteousness that God can recognize is His own righteousness, and the Bible says, *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us so we could be made the righteousness of God by means of Him."* When we come to the cross and believe in Jesus Christ and receive Him as our Savior, His righteousness is given to us and God the Father looks down on you and what He sees is not your righteousness, He sees the righteousness of Christ imputed to you. This opens up the floodgate, the floodgate of divine blessings and immediately eternal life is imputed to you along with 39 other wonderful things and they're all taught in the Bible. We have all of this listed in our book, so if you're interested let me know, we'll send you the book. It lists all of the 40 assets that God gives you the moment you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank you for listening. Now today in soul renovation we want to move on in reviewing the FLOT line, the forward line of troops, the FLOT line in your soul, the main line of resistance. We left off last week talking about personal love for God. Today we want to move into impersonal love. **The two greatest virtues in your life are personal love for God and impersonal love for others.** Love is a tremendous virtue. **Personal love for God is your motivational virtue and impersonal love for others is your functional virtue.** Functional virtue, motivational virtue. *"We love God,"* the Bible says in 1 John 4:19, *"because He first loved us."* Then we know from the royal law, James 1:8, we are to *"Love our neighbor as we love ourselves."* We are never to judge, never to malign, never to criticize, never to backbite, that's not suppose to be done. If you're a Christian taking your daily walk with your dog like my family does and you're talking to your neighbor down the street, don't criticize. Don't malign the neighbor that lives behind you because he doesn't cut his grass or because you don't like his dog or because you don't like something about that person. That's

judging, that's maligning, that is a sin and most people don't even think about it this way. They're just too busy talking about other people. Talking about other people is a sin when you malign them, when you judge them, when you criticize them. You have to learn to use impersonal love, it's a wonderful problem-solving device and it's unconditional toward all mankind, everybody in the human race. If you're a believer in Jesus Christ and you are filled with God the Holy Spirit, this comes by means of rebound, using the rebound technique, 1 John 1:9. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us."* Whenever you name a sin to God, you are automatically filled with the Holy Spirit. Whenever you sin you automatically quench the Holy Spirit and grieve the Holy Spirit. Using rebound consistently in your life, moment by moment, day by day, sometimes maybe 20 times a day if you're driving on the interstate a lot like me, and you rebound when you get out of fellowship. When you get angry, when you get ticked off, your mental attitude sins will quench the Holy Spirit. So here we have this concept of rebound, the concept of staying in fellowship with God. **With impersonal love the emphasis is on the virtue of the subject, not the object, your virtue, not theirs.** This is what you have to remember, impersonal love is an expression of this virtue as well as a type of humility in your life. In the book of Philemon there's a story about Onesimus the runaway slave who faced the death penalty for what he stole. Paul wrote back to Philemon and said in Philemon 1:16-17, *"Consider him no longer a slave but a beloved brother, especially to me, but much more to you both in the flesh and in the Lord. If you count me as a partner, receive him as you would receive me."* Here's Paul encouraging Philemon to use impersonal love with Onesimus. Personal love for people is never commanded in the Bible. **Personal love for God is commanded, yes, that's your motivational virtue. But never are we commanded in the Bible to have personal love for one another, it's always impersonal love.** Impersonal love is always required by God as part of His operational plan for our life. In Ephesians 5:25, *"Husbands, love your wives."* There's a present active imperative of the Greek word *agapao* or *agape* and it's a command. You must love your spouse but sometimes your spouse is not loving, especially if he or she gripes and complains or maligns or does something you don't like, spends money you don't think you have. Then you get all angry and all ticked off and get torqued up and bent out of fellowship, that's not loving. That's being revenge motivated. And so loving someone that you're married to requires impersonal love because there are going to be times that the person you're married to cannot be very lovable because of some decision they made but you still must love them. You just simply switch virtue, you love them based on who you are not based on who they are. In Titus 2:4, *"Older women should teach the younger women how to love their husbands."* Girls must learn how to love obnoxious, self-centered men who don't think about anything but themselves most of the time. I know, I'm one of these guys and so our wives have to learn to love us with impersonal love, a love that's based on their character, not our character because our character is lousy sometimes. So women have to learn how to use impersonal love with their husbands and with their children. The Bible says, *"Older women should teach younger women [Titus 2:4] how to love their husbands and how to love the children."* If you've got children like me, there are times that you

don't love them. You get angry at them because they're obnoxious and don't obey. You have to learn to use impersonal love and in Hebrews 13:1, "*Let brotherly love continue,*" present active imperative again, a mood of command from God. You are commanded by God to use impersonal love every day of your life, not only with your spouse, not only with your children, but even with your neighbor. You are to love all people and this is exactly what God did for you. "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.*" Did He love you with personal love? No, He couldn't because you had no virtue, you had no integrity. He loved you with impersonal love. His love was based on His character, not your character. Once you accepted Christ as Savior and entered into the royal family of God, now God can express personal love to you because now you're His child, you're in His family. Impersonal love does not work until motivated by personal love for God, so **if you have personal love for God, the greatest virtue of all, then you will obey when the Bible says, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself," that's impersonal love.** You can't use impersonal love until you're willing to be obedient with personal love. Impersonal is an adjective and it means connection or reference and it's more of a professional attitude that you have toward people. Don't take it personal. Don't get angry or upset. This neighbor you don't like probably treats everybody the same way they treat you so you have to have a professional attitude. As a Christian you must be one of these silent professionals that is functioning under the plan of God without going around to everybody in town running your mouth on how much you dislike somebody because of something they did. Without impersonal love like we are talking about, you're never going to have any good human relationships, never, because you'll always be changing friends. You'll always change your partners in romance. You'll divorce one and marry another. You keep looking for the right one, but it's not when are you going to find the right one, it's when are you going to be the right one. Because you have no basis to hold them together, that's the deal. You can't hold your friends together. You can't hold your family together because you don't understand God's plan for your life. You need a soul renovation. You need to change the way you think. "*Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think.*" Your emotions are designed by God to be an appreciative factor in your life but never to make decisions. You can appreciate your relationship but emotions aren't there to establish a relationship. You know, if you meet someone and your emotions get fired up, you may think this is the one I want to spend the rest of my life with until you hear them talk and hear what comes out of their mouth or what comes out of their brain. Then you know, "Boy, this is a weirdo. I don't need to spend the rest of my life with him." I need to love them impersonally, not personally, so virtue in the Christian life is totally void of your emotions kicking in. I am not talking about emotional appreciation for your spouse. I'm not talking about feeling emotional for your neighbor. I'm talking about a mental attitude of virtue that spawns out of your personal love for God. It's the same attitude that Christ had on the cross when He said, "*Father forgive them. They don't know what they're doing.*" He had impersonal love. When He went to the cross, He died for you and me even though we are the biggest jerks in town. He died for us, you know this so it's is not about His emotions. It's about what He did and it has to be the same way for us.

Emotions really don't think very much, they rationalize to try to solve problems. We have problem-solving devices found in the Bible. This is why arrogant people always want to be loved unconditionally. They want unconditional love from others, but all they offer in return is some sort of conditional love. "I'll love you if you treat me this way," the greater the arrogance, the greater the condition of love. Most men do this to the women that they love, you know this. Go back, listen again, arrogant people always seek unconditional love from others. You don't do this, that's not the way you live. You don't have to have people love you in order to love them. If you learn God's problem-solving devices, if you stay filled with the Holy Spirit, if you learn the process, if you renovate your thinking, you can love the biggest jerk in town the same way God loved them, the same way Christ loved them when He went to the cross, the same virtuous love. It's called impersonal love. Personal love without impersonal love as a virtue is the weakest and most unstable status quo in life. Listen again, personal love without impersonal love as a virtue is the weakest and the most unstable status quo in life. Why? Because it's vulnerable to the entire realm of arrogance and emotions. You can't use it, you can't have personal love without impersonal love first. Jesus said in John 15:12 to the disciples, "*This is My mandate, that you love one another as I have loved you.*" They were bitter and jealous of one another. If you don't believe this, read the New Testament and see how they competed for His attention. Who wanted to be first, who wanted to sit on the right hand and the left hand, and who wanted to prove he was the toughest. **In 1 John 4:20-21, "*If someone says, 'I love God,' but he hates his fellow believer, he's a liar and the truth is not in him.*"** Impersonal love is the greatest virtue for you to have. It is your functional virtue in life. If you have impersonal love and you can develop impersonal love by renovating your thinking, then you will never get angry at a person, you will never have bitterness and hostility, you will never have this sort of emotion controlling your life because you hate somebody or you hate what they did to you or you hate the way they treated your family or you hate the way they kicked at your dog. You have to learn to use impersonal love. Christ died for this person just as He died for you. You have your flaws. They have their flaws. But you judge them because they did something that you didn't like and you don't have impersonal love. **Without impersonal love you're never going to have any happiness in your life either.** Happiness is a wonderful problem-solving device, we call it problem-solving device number nine, sharing the happiness of God and it's taught in the Bible quite plainly. We call it plus H, plus H is sharing the happiness of God. Minus H is no happiness and neutral H is the happiness the world offers. So if you want to be happy, you have to do what Jesus said in Luke 11:27-28. Here He's speaking and a woman comes up and interrupts His message and she blurts out, "*Blessed is the womb that bore You, and blessed is the breast that You nursed on,*" and the Lord politely, maybe impolitely, I don't know, He didn't sin but He said, "You are wrong lady." He said, "*Happiness belongs to those who hear My Father's Word and keep it.*" That's the source of happiness, hearing God's Word and keeping it. In this passage the Lord has been dealing with demon possession and here comes a woman coming up to interrupt Him to take the attention away, to distract people and start talking about love. She was having some kind of emotional

experience and what she had to say was more important than what Jesus had to say so she interrupted His message. He was talking about those Pharisees and how they blasphemed the Holy Spirit by attributing His miracles to the working of Satan. So it was a good ploy by the devil, but it didn't work. We don't know if she was a believer or not but we do know she was definitely demon influenced to interrupt what Jesus was saying, trying to divert Christ's message away from the subject that He was talking about. You know our Lord had fantastic *aisthesis*, He had the ability to see the issue. I mean He had just finished admonishing Martha for her griping about having to do all the food preparation by herself and He had gone on dealing with this subject. Mary chose the one good thing He said was necessary and that's the Word of God. Nothing would stop Mary from getting face-to-face with her Savior. This does not mean that you study the Word of God when it's convenient. Basically what this situation is saying to us is the most important thing in my life and your life is to get face-to-face with our Lord through the Bible and through the filling of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis, daily, every day. This woman made happiness out of the womb, happiness is not related to the womb. She broke in and said happiness relates to those of the mother that bore You, *"The womb that bore You and the breast that You nursed on."* Happiness is never related to the womb. Bearing children will not fulfill anyone's life. Mothers can have pride in their children but it's not the plus H that we're talking about. It's not the happiness of God. This whole situation was to trap Him, to lure Him into a road that He did not need to go down so He corrected her and He said, "You're wrong, that's not true, *Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it.*" Our Lord Jesus Christ was a great teacher and His treasure that He taught us is to be guarded. James 1:22 says, *"Don't just be a hearer of the Word but be a doer because hearers deceive their own self."* You must understand and there must be application in your life when you hear it because sooner or later you will be tested on what you've learned and when you're tested, then you have to be able to make the application. The woman said happiness is related to motherhood. Jesus said happiness was related to the Word of God in your soul, hearing it and keeping it. I mean, the Lord talked about happiness a lot to the disciples and to you. The Bible says in Proverbs 3, *"Happy is the one who finds wisdom and the one who obtains understanding."* True happiness comes from wisdom and understanding. I need to explain a little bit more about this for you, the fantastic four: wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and discernment, something that's critical for all of us to have. Maybe we'll get around to this here in the next episode as we come back to our radio show next time. You must know your options so you don't walk around in the fog all the time. You've got to understand Satan's myth, and that myth is that people or circumstances in life can make you happy. That's not true. So if you're dependent on any one person or any one set of circumstances for happiness, then you are going to be disillusioned and weak all of your life. Are you paying attention? I sure hope so. Thank you for being here and giving me a few minutes. Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

How Simple It Is

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 691 aired on December 2, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes you have a cordial invitation to stay tuned. We have a brief show, only about 30 minutes of motivation, some information, a whole lot of education, but we do it without any type of manipulation. We don't solicit money, we don't sell anything. We're not trying to hustle you to get you to join something. This show is about giving you accurate information, that's it. Your job as a listener is to orient and adjust to the truth as you hear it and you agree with it. My job is to be accurate, to give you truth, not to get your emotions stimulated, not to try to get you fired up, but to simply tell you what the Word of God says so that the end result is that you can orient and adjust to God's plan and have a magnificent life. I want to thank you first of all before we get going this morning for so many of you that have written to me in the last week and said, "We are listening, we do enjoy the show, and we hope you'll stick with it." I really am encouraged when I get these notes that say, "We're listening and we're enjoying the show." You can email us, simply go to our website, I appreciate it. If you ever would like one of The FLOT Line bookmarks, we have these 10 problem-solving devices on a bookmark, just ask. We also have a book called *Christian Problem Solving* that's free. It lists all 10 problem-solving devices that make up the FLOT line in your soul. Everything we do is free because we know if God is in it, He will in fact pay for it. Let me remind you that I am not a pastor. I'm not trying to build a local congregation. I'm more of a person who's pointing the way to a good pastor. Hopefully I can direct you to where you can sit under a well-qualified pastor and learn God's Word consistently, how the protocol plan of God operates, how it works, how you can apply it to your life, and how you can have this fantastic spiritual life the Bible talks about. Most people don't have any idea what the spiritual life is. Remember, God gave you two ends and success in your life depends on which one of these ends you use. You might have heard it said, it's heads you win and tails you lose. Ephesians 5:17 says, "*Don't be unwise but understand what is the will of the Lord.*" The real question is, what is God's will for your life? It's so very easy to mess up. You can make a single decision that can affect you all of your life and it's very easy to make bad decisions. Bad decisions limit future options. **The cosmic system is always out there luring you and what's really amazing is the power of the sin nature.** We have a sin nature, we all do. Every one of us is born a sinner and when this sin nature goes negative and the cosmic system lures it, it's unbelievable what the sin nature in man can do and the power of the sin nature. No matter what you tell people, they just will not listen and they go down the My Way Highway we call it. A lot of people this morning, Sunday morning, you're listening wherever you are, you may be headed for church this morning. That's good as long as you don't sit there glazed and dazed. Some are really born-again children of God and some simply go for the ritual, but there's no reality to why they go. Many people it seems think that worship is being spiritual, "I'm going to worship this morning so I'm going to be spiritual. We're going to sing some songs and we're going to praise

God, and seek to give God the glory by attending a worship service.” Psalm 50:23 does say, *“Those who offer praise glorify Me.”* It is true, praising God in a song service is a wonderful way to glorify God but it's not how we grow as Christians. If we want to grow as a Christian, 2 Peter 3:18 says *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* This is something you have to come to understand. It's an imperative. God said, *“That you know Me and understand Me”* (Jeremiah 9:24), this is what He's looking for. No one ever grew spiritually by singing. We are mandated to grow spiritually. How does this happen? 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.”* From 2 Timothy 2:15 and 2 Peter 3:18, we have two words, study and grow. Both of these words are what we call imperative mandates in the Greek New Testament. They are not a request, they are an order from God. Simply put you, me, we are ordered as believers to study the Scripture and learn about the grace of God and the knowledge that's required to function in this plan. If I do this, then I won't be ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ when I'm standing there and my lack of understanding is demonstrated by my poor performance in my life as a believer. **God wants me to learn something, learn how to execute His plan. It's there, it's available, and what's amazing is the fantastic happiness and contentment that is associated with this plan.** It all starts with us coming to understand the God that we know and what He expects from us. In Jeremiah 9:24, *“I'm looking for those who know Me and understand Me.”* If you want to know God, you must understand first of all, foremost, that His anointed Son Jesus Christ is the only way to reach Him. This is the only way you can come to God. John 14:6, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man can come to the Father but by Me.”* John 10:7-9, *“Then said Jesus unto them, ‘Verily, verily I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever come before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. By Me if any man enters in he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture.’”* **Why is Jesus Christ the only way to God? Because He's the Son of God and paid the penalty for our sin, because Christ alone satisfied the righteousness of God.** God accepted His sacrifice as a ransom for our sin. God requires a perfect sacrifice. We are not perfect so we can't appease the righteousness of God. God reached down to me before I ever reached up to Him. Remember John 3:16? *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”* He loved me way before I loved Him so it was the cross of Christ that made God accessible to us and Jesus was made for that cross and that cross was made for Him, something the disciples didn't quite understand. He kept telling them until finally they figured it out, He was going to die. He had to die. This was the plan all along and if you understand this, then you understand that you can have a relationship with God through the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross. You can have a new life. We use the term “reboot” in our world, reboot the computer, reboot your phone, turn it off turn it back on. You can have a new life if you screwed up the old life. **You can reboot your life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away and all things become new.”** Now think about this - today as you're listening to me you can start your life all over again. You can take everything you've

ever done in the past that you're ashamed of, those sins that you've committed that you know are wrong, and you can come to the cross and lay them at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ who in fact died for them already. He paid the penalty for these sins already and by putting your faith in Jesus Christ today, you can have a new life. You can start a brand new life today. How? *"If any man's in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away and all things become new."* The night that I prayed and I asked God to save me and I told God that I was believing in His Son Jesus Christ and I wanted to receive Him as my Savior, that was my second birthday. I have an original birthday when I was born physically, that's when I came into the world. **But I have a spiritual birthday also and that's when I was born again, when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior.** Just like I've had to grow up physically and adapt my life to physical stress, requirements, and mandates, I have to grow up spiritually. My spiritual life could not stay stunted. I couldn't stay a spiritual midget. I had to grow up and learn God's plan. We all have a physical life and if you're a believer, you have a spiritual life. Like me, you must learn how to function in this new life and the wonderful thing about it, here's the great thing, the Lord Jesus Christ promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to guide you. In John 16:7&13, *"Nevertheless I tell you the truth, it's expedient for you that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you, but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. When He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth for He shall not speak of Himself, but whatever He shall hear, that shall He speak and He will show you things to come."* **When you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior you get your own Guide, Mentor and Coach in life - the Holy Spirit. He comes to live inside of you!** He indwells you and He desires to fill you and control you. **This is the same Holy Spirit that sustained Jesus Christ in guiding Him during His time on earth in His humanity.** Remember, our Lord Jesus Christ was the God-man. He was undiminished deity and true humanity in one body forever. Jesus Christ the Lord the anointed Son of God imparted the Holy Spirit to each person who receives Him as Savior and **it's through the Holy Spirit that we live the spiritual life.** It's a battle I admit. Even after I accepted Christ as Savior I still have temptations every day. I still fail. Galatians 5:17 says, *"The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars with the flesh and they are contrary one to the other so you cannot do the things you would like to do."* We do have a flesh. We will always have this cancerous body called the flesh until we die and we get a new body, a resurrection body, a glorified body and it will not be identified with sin. We won't have a sin nature. Remember this, in Romans 7:15 Paul echoed the same thing, *"For that which I do, I don't understand. For what I wish I could do, I don't do but what I hate, that I continue to do."* None of us want to continue to sin. None of us are proud of ourselves when we sin, but it's the flesh. It's inside of us. **If we are going to have a successful spiritual life, we have to learn how to control the flesh. We have to learn how to let the Holy Spirit guide our life.** In Galatians 5:16, *"This I say then, walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh."* This is a promise. So the question is, how do I walk in the Spirit? Well, here's the answer. At salvation you are sealed by the Holy Spirit. The night that I prayed and I asked God to save me, I was sealed by

the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13, *“After you believed you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”* I was also indwelt by the Holy Spirit that night that I got saved. 1 Corinthians 6:19, *“What, don't you know your body is the home of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have of God and you are not your own?”* The Holy Spirit came to live in me just like He came to live in you when you accepted Christ and the question is, will we let Him control our lives or will we let the flesh control our lives? You were also filled that moment that you accepted Christ and you are given two negative mandates in the Bible. You are sealed, indwelt, and filled the moment you believe in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 4:30 tells you, *“Don't grieve the Spirit of God,”* and in 1 Thessalonians 5:19, *“Don't quench the Spirit of God,”* two negative mandates. These two things, grieving and quenching, are signs that you have allowed your flesh to take control. It's a sign that you have sin in your life that you haven't confessed, that you haven't dealt with. Romans 8:7 says, *“The carnal mind is hostile to God. It is not subject to the law of God neither would it ever be.”* You can be that way. When you decide to sin, when your negative volition kicks in, your sin nature flares up and tempts you and waves that red flag and you go for it. Then you become carnal because you have allowed your sin nature, your flesh to take control. Thus Romans 8:8 says, *“Those that are in the flesh cannot please God.”* You can't please God if you are out of fellowship with unconfessed sin in your life. When this happens, your spiritual life stalls out. You may continue to go through the motions but it's just ritual without reality because what you've done is you've quenched and you've grieved the Holy Spirit. You have a problem. This is when it's time to recover. This is when it's time to resume your spiritual advance. How do you do it? Some people say, *“You've got to surrender to God brother.”* What in the heck does this mean? *“You've got to yield brother, yield.”* Okay, what does this mean? *“You've got to rededicate your life to the Lord brother.”* Okay, good. How do I do this? Psalm 66:18 clearly says, *“If I regard sin in my life, the Lord will not hear me.”* So how do I get back in fellowship with God after I have quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit? Is it surrender, yield, rededicate? No, it's 1 John 1:9. *“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 problem-solving device #1 on the FLOT line of your soul. **You must cite your sin to God in order to resume your spiritual life and restore your fellowship with God.** I didn't say repent. Some people will tell you, *“You've got to repent brother.”* Well, there are three words for repent in the Bible, three different Greek words, *metanoia, metamelomai, and metanoeo.* Let me ask you, which one of these three words are you referring to? To repent means to change your mind, change your thinking. When we come to God and confess our sin, we are changing our mind. We know it's wrong and we are admitting it's wrong because if we ever hope to grow spiritually and get out of infant diapers as a Christian, then we must stay in fellowship. **We can't grow spiritually if we don't stay in fellowship.** Hebrews 5:12-14 talks about this. It says, *“You have been a Christian a long time now and you ought to be teaching others, but instead you've gone back to where you need the very first principles of the Word of God,”* and it uses an analogy. It says, *“You're like a baby that needs a bottle because if I tried to give you strong meat you would choke on it,”* the writer of Hebrews says. I see this sometimes

when I'm out speaking and traveling around. If I'm in some church somewhere and I'm giving strong doctrine, too much doctrine, too much information, people choke on it. They're not use to this. They just like a little milk, a little pablum. This is not growing spiritually. This is not being a mature believer. A mature believer has an intense hunger for the Word of God. He wants to learn it and I know after I became a Christian and after I found a well qualified pastor that God led me to, I had an insatiable hunger to study the Word of God and to learn it, to get a notebook, to get a Bible, and listen to the teaching of the Word of God, writing down what I learned, reviewing it, and going over it. Much of what I say to you today and teach you today is what I learned from my very own pastor who taught it to me so many years ago. I learned that the Christian life has problem-solving devices and it's called the FLOT line. The first one as I told you is the recovery procedure that every Christian must go through. We must confess our sin when it occurs. Remember, sin comes in three areas, something you think, something you say, even something you might do. Without confessing the sin, none of us will make it one day in our spiritual life. If you want to walk in the Spirit, it's simply an analogy to living every day under the control of God the Holy Spirit. At this moment in time as you are listening to me, either your sin nature is controlling your life or you're filled with the Holy Spirit. How would I know? How would you know? Is there unconfessed sin in your life? You say, "Well, I can't keep up with all of them." Remember 1 John 1:9 says this, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness,"* even the ones you don't remember. **Is there unconfessed sin in your life? If there is, you're not in fellowship with God. You are under control of your flesh and you're not pleasing to God.** You've quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit. You must use problem-solving device #1. You may think you're being spiritual but it may only be the area of strength that you have, produced by your sin nature because your sin nature can do good things. Your sin nature can give money, your sin nature can pray, these are all good deeds but they're all burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. They are called, *"Wood, hay, and stubble,"* in 1 Corinthians 3:11-16. Yep, you've got a sin nature and if it's controlling you, it's the flesh. Remember I said, *"The flesh wars against the Spirit."* Romans 13:14 say, *"Do not make provision for the flesh."* 1 Peter 2:11 says, *"Abstain from fleshly lust."* This flesh, this sin nature, we got it at physical birth, this is where it came from. *"For by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin and now it has spread to all members of the human race for all have sinned"* (Romans 5:12). Everybody has sinned so we all have it and by means of Adam's original sin we were born spiritually dead, but by means of Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, we are born spiritually alive at the second birth. The second birth is really phenomenal. *"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation."* Nicodemus didn't quite understand it and in John 3:3 Christ told Nicodemus he needed to be born again. This is key to understand. **This new birth does not eradicate the sin nature. It simply means there's a new power source in your life.** It's not an eradication of the flesh. If anything, it exasperates the flesh. The Holy Spirit now empowers your dead human spirit and you are born again. Now you have a choice about who's going to control your soul, who's going to control your thinking. Listen to Romans 6:6, *"Know this, the old man*

is crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and henceforth we might not serve sin.” In Romans 6:11, “*Reckon yourself dead to sin but alive unto God through [or by means of] Jesus Christ the Lord.*” You cannot afford to let sin control you any longer, you’ve got to stop this. A lot of people spend money they don't have to buy things they don't need to impress people they don't even like. The plain truth is this. **A lot of our activities are nothing but a narcotic to try to deaden the pain of our empty life.** Don't think the sin nature to going to give up without a fight. **Galatians 5:17, “The flesh wars against the Spirit. The Spirit wars against the flesh.”** It's an everyday affair. Every day there is an internal battle between the Holy Spirit and the sin nature and it is never going to end as long as you're on this planet, in this corrupt body that's infected with the sin nature. If you're going to control this sin nature, you must learn to recognize the patterns and recognize the trends of when it comes, what it does, and what it is luring you to do. How do you tame it? Well, there's no way to tame it. It's infected and it's terminal. You just can't tame it but you can refuse to let it control you. Control is the operative word, not influence you. We will sin but we don't have to submit to the sin. **You don't have to submit to the domination of the sin nature, the flesh. You can quickly recover by confessing your sin, rebounding using 1 John 1:9 and the operative word is quick.** You have a choice. When you sin you can quickly confess your sin and get the flesh out of control or you can let it linger, let the flesh control you and you will continue to sin and you'll repeatedly sin until the discipline of God drops the hammer on your head. You’ll wake up and say, “Boy, was I a dummy.” I hope you're listening. I sure hope you're learning. I’m doing the best I can to make it as simple as I can. Please stick with me. Write to me if you have a question. Come back next week, same time, same place, same station. Pray for us as we look for other stations to broadcast on. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you so much for listening to The FLOT Line.

Spirituality and Maturity

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 692 aired on December 9, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. FLOT stands for the forward line of troops. No, it's not a military show but this is a military analogy to the Christian life, building a mainline of resistance in your soul by learning 10 unique problem-solving devices. This is what this radio show is about, teaching you the Word of God, no games, no gimmicks, no appeals for money, no soliciting membership, just simply information. Hopefully I can verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you're interested, you have the privilege to orient and adjust to the plan. This is really up to you but my job is to get it accurate and get it right, no games, no gimmicks, nothing to play around with. This show is always about truth and teaching truth, hopefully to find those of you that have a great hunger, a great desire to grow spiritually, and hopefully to direct you to where you can find a well-qualified pastor to feed your soul, to teach you the Word of God on a long time basis. I'm not a pastor, I'm an evangelist. My job is to just find you, get you located, point you in the right direction, and I hope the messages that I give to you are encouraging. Today we're going to go to Psalm 119:1-16 and this is a three-part guideline to those who seek God's blessing. Would you like to have God's blessing in your life? Who wouldn't? We always say, "Great blessing to you. God bless you." You've heard people say this. "*Happiness belongs to the undefiled, those who walk in the way of the Lord.*" Now, exactly who are the undefiled and who are the ones that walk in the way of the Lord? Let's go to Psalm 119:6, "*Then shall I not be ashamed when I have respect unto all Thy mandates.*" If you want to have happiness in your life, "*Happiness belongs to the undefiled.*" An undefiled person is a person who respects God's Word, who respects the mandates of God's Word and this means you obey them. The greatest virtue you have is obedience. 1 John 5:3 says, "*If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard,*" they're not grievous. Now come on, I know no one is perfect. We all have a sin nature. We've talked about this many times and we all fail. We fail repeatedly and we fail miserably. "*The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword*" (Hebrews 4:12). It cuts us to pieces. It lets us see ourselves as we really are. But if we have respect for the Word of God and we fail, we use rebound, problem-solving device #1. By the way, I hope you'll order your bookmark that we had printed up for you with all of these 10 problem-solving devices listed. We have enough for you to get several if you would like and pass them around. This problem-solving device #1, confessing your sin to God, is the key to staying filled with the Holy Spirit. Unless you use rebound on a consistent basis you will not stay filled with the Holy Spirit. You will quench the Spirit through sin. You will grieve the Spirit through sin. The area of strength of your sin nature may be mighty nice and mighty well refined, but it is not the spiritual life. It's not the Christian life. Thus you must rebound to solve the problem of your personal sins. **If you have respect for the Lord and His mandates that's part of the key to happiness, Psalm 119:11, "*Thy Word have I hid in my heart so I might not sin against Thee.*" Keeping His Word is another way that you have happiness in**

your life. Have respect for His Word, keep His Word and then Psalm 119:15, *“I will meditate in Your precepts and have respect and confidence in Your ways,”* meditating, pondering over, understanding. Then Psalm 119:16, *“I will delight myself in Your statutes [that’s civil and religious regulations] and I will not forget Your Word.”* This is the key to being blessed by God. Read it for yourself. Pick up Psalm 119:1-16. Read through it and you'll see where it is clear that we must learn the Word of God. We must apply the Word of God into our life to exist in the devil’s world. The cosmic system is out there. The devil is in charge, but we have the opportunity to have divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint. Divine viewpoint, what is this? It is the mind of Christ, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 2:5) and the New Testament is called the mind of Christ. The disciples recorded, wrote down, passed on to us what He thought, what He said, what He did. **We learn God's Word and we develop divine viewpoint. We think like He thought and we act like He acted.** Who wants to learn the Word of God? Raise your hand. Nobody. Nobody wants to take the time to learn the Word of God. We want to have a drive-in church. We want to, just like our internet activities, we want to do it quick and we want it fast. You know, people seem to want their church experience to be simple and to be safe, and then they want to go home and go out to eat. That's not the spiritual life. That's not learning God's Word. That's religion which is ritual without reality and it's meaningless. **If you want to learn the Word of God, if you're interested in learning the Word of God, then the end result is growth.** You will grow. The scariest thing I've ever seen is a self-righteous preacher who's going to scare the heck out of you but he's not going to teach you anything. You must understand Hebrews 5:11-16, where the writer there said, *“Look, you’ve been saved a long time now and you ought to be teaching others, but you're not. You’re still acting like a baby.”* Let me ask you this question, how long have you been a Christian and how long have you been a serious student of the Bible? Not pick up a morning devotion and read five minutes every morning, this is not a serious student of the Bible. This is commendable, yes, but this is not what we’re talking about. We’re talking about someone who sits under a pastor, who listens to the teaching of the Word of God, who takes notes, who reviews his notes, and applies this information to his soul. One of my dear friends just started doing this recently and he said, *“You know it's amazing. I didn't realize how much I did not know.”* **We will be evaluated, 1 Corinthians 3:11-16, at the Judgment Seat of Christ based on what we produce.** We can produce this wood, hay, and stubble as taught in this passage or we can produce gold, silver, and precious stones. Gold, silver, and precious stones is spiritual production, production in your life that comes from the filling of the Holy Spirit. It’s the prayers you offer, the money you give, the testimonies you offer while you're filled with the Holy Spirit, the times that you reflect Jesus Christ in your life. The human good, the wood, hay, and stubble, are the things you did under the energy of the flesh, the strong side of the flesh, the strength of the flesh. Oh, you went to church. Oh, you prayed. Oh, you gave money. Oh, you sang in the choir. Oh, you traveled and did this and did that but you had unconfessed sin in your life. You quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit and it’s wood, hay, and stubble. You did a right thing in a wrong way. It's very possible you are

doing a right thing in a wrong way right now. You must learn this. It was the hardest thing for me to learn in my own arrogance because in our own arrogance, we think we're something else. You know, we justify why we act the way we do and we deceive ourselves into thinking it's not really our fault. Then we become self-absorbed with it. **Self-justification is one of the biggest crimes a believer can commit.** We've got to move away from this. We've got to see ourselves as we actually are. You want to talk about spirituality? You know, someone says, "That's a real spiritual person" or "She's a real spiritual giant." This is a question I wanted answered. After I became a Christian I wanted to be spiritual. It took me about a year and a half before I found out what it really was because I was hanging around emotional people that were telling me what it was not and I just couldn't conjure up the same stuff they were doing. I wanted this question answered. In 1 Corinthians 2:14-15, "*The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness unto him [that's the lost person] neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.*" **The things of the Word of God can only be learned by being spiritually discerned and that's what the Holy Spirit does. If you are a Christian, His job is to guide you and lead you.** If you're not a Christian, the Holy Spirit will act as a human spirit and reveal your lost condition to you. He will help you see yourself as you really are. 2 Corinthians 2:15, "*But he that is spiritual evaluates all things, yet he himself is to be judged by no man.*" In Galatians 6:1, "*Brethren, if a man is overtaken in a fault, you who are spiritual [the spiritual people] restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering yourself lest also you be tempted.*" There will be believers that you know that get into jams and get messed up. I've met people like this, people that I've befriended, people that befriended me that have even wound up incarcerated and I had no idea of some of the things they had done, but you don't turn your back on them. You pray for them, you try to restore them, get them back in fellowship. Who is a spiritual person? "*You that are spiritual, restore this man.*" Are you spiritual? That's a question I need to ask you today, are you spiritual? After I got saved I met who I thought were spiritual giants. I mean they sounded spiritual. They said words like, "Brother and sister, hallelujah and God willing, and praise the Lord." They looked spiritual, they all cleaned up sharp and they acted spiritual but they weren't. What is it that makes a person spiritual? Do some people achieve it to a greater degree than others? Is this some stimulating, emotional feeling that produces an ecstatic reaction like an emotional high so that they come out of the woods with this rosy glow saying, "I've been with God today." I remember hearing an idiot that said, "I smelled God last night on my back porch." What a stupid thing to say, "I smelled God," and yet that's what people think spirituality is. Here are some clear and simple answers for you. Do you want to be spiritual? Do you want to be a spiritual Christian? **Spirituality is available to any believer, just like salvation is available to any person, but to understand what spirituality is you need to first understand what it is not. It is not avoiding someone's taboos.** Unfortunately, many well-meaning people try to manipulate folks, their brothers in Christ, by laying a guilt trip on them. They'll tell you that "You cannot be spiritual and drink brother. You cannot be spiritual and smoke brother. You cannot be spiritual and go to that casino brother. You cannot be spiritual and

watch HBO brother.” I mean it is ridiculous. The extremists will tell you, “You cannot be spiritual and go fish in a tournament.” I’ve run into this before. They say it's gambling. “You can't be spiritual and enter a restaurant where they serve booze,” yada, yada, yada. This is nothing but religious intimidation trying to manipulate you. This is not what the Bible says. **Spirituality is not a system of works.** It’s not witnessing every day, carrying around a pocket full of tracts and every time you walk in the bathroom leaving one on a roll of toilet paper. It’s not reading through the Bible every three months and bragging about how you read through the Bible. It’s not yielding to God 100%, “I’m going to yield to God brother.” Most people don’t even know what this means. It's not rededicating yourself by going on a spiritual retreat and getting an emotional high. It’s not praying at 5 AM every morning. I've tried all of this stuff. It’s not looking holy, you know, black clothes, somber attitude, serious demeanor, uttering super spiritual phrases all day long, “God willing, God bless you. Have a wonderful blessed day.” What is spirituality? Spirituality is not doing something and it's not avoiding doing something. It's not spirituality by works, upbeat, super-excited personality, in love with Jesus. I run into those and you do too. **What is spirituality? It is a relationship with God the Holy Spirit.** You receive the Holy Spirit at salvation. Ephesians 1:13 tells you this. *“In Whom you also trusted after you heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation in Whom also after you believed you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”* What does the Holy Spirit of promise mean? It means that Jesus Christ our Lord promised Him to all who believed in Him. All who believed in Christ were promised the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:19, *“Don't you know your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?”* He indwells you. He seals you. *“Don't you know you are the temple of God, that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”* (1 Corinthians 3:16). If you allow unconfessed sin to remain in your life you set yourself up for discipline, maybe even an early death because the Bible says in Romans 8:13, *“If you live after the flesh you will die but if you put to death the deeds of the body, by means of the Spirit, you will live.”* **You can live under control of your flesh, your sin nature, or you can live under control of the Holy Spirit.** If you live under control of your flesh, you may be doing right things. Your flesh has an area of strength that can do right things. It can go to church. It can sing in the choir. It can give money. It can go on mission trips. This doesn't mean it’s doing it in the right way. **The only way to live the Christian life is under the filling of the Holy Spirit.** This is why Ephesians 5:18 says, *“Be filled with the Spirit.”* It’s the imperative mood in the Greek New Testament. That's why Galatians 5:16 says, *“Walk by means of the Spirit,”* the imperative mood in the Greek New Testament. That's why Romans 13:14 says, *“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh,”* imperative mood in the Greek New Testament. The imperative mood is a command, it's an order, it's the commander's intent. **By saying you’re spiritual, what I’m saying is when you are filled with the Holy Spirit or controlled by the Holy Spirit, you’re spiritual. When you have unconfessed sin in your life, you’re carnal. There's no in between.** It's either black or white. You’re either in fellowship or you're out of fellowship. This very moment as you listen to me, you're either in fellowship or you’re out of fellowship, there is no in

between. If you're out of fellowship, this means there is sin in your life you have not confessed, you haven't dealt with it. If you are in fellowship, you have no sin in your life you haven't admitted. It's possible you may sin 1,000 times a day, I know, but as you grow spiritually, you can cut this back to a couple of hundred times a day. **When you sin, you must go to God and admit the sin. This is what 1 John 1:9 says. Psalm 32:4-5 says the same thing.** You must admit your sin to God because sin quenches the Holy Spirit. Sin grieves the Holy Spirit and when the Holy Spirit is grieved and quenched, you are carnal, you are not spiritual. Spirituality and carnality are both absolutes. There is no gray area. There is not a matter of degrees, you know that Bill is not more spiritual than Bob. You either have it or you don't. **You're either 100% spiritual or you're 100% carnal. You're either controlled by the Holy Spirit or you are controlled by your sin nature.** There's no in between grounds. The Bible uses the analogy of light and darkness, walk in light or walk in darkness. 1 John 1:6, *"If we walk in darkness and say we have fellowship with Him, we lie. The truth is not in us."* The Bible is clear about this. If you're walking with unconfessed sin in your life, you're in darkness. You're carnal, you're fleshly, and you are not having fellowship with God. You are not controlled by the Holy Spirit. **Spirituality occurs when you are filled with the Holy Spirit and this happens at the point of confessing your known sin.** Are you spiritual today? Let me ask you a question, I didn't ask you have you sinned today? I know the answer to that one, yes, probably so. I asked you, are you spiritual right now? This means do you have any sin in your life you haven't confessed? Listen, don't go that route on me and say, "I can't keep up with them all. I can't remember them all. How can I remember every sin?" I'm going to tell you another time, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9), all, even the ones you don't remember. Nobody can remember all of them. You don't carry around a scratchpad writing them down every time you do them. When the Holy Spirit convicts you, you must name the sin to God and not hide it. That's the only way that you can be spiritual. **Spiritual believers will grow because they see the need for the Word of God.** Carnal believers will never grow because they don't see any need for the Word of God. Can you tell if you're a spiritual Christian? Well, it's not an emotional feeling where you feel closer to God, that's not what it is. Is it necessary to recognize the filling of the Holy Spirit, to know when it's happening? No, it's not necessary. As long as you fulfill the Biblical mandate of 1 John 1:9, you will be filled even if you don't know it's happening but there are characteristics that spiritual Christians manifest. This is taught in Galatians 5:22-23 and it's called, *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."* Love, this is the greatest virtue envelope you could live in. *"If you love Me, you will obey Me and My mandates are not grievous."* (1 John 5:3). "Joy" Jesus said, *"Happiness belongs to those who hear My Father's Word and keep it"* (Luke 11:28). Peace, this inner stability where you don't worry, you're not afraid. Longsuffering, the Greek word *makrothumia*, means you have patience and perseverance under pressure. Gentleness means you're not overbearing, you're not impetuous, and you demonstrate forgiveness to all who wrong you. Goodness means you have divine good

production in your life. Faith means you understand the faith-rest drill and operate by faith. Meekness has to do with humility in your life. Temperance means self-control or self-discipline. These are the characteristics of a spiritual Christian. All of these are manifested traits of the Lord Jesus Christ and they will be exposed in the mature believer's life, the spiritual believer's life. The Holy Spirit controlled believer will grow in his spiritual life so that he will begin to reflect Christ. What's the difference between being spiritual and being mature? It's possible that you're a spiritual Christian because you're filled with the Holy Spirit but you're not a mature Christian. **Spirituality is related to the filling of the Holy Spirit, it's absolute. On the other hand, spiritual maturity is related to the content of the Word of God in your soul and that's relative.** Now the writer of Hebrews in Hebrews 5:11-14, I went through this earlier with you, had been trying to explain how the Lord Jesus Christ is the great high priest. He felt that the recipients would not understand what he was saying, this advanced doctrine that he was teaching, so he backed up and he punted. *"We have much to say and it's difficult to explain since you have become sluggish in your hearing. For though you should in fact be teachers by this time, you need to relearn the basics [in other words, the rate of forgetting had exceeded the rate of learning]. You've gone back to needing milk and not solid food. The milk drinkers are inexperienced in the message of righteousness [this means that God's basic character attributes must be satisfied] and he can't handle solid food."* The mature believer can ascertain the difference between good and evil, but the immature believer cannot, he can't tell the difference between good and evil. Both are wrong. Human good is wrong, evil is wrong. They're both wrong. Sometimes people don't know the difference between evil and human good. **Evil is the genius of Satan. It's when he takes the grace of God and replicates it as a counterfeit and puts a half a twitch on it. It sounds right, looks right, but it's not right.** He may say, "In order to be saved you must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and give up eating peanuts," half right, the rest of it is wrong. That's evil. Evil twists grace. You have to know this. Human good is you trying to save yourself. *"There are none that are good, no, not even one"* (Romans 3:10). *"All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag in God's eyes"* (Isaiah 64:6). Have you ever grown weary of playing this game? Have you ever grown weary of trying to stay pumped up for Jesus but you're only playing a little role and you know it? Have you ever really wondered what all this stuff actually means? Do you feel that you're not as mature as other people in your church? Then you're listening to the right show, you're getting the right information. I mean, if you learn all the spiritual terms and then you can't understand it, it doesn't do you any good. Please stick with me. You've got to know the score. It's a matter of priorities in your life so that you can reflect Jesus Christ and reproduce Him in your life. You can have His mind. You can reflect Christ by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit which is what His job is to do, to turn you into a Christ like individual. It happens by the filling of the Holy Spirit and the indwelling of the Word of God in your soul. **A mature believer and a spiritual believer are different.** We'll go on to talk about it next week. I hope you're learning. Always it's a privilege to have this time with you. I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you and see you next Sunday, same time, same place.

Telling It Like It Is

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 693 aired on December 16, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. This show is simply designed to remind you of Biblical truths and introduce you to a wonderful way of studying and learning God's Word. You can orient and adjust to the plan of God or you can go on down the My Way Highway like you may be doing already, it's up to you. For the next few minutes I'll try to explain how the Christian life works, what it's about. This is for those of you that have made a decision to believe in Jesus Christ. If you do not know whether or not you're going to heaven, you should know because the Bible says in 1 John 5:13, "*These things are written so that you may know that you have eternal life.*" You can know it confidently because the Bible says in 1 John 5:12, "*He that has the Son has life and he that has not the Son of God has not life.*" You may say, "Well, I had Jesus at one time but He left me." That's not what the Bible says. He said, "*I'll never leave you, I'll never forsake you.*" **If you haven't believed in Jesus Christ, if you haven't received Him as your Savior, this is the single most important decision you'll ever make in your life because this is your guarantee you will spend eternity with God the Father in heaven.** Apart from this you have no guarantees because the Bible says, "*Whoever's name was not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death.*" Don't put this off. Don't say, "Well I'm not sure. Well you know, I thought about it and there's been a lot of smart people that told me Jesus wasn't really who He said He is." Oh really? He's either a lunatic or a liar or He is really who He said He was because nobody could say the things He did and get away with it over a period of time. He is the anointed Son of God. He is alive today. He's at the right hand of the Father and mark my words, He is going to come back. I don't know when, no one knows when, but He's coming back. I hope it's before this country falls apart because if you have half a brain you can see we're falling apart. We're fracturing and splintering from the inside. **If there's ever been a time for the Christian to stand on solid ground and understand what's going on it's now because you must know how to survive in these tough times ahead.** God said in Jeremiah 9:24, "*Let the one who glories glory in this, that he understands Me and knows Me.*" My question to you today, are you going to have a FLOT line in your soul? If you're going to have a forward line of troops, a mainline of resistance, you're going to have the rebound technique down. You're going to have the filling of the Holy Spirit and the faith-rest drill down. You're oriented to grace. You're oriented to doctrine. You have a personal sense of destiny. You have personal love for God. You have impersonal love for others. You share the happiness of God and you're occupied with Jesus Christ. These are God's 10 problem-solving devices. By the way, I have a bookmark with all these on it. If you'd like to have it for your Bible, just write to us. Don't send money, we're not asking you for money. What's the difference in understanding God and knowing God? The difference is this, two Greek words, *gnosis* and *epignosis*. *Gnosis* is knowledge understood and retained. *Epignosis* is full knowledge or the knowledge that's understood, retained, and applied. The mature believer

applies what he knows. One gets to know God through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. He said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by Me."* One gets to understand God through the Bible and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. If you know God and you have accepted Christ as your Savior, then it's time to understand the God you know. For example, when you first get saved you often think that your point of contact with God is His love, He loves me. But after you learn some doctrine, once you learn the Word of God, you come to realize the point of contact with God is His justice. God's justice is the guardian of His righteousness. What the righteousness of God rejects, the justice of God will judge. It was the love of God that provided your redemption, but it was the justice of God that demanded you be redeemed. There is no other way for you to get to God other than through the sacrificial death of Christ who was judged for us on the cross. The spiritually mature believer, spiritual autonomy, spiritual self-esteem, spiritual maturity, we talked about this last week, the spiritually mature believer does not get emotional about God. He doesn't think this way. I mean, if you think God loves you more today than He loved you yesterday because you were good today and you were bad yesterday, that's ridiculous. God loves you as much today as He loved you yesterday. If you sinned, you got out of fellowship with God, you quenched the Holy Spirit, you grieved the Holy Spirit, God's love for you didn't change. You rebound, you confess your sin, and you get back filled with the Holy Spirit. You go to some church service and they get all emotional and they say, "God was here tonight. We felt Him, we felt His presence." Well, the Holy Spirit indwells all believers and God the Father is omnipresent so He can be in your church and my church and the church next door at the same time. We don't conjure up God appearing because we had a great worship service. Everybody sang and got sad and cried, that doesn't mean God showed up. God was there before you got there. He's immanent, He's transcendent, He will be there even after you leave, so don't think it works this way. **No one can be spiritually mature until they understand the plan of God. We call it the protocol plan of God. Protocol simply means a right thing has to be done in a right way. Until you do this you're never going to understand the God you know.** See, once you pick up and maintain some momentum, then you will begin to have your thinking renovated. You change the way you think. You'll stop thinking in terms of arrogance and think in terms of humility as Romans 12:1-3 demands you think. Then you will become spiritually independent. You won't be depending on other people to tell you what to do, how to live your life, "Pray for me brother I don't know what to do." You can stand on your own two feet and begin to be spiritually mature. You can develop some self-confidence from the Word of God. This means you won't be second-guessing every decision that you made. You know how to determine what the will of God is and you're confident that it's the will of God that you do this. Then obviously you will meet and face adversity with maximum confidence, maximum perseverance. You will live independently of human encouragement. You don't need somebody to pat you on the back and say, "Now, now brother, it'll be okay. My uncle died with it but you'll make it. Just hang in there." Ridiculous, you don't need this. You have the Word of God. You have Jesus Christ living in you. **You have the power of the Holy Spirit and the power of the**

Word of God so you don't need human encouragement. There's nothing wrong with people praying for you. Nothing wrong with people encouraging you but if that's what it takes for you to get through adversity, you haven't reached spiritual maturity yet. In spiritual maturity you have maximum use of all 10 of these problem-solving devices and you will avoid being arrogant. **Here's one of the ways you'll know you're spiritually mature, you have maximum contentment in your life.** That's an amazing thing, contentment. Paul said, *"I have learned to be content in whatever shape I'm in. It doesn't make any difference"* (Philippians 4:12). The spiritually mature believer, if that's you or me, we're going to live our life as unto the Lord rather than unto any man. Colossians 3:23, *"Whatever you do, you do it from your soul as unto the Lord and not unto man."* The spiritually mature believer, the one who understands the God he knows, he may sin. He may get carnal but he or she in your case will recover and recover very quickly. Paul even talked about it in Romans 7:15, *"The things I do I allow not, for what I would, that do I not but what I hate, that I do."* He had a battle with the flesh just like you and I have a battle with the flesh. Just like you and I can rebound, problem-solving device number one, and recover from our sin, Paul did the same thing. **The spiritually mature believer has an invisible impact on this nation, the United States of America.** We must have this invisible impact. We must be historically the individuals that bring God's grace on this country because in the final analysis, it's going to be the believers in this nation who are responsible for the rise or the fall of America. **As goes the spiritual life of the Christian, so goes the future of this country.** Unfortunately, there's a lot of stuff in our nation today and it's in the name of Christianity, books, national bestsellers, "Dream your dreams brother. Believe in yourself brother and God will empower you." Do you not realize that it's a money making racket? People are making money off of the Lord Jesus Christ. The number one selling book in the world is the Bible and there are about 9,000 different translations, different versions. Well, they didn't make these to help you, they made these to sell them to you. I mean, good night alive, you can spend thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars buying Christian books on people telling you how you ought to live your Christian life. If you would just go to one that you like and find where it tells me you must be filled with the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life, more than likely you won't find it. "You must be filled with the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life," more than likely, you won't find it. They'll say a lot of other things but they don't say this, I mean, it's pitiful. Books, tapes, music, music is a multimillion dollar Christian industry. Christian rock bands, Christian country music, Christian this, Christian that and we Christians, we go run out and buy all this stuff. They're not making this stuff because they love you or they love Jesus. They're making this stuff because they're making money. They're in it because they're making money, most of them. I can't impugn all of them but hey, if they love the Lord, give it away. Don't sell it. Give it away. Don't hold a concert and sell tickets to your concert. Hold a concert and give it free. Then you can witness and evangelize to people but that's not the way it works. "Well you know brother, we've got to pay our expenses." Well, the way I operate is if God's in it, He'll pay for it. If He doesn't pay for it go shine shoes, do something else. If you've got to run around and try to hustle

the money up and beat people out of a buck, you're doing the wrong thing I assure you. Videos, dramas, movies, wonderful movies, Christian movies, we all want to see them. They're all designed to make some money. They wouldn't make them if they didn't make money. Listen to Jeremiah 23:21-22, *"I didn't send these prophets, yet they ran. I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in My counsel and it caused My people to hear My Word, then they should have turned them from their sin."* That's what we need, men that will teach the Word of God freely without charge, without obligation. Teach the Word of God, warn people about what's coming, warn people about what God expects, then maybe we might have a chance. I'm afraid the only thing that is going to wake this nation up is the national disaster. After World War II and the invasion of Pearl Harbor, a lot of people woke up. A lot of people suddenly got patriotic. A lot of people turned to their God. After the 9/11 attacks on New York City on the World Trade Center, people woke up for about two weeks and then they went back to being their own self-centered selves. **They love the gifts but they forget the Giver.** What is it going to take in the future of this nation to wake up our young people and wake up those middle-age people that have all the blessings, all the security, all the prosperity, and don't give God the time of day? They're not interested in learning anything about God's Word, not interested in worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ. Wow, God needs to deliver us and I pray this often, that He would deliver us from glad handing religious entertainers who pass themselves off as a pastor. These types are doing more to change the face of modern Christianity from a Word based faith to an eye candy, emotional religion in which one learns nothing. They go to church, they go away feeling good, their emotion fired up, but when Monday morning comes up and they hit the traffic, they are in trouble. They hit the traffic at their local restaurant, they hit the traffic on the interstate, they're in trouble and right back where they were. Where is the hunger for truth? Where are the people who want to learn something? Why do we sit there glazed and dazed on Sunday morning? The big Hollywood productions entertain us while the pastor gives his 20 minute message and then he wants to sell you a set of his messages for \$20. If you'll give him some money, he'll give you a set of his messages. Don't do this, don't push your material for money. At the very best that's shallow and at the worst it's false and pure blasphemy. Why is it so hard to find even one person who's seeking truth and is willing to get it the old-fashioned way? Show up, shut up and learn. Learn, take your Bible, take your notebook, and learn. Where are the pastors that are willing to teach the old-fashioned way? Study and teach, study and teach, study and teach. **There's no such thing as a shortcut to being a spiritually mature person. Becoming the person God wants you to be is going to require a daily sacrifice in your life. You must have a pattern of growth under the filling of the Holy Spirit, listening to the teaching of the Word of God by a well-qualified pastor because there is no one-shot rededication that will shape your life up.** Will you have problems? Sure you will, but you will recover. Will you rebound? Yep. Will you resume your spiritual life when you fail? Yep. So what about it? When are you going to get serious about your spiritual life? When will you start a consistent routine, a regimen of Bible study so that you can advance and become a spiritually mature believer and glorify the Lord

Jesus Christ to the maximum in your life? Spiritual maturity is our objective. It's why God keeps us around. I mean, we get saved, we know we are going to heaven, why doesn't He just pull us out now? Blink and we're gone. **God leaves us here so we can replicate the life of Christ, so we can represent Jesus Christ to our friends, our family, and our community. So we can live Christ-like lives. That's why God leaves us here, to witness for His Son.** Is it hard to understand?" No, it's not hard to understand. You have an objective and in spiritual maturity you must use these 10 problem-solving devices. Do you even know them? Can you tell me what they are? **Can you tell me: rebound, filling of the Holy Spirit, faith-rest drill, grace orientation, Biblical orientation, personal sense of destiny, personal love for God, impersonal love for others, sharing the happiness of God, and lastly occupation with Christ?** Do you even know these? Do you know what they mean? Without knowing them, you're never going to make it in the Christian life as far as maximum glorification of God. These are simple doctrines. You must be independent of any form of advice, counseling, encouragement. Stay away from counselors that want to tell you how to live your Christian life and worst of all, charge you for it, Christian counselors that you pay to tell you how to get along with your husband or how to get along with your wife or how to get... Listen, get a good pastor, let him teach you what the Bible says and he won't charge you by the hour. From learning the Word of God you will be mentally stable, able to think in terms of metabolized doctrine and apply it to every circumstance of your life. **Mental strength is what the Word of God gives you.** It's you putting God's Word in front of your experience. It will give you maximum courage under testing when you go through it because you will. As a believer you're going to go through evidence testing. It will give you an objective reality about who and what you are. You won't have an unrealistic self-image and you will avoid self-righteous arrogance or moralistic forays of crusader arrogance that we get into. In other words you will realize God didn't send you here to boycott the bookstore. God didn't send you here to tell everybody to quit sinning. That's not going to happen. The devil's world is full of sin. Every man, woman, and child that lives here has a sin nature and you can't eradicate it. Just tell them what the Word of God says and give them a choice. What happens to these Christian casualties or the spiritual wipeouts I call them, the ones that go for the phony stuff, the ones that never grow up spiritually, believers who go down the My Way Highway and fail to learn or execute or apply the protocol plan of God? They allow their sin natures to control them and lead them and dictate to them what they should and shouldn't do. What happens to these sort of people? They're carnal, the Bible says. When they're captured by their own arrogance, they get into carnality. What is carnality? Carnality can be in three stages: temporary, perpetual, or permanent. This is called post-salvation sinning. If we fail to follow God's mandates and don't refrain from sin nature control, letting our sin nature control us, then we're setting ourselves up for discipline. What are some of our orders in the Bible? Do you want to hear them? You might not like them. Here they are. 1 Peter 5:8, *"Be sober, be vigilant. Satan seeks to neutralize and destroy you."* 2 Corinthians 2:11, *"Do not let Satan get an advantage over you."* Ephesians 4:27, *"Do not give place to the devil."* In regard to Satan there's your orders right there, these three

verses, 1 Peter 5:8, 2 Corinthians 2:11 and Ephesians 4:27. What about in regard to the lure of the world? You know, the good times that are out there spinning saying, "Come on, come on, come on." 1 Corinthians 1:20, "*The wisdom of this world is foolishness.*" Romans 12:10, "*Don't be conformed to this world.*" 1 John 2:15, "*Do not love this world.*" What about your flesh, you know, the sin nature inside of you? Galatians 5:17, "*The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh.*" Romans 13:14, "*Don't make any provision for the flesh,*" don't give it the opportunity to take control of your life in other words. Mark 7:20, "*That which comes out of the heart of man defiles him.*" 2 Timothy 2:22, "*Stay away from youthful lusts,*" flee them. 1 Peter 2:11, "*Abstain from fleshly lusts.*" There are some orders for you, several of them. Do you want to understand God's will? Do you want to replicate the life of Christ? **Then this is where you start, controlling post-salvation sinning.** Once a believer like you or me, if we sin and move into perpetual carnality, we begin a perilous slide down the slope, a slippery slope, I call it reversionism. Perpetual carnality means we don't confess our sin. We get out of fellowship and we don't confess our sin. Frankly, this could explain what happened to your children, your son or your daughter. This could explain what happened to one of your loved ones who at one time had a close relationship with the Lord but now they completely moved away from anything spiritual. **Permanent carnality is when we turn the other way and cannot be distinguished even from the unbeliever.** This post salvation sinning carnality is the act of reverting to the former state, the former habit, the former beliefs or putting on post-salvation sins and going back to them like a dog goes back to its own vomit. This person is a believer who reverses his priorities, reverses his attitude, reverses his affections, and begins to love the world instead of loving God. Often a person like this is fueled by a change in status in life maybe through a divorce, maybe through a death or maybe something such as falling in love, getting married, chasing your partner. You know, you want to appease the person you love and they're not interested in the Bible. You want to win them your way so you quit studying the Bible, you don't invite them to church. Nothing could ever distract a growing believer faster than a hot love affair. God is forgotten. The object of your affection becomes the new found lover in your life and not God. This new person doesn't believe like you do, doesn't believe in God but you and your sin nature are so fired up that you fail to neutralize its activities. You fail to rebound and get into a frantic search for happiness. Your spiritual life crashes and burns. This is called being in reversionism. Yes, you're still saved and going to heaven but you failed to execute the protocol plan of God. **You must stay filled with the Holy Spirit and in the Word of God if you're going to understand and live God's protocol plan.** If you don't, you will be suckered by the world, neutralized by Satan and have regrets for the rest of your life. I got a letter today from someone that said, "For years I walked away from the plan of God and now I realize what an idiot I was." What about you? If you keep playing games with God like you're doing, you're not going to live a full life. You'll be under divine discipline and you're going to get called home way too soon.

Reversionism

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 694 aired on December 23, 2018

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. **When you empower your life with God the Holy Spirit as your mentor and using the Bible as your textbook, then you can live an amazing life where you do not ever have to worry.** You do not ever have to be afraid. You do not ever have to have any guilt. I mean, it is a different way of living. It's the most unique life in the world. It's a life of confidence and trust and fulfillment where you put your eyes on the prize, the final objective. What a great way to live and it's yours. It's for you, it's free. It's the Christian life and it starts with you learning some things. First of all, you have to reboot from the old life. You're going to die, we're all going to die. We have to die because we can't go into eternity in these bodies, they won't work there. To reboot is very simple. The Bible says, *"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away and all things become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). You can actually start your life all over again today by making a decision to believe in Jesus Christ, you can be born again. It's called the second birth. Jesus taught it in John chapter 3 when He was confronted by Nicodemus a ruler of the Pharisees who snuck up to Him at night to ask Him some questions because he was intrigued with who in fact Christ actually was. Jesus cut to the chase as normal and said, *"You must be born again"* (John 3:7). No one goes to heaven without being born again. Born again simply means that right now, if this has never happened to you, you are a body and you are a soul, there's no doubt about this, but you do not have a human spirit. You are dead spiritually because Adam's original sin was imputed to you at the moment you were born, you were born spiritually dead. When you come to the cross and believe in Christ, you maintain your same body. This doesn't change. I wish we all got a perfect body at that moment, but we'll get it later, not today. We are told to renovate our thinking in our souls, that's what we've been talking about on our show. The human spirit that was dead, dormant, inactive is made alive. God the Holy Spirit comes to indwell, the human spirit is made alive, and you now have fellowship with God. You have rebooted. You are now a member of God's family. You have been born again and remember Jesus said, "I'm not going to take it back." He said, *"I will never leave you. I will never forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5). *"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"* (John 10:28-29). If you make a decision to believe in Christ today, you can reboot your life. You can fire it back up in a different way. I did this when I was 22. I never really understood it before, never understood what was possible. I will never forget the first night I went to bed after having accepted Christ as my Savior. The guilt was gone. The fear was gone. I had the most phenomenal peace with God. It's a fair question to ask you, do you have peace with God? Because if you don't then maybe you need to reboot as well, start your life all over again, it's possible. You can begin a new life, a spiritual life in Christ. Your body's not going to reboot. Your soul's not going to reboot. But this human spirit that is dead and dormant will be made alive as God the Holy Spirit comes to indwell you. From that moment on, the world is yours. The

opportunities, the empowerment, the insight that God gives you is unbelievable. Once you reboot then you have to reconnoiter on a daily basis. This means you have to take a look around and take stock of your sin because you will sin. **Even though you reboot your life, your sin nature didn't disappear. You're still going to sin and so God made fantastic provision for our sin.** He knew we were not perfect like His Son, our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ. We have sin natures. The disciples even proved this and so what do we do when we sin? The Bible says, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). This is the rebound technique. When you reconnoiter, then you must rebound. **This is the 3Rs: reboot, reconnoiter, and rebound.** Rebound means you're getting back in fellowship after you bounced out of fellowship. You get out of fellowship by committing personal sin in your life. When you sin, you quench the Holy Spirit and you grieve the Holy Spirit. This means you disappoint Him and you cut off His power, how's that? When you go to the Father and you name your sin as per 1 John 1:9, then you're cleansed and the Holy Spirit is put back in the control of your life. You're under the filling of the Spirit again and then you can resume your spiritual life. You reboot by believing in Christ. You reconnoiter by keeping an eye on the sins that you commit on a daily basis. You rebound these sins when you know you've committed them. You resume your spiritual life. If you don't rebound your spiritual life is put on hold. No one advances spiritually with known sin in their life. As a matter of fact the Bible says, *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me"* (Psalm 66:18). You must rebound to resume your spiritual life, your spiritual advance. Spiritual advance means that God expects you to grow up spiritually, not stay a baby, to grow. The Bible even says, *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18), and that's a mandate. We grow, we resume our spiritual advance. We listen to a well-qualified pastor teach us the Bible on a consistent basis and we apply what we learn. **Hearing and applying the Word of God is the beginning of momentum in your life.** Jesus said, *"Happiness belongs to those who hear My Father's Word and keep it"* (Luke 11:28). That's the key for you and for me as well, to apply what we learn. Then, once we resume the spiritual life, we start advancing in the spiritual life, the testing comes and this is where you must have another R. It's called resiliency. **You must be resilient to handle the testing. You must be able to pick yourself up and move on.** Even if you commit a sin and you get knocked down, don't go sit in the corner and cry about it. Don't go have yourself a pity party. Don't go thinking, "The world's over because I failed God." If God was through with you, He would have taken you home but the fact that He left you here means that He still has a plan for your life. Be resilient, bounce back, that's what these problem-solving devices do. They give you the opportunity to be resilient, to keep pressing on even though you may fail, to keep pressing on even though the circumstances are beyond your control. **Keep pressing on by taking in the Word of God and staying filled with the Holy Spirit.** Keep representing the Lord Jesus Christ in your life with your actions and your manners and the way you're thinking by renovating the thinking in your soul. This is what I mean by keep pressing on. To be resilient requires these things or you can just have a pity party. You can go sit in the corner

and you can tell God, "I resign, I quit, I give up, I can't do it. It's too hard." Well, you're going to stick around and you can't walk off the field, you're still here. As long as you're still here God still has a plan for you, so get over your failure, get over your adversity, get over whatever you're going through. Remember 1 Corinthians 10:13, *"There's no temptation that has overtaken you that is not common to man and God always provides a way out."* He does, so remember this. If you don't, if you're not resilient, if you don't resume your spiritual life, if you don't rebound by reconnoitering your sins, you will get into reversionism. Reversionism is a process, not a single act. Reversionism is a very dangerous place for any believer to be. Reversionism is the process of reverting back to your old habits and your old practices, reverting back to your former self. It doesn't mean you're not a Christian. **You're still a Christian but in reversionism you yield to the temptations of your sin nature.** You know you have three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Certainly the world is there with its lure and its appeal. The devil is there with his false doctrine. But the flesh is your main enemy, you know this. It lives in you and you must learn to control the flesh. **All of us have problems with the flesh because we have different lust patterns.** Whatever the lust of your flesh is, that'll be the pattern of temptation that you'll face. Some people lust for sex. Some people lust for money. Some people lust for drugs. Some people lust for power. Some people lust for attention. It's a different lust pattern in every one of us. We don't all have the same lust pattern, but that's the pattern that will tempt you. That's the pattern that will surface. The minute that you begin to quit reconnoitering your life and quit being resilient and enter into reversionism, that's when the failure in your life begins. If you fail to rebound and you try to justify why it's okay for you to give in to the sin nature trends and the sin nature patterns, then you will set up personal carnality in your life called perpetual carnality. **Carnality is you being out of fellowship, quenching the Holy Spirit, grieving the Holy Spirit and allowing your sin nature to dominate your thinking. Reversionism is perpetual carnality.** Why did you get into this? Because you didn't reconnoiter and rebound and resume your spiritual life, you didn't have the resiliency to stick with it. This sort of attitude or action will short cut the protocol plan of God for you. You will have no spiritual growth. There's no filling of the Holy Spirit. There's no Operation Z, advancing using the problem-solving devices. Remember, Operation Z is simply a way of saying that you sit under a communicator who communicates the Word. The Holy Spirit captures the Word the communicator tells you. Then you comprehend the Word that he told you by means of the Holy Spirit. Once you comprehend it, then you comply with it. This doesn't happen in reversionism. **In reversionism your spiritual life shuts down. Your sin is unchecked by rebound because you don't confess your sin anymore.** Once you start chain sinning, you sink into subnormal categories of personal sin since there's no spiritual growth. **You don't have the ability to think clearly. Now you're thinking in terms of human viewpoint thinking and you are building up scars on your soul.** You're building up scar tissue because of your own arrogance, your own self-justification. You're deceiving yourself into saying it's okay and you're totally self-absorbed with whatever it is you're chasing. Yeah, you're a believer. Yes, you've accepted Christ as your Savior, but you are in

perpetual carnality. You're in reversionism and you are distracted from your spiritual life. You now have apathy. You now have indifference. You have the wrong priorities in your soul and you have no truth. You've got no relationship to reality anymore. **Now you become irrational and you live under the illusion of the mirror of arrogance.** You justify your behavior. You think you're okay when in reality you're a mess and you know it. You are just too arrogant to admit it to yourself or to anyone else. Your wrong priorities are going to destroy you. Until you begin to think clearly and see yourself as you really are, you will never recover from your sin. You're on a slow slippery slide down the My Way Highway until this road runs out, the bridge is out. I remember an illustration about a fellow standing in the middle of the bridge trying to stop traffic at night and people trying to run over him, go around him. They didn't know the bridge was out and he was trying to warn them. Many went around him and many lost their lives. You may be trying to go around the warning as well, the bridge is out. **You will have the wrong priorities in your life.** You will think pleasure is happiness. You will pursue happiness with loved ones, social life, details in life, this all becomes very important and the key to you fulfilling your life, but they're not. You might even reject the legitimate authority and become increasingly hypersensitive about any sort of authority and then you lose your objectivity. You will obviously blame others for your misery. It'll be your parents' fault, it'll be the preacher's fault, it'll be the police officer's fault, it'll be the President's fault. You think it's not your fault because you reject legitimate authority. As a result, spiritual development in your life is arrested and you stall out spiritually. **You're crashing and burning spiritually. You're vulnerable to demon influence, not demon possession now, demon influence.** A Christian cannot be demon possessed but he can be demon influenced by doctrines of demons. Your thinking becomes clouded by the cosmic smokescreen of Satan. You begin to believe all sorts of garbage as you seek to fill the void in your empty life left by this spiritual vacuum you created because you did not reconnoiter, rebound, resume and have the resiliency to stick with it. You begin to accept the lie. You begin to accept false doctrine as a result of rejecting the true doctrine. Listen to what the Bible says about this in 1 Timothy 4:1, *"But the Spirit says in the latter periods of time (that's between the first and second advent of Christ) some believers will become apostate (reject doctrine) paying attention to deceitful spirits and concentrating on doctrines of demons."* **When you reject truth and get involved in the cosmic system, this always leads to the frantic search for happiness.** 2 Timothy 3:4 says, *"You're a lover of pleasure rather than a lover of God."* This frantic search for happiness or what I call going down the My Way Highway can take you in many different directions. You will be doing anything you can to fill up your empty life. You'll buy things you don't need to impress people you don't even like. You'll spend money you don't have. You're just on a narcotic. You know that's the narcotic to deaden the empty pain of an empty life and so you're not happy with what you have. You won't be content with what you have. You're not happy now. You won't be happy in the future and unhappy people take their unhappiness with them wherever they go. Yep, it's going to follow you everywhere. Even if you move to another state, even if you move to another house, you're going to be unhappy mainly because God the

Holy Spirit is going to be convicting you of your sin, just like He's doing right now. God the Holy Spirit is going to be warning you of what's coming, just like He's doing right now. Hebrews 13:5, *"Let your lifestyle be free from the love of money. Be content with what you have for He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you. I will never forsake you.'"* **Without capacity for life you will never be content. Happiness doesn't have to do with people or circumstances, it is your way of thinking, it's not what you have or don't have. The happiness I'm talking about is the peace you have when you're in the center of God's plan, when you're learning God's Word and applying it.** Jesus said in Luke 11:27-28 this is the key to happiness, *"Happiness belongs to those who hear My Father's Word and who keep it."* The frantic search for happiness in the life of the reversionist will lead to operation boomerang. In other words you were unhappy and miserable and you went out on the frantic search for happiness and your unhappiness and your misery is going to intensify as it comes back to haunt you. Your unhappiness increases and happiness becomes more elusive. Those people that you trust will abandon you. The cosmic system will lure you into some sort of organization and they'll abandon you even though God never abandons you. Even though you turned your back on Him and got recruited by the cosmic recruiter, He never, ever, ever turns His back on you. That's another R, recruited by the cosmic recruiter. This cosmic recruiter can lure you into the world's system of promises as you seek to deaden the pain of your empty life. **In operation boomerang, what you thought was going to make you happy turns out to be only temporary and now your misery intensifies. In reversionism you lose control of your life.** You begin to break up and you can't stop the vicious cycle of emotional distraught in your life. It tears you apart because you've walked away from the plan of God. You walked away from the confidence of God. You walked away from the promises of God. You went down the My Way Highway. It is time to reconnoiter what you've done. **It's time to rebound your sin and resume your spiritual life. Nothing will satisfy you as long as you're in reversionism.** Everything will only be a temporary fix for you. You will yearn for peace, you will yearn for fulfillment, but you won't find it. The arrogance of unhappiness sets in. Even romance, even sex, even promotion on the job, even temporary prosperity won't give you what you're looking for because you don't have the capacity to handle them. You don't have the problem-solving devices needed to maintain them. Romance does not solve problems by the way, it creates problems. Sex doesn't solve problems, it creates problems. Prosperity doesn't solve problems, it creates problems like jealousy, guilt, bitterness, and abuse. These are the problems. All of this leads to you getting into the emotional revolt of your soul. **You stay in reversionism long enough and your emotions will destroy you, emotional revolt of the soul.** Emotions are not designed by God to create policy in your life. Emotions were not designed by God for you to live by and be directed by. They are appreciators. I mean, worship is not an emotional experience, it's thinking and appreciating what God has done for you. We try to make worship an emotional experience today. Mentality versus emotion is the key. When emotions dominate your thinking, you always become irrational operating on these emotions because emotions don't have any content. Emotions don't have any rationality, they don't have

any virtue. Emotional revolt of your soul will divorce you from reality and it will substitute irrationality combining with arrogance and probably eventually produce some sort of mental illness. You will probably become a psychotic believer. Now all your Biblical priorities will be gone. No more divine norms and standards and now you begin to attack truth. You begin to go after God in your bitterness. Now you have permanent locked in negative volition and you are perpetually carnal. You will never understand God's plan for your life. You have no Word of God in your soul. You think like an unbeliever. You're antagonistic to truth. I'm talking about Christians. **Now you have a blackout of your soul. Scar tissue hardens your heart and your soul blacks out. A vacuum is formed that absorbs everything that's wrong in your life. It's called "The vanity of the mind" (Ephesians 4:17).** The Greek word vanity is *mataiotes* meaning the vacuum in your mind. This subjects you to demon influence, being influenced by the cosmic system. This is not demon possession, it's the infiltration of the cosmic system into your thinking. It causes a blackout in your soul. This means "The lights go out in Georgia," as they say. Nothing is clear anymore. This is a result of you being out of fellowship, staying out of fellowship in reversionism, not recovering, being lured into the cosmic system, going down the My Way Highway and everything else I've covered here today. Your understanding is blacked out. You don't really see yourself as you are, you see yourself as you think you are. Your norms and standards were given to you by God to protect you but you burned them away with the scar tissue in your soul. **The Bible warns you, "Don't let any advantage be taken over you by Satan for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11).** But you have forgotten this. You have not put on the full armor of God. You gave place to the devil when the Bible told you in Ephesians 4:27 not to do it and now you have become lion bait. Satan is "*Walking around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour*" (1 Peter 5:8) and you're next on the list. This doesn't mean you're not going to heaven, that's not what I'm saying. It means you have wasted your life. You wasted the opportunity to renovate your thinking. You wasted the opportunity to glorify God. You left your first love. You abandoned the plan that God had for your life and you went on the My Way Highway. It's a shame that you have to look into the mirror of the Word of God to see yourself like this but this is you. This is what you've created inside of you. You created a monster and you know it. **There's only one way out and it's going to take time. First of all you must reconnoiter your sin and rebound your sin. Then resume your spiritual life and purge the scar tissue out of your soul with the infiltration of the Word of God that will flush you out and clean you up.** No one can make this decision for you. It's like a drug addict, you've got to decide. Do you want to keep living in reversionism or do you want to get right with God? **Reconnoiter, rebound, resume your spiritual life, and be resilient in the face of adversity.** Think about these things. Ponder them and come back next week. Until then, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Practical Principles - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 695 aired on December 30, 2018

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, as usual, as always, please stick it out, stay with me. Just a few moments of motivation, some inspiration, some education always done without any manipulation. And we say it every show on purpose. We say this every time. I hope you don't get tired of hearing it. But we are not here to con you, we are not here to solicit money from you, not here to ask you to join up, fess up, give up. We are simply here to give you information. My prayer is that it will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. And if you can do that then my prayer is that you will orient and adjust to the plan. If you're interested, if you want to know God's plan for your life you're listening to the right show. Just 30 minutes every Sunday morning. I wish we had more time to do it but I'm certainly thrilled to be here with you. Let me remind you of a couple things before we go into our subject. We have our Problem Solving Devices Bookmark. If you don't have one, let us know we will get it for you free, just send it to you. If you've never gotten the book *Christian Problem Solving* it lists all ten of those problem-solving devices. Write to us and we will send you the book free. I think you'll enjoy reading it. Everything we do is free. There is never a charge for anything. I've always believed if God's in it, He will pay for it. I learned that from my pastor and that's called grace. It's wonderful to live by grace. It takes the monkey off of your back and lets the Lord handle all the details in life. So it's great. If you don't have our book on promises; we did a new book last year called *Bible Promises and Principles*. It's a small booklet about like a small telephone book, this is a great book. There is not much commentary in it, just simply promises from the Bible listed categorically that you can read through and claim in time of need and some tremendous principles in the back. One-liners, two-liners, three-liners but they're all Biblical principles that you hear us say on this radio show. Such as, **bad decisions limit future options**. That's a principle. So you can get that as well. Just write to us. I love getting letters from you. I'm enjoying hearing over the holidays from those of you that have written saying that you've been listening and telling me what the show has meant to you. Don't hesitate to write. I'll write back because I certainly enjoy hearing from you wherever you may be from California to New York. I told you before we were cutting out a few of our shows and adding a few more and we are always on the hunt for good cities to broadcast in. So pray with us as we go forward in this effort. Today I'd like to talk to you about practical principles for people that are principled people. People that live by principle. It's kind of a confusing title, practical principles for principled people, but what I'm trying to say there is, the Bible is very practical and is very direct, it's to the point in regard to us living a principled life. Notice the book on Bible principles I told you about, if you don't have it, order it, go ahead and get it, we will send it right on out to you; we have got several thousand of them here and they're free. Learning these principles is part of living the Christian life. All of our - make a note of this - **all of our principled thoughts and actions are derived from the mindset of our Savior, as revealed**

through the Holy Spirit or by the Holy Spirit from our study of the Scriptures. That's called the mind of Christ. *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). When we begin to have divine viewpoint thinking we begin to have principled thoughts and actions all coming from the Word of God as given to us by the disciples who recorded it for us. And so, let's examine how the Lord handled some situations in His life and see if we can reflect those same kinds of virtues. Because if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, if you have established a main line of resistance in your soul (which we call the FLOT line), if you have learned those problem-solving devices such as: rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the faith-rest drill, you are grace oriented, you are biblically oriented, you have a personal sense of destiny, you have a personal love for God, you have impersonal love for others, you share the happiness of God, and you are occupied with Christ. There are those ten problem-solving devices. I just mentioned each one of them. We have been over and over them and we probably need to go over them again. How does the Lord Jesus Christ handle situations in His life and how can we examine what He did? His words are pretty clear to us in John 5:24 as recorded by the apostle John. These words were written in remembrance of what the Lord had taught him. John and Matthew were two eyewitnesses of the Lord. Luke and Mark were not eyewitnesses to the Gospels, they wrote by learning what happened from other people. But John records what the Lord Jesus Christ said in John 5:24, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My Words and believes in Him who sent Me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but have passed from death [that's spiritual death] into life [spiritual life]."* You've heard me use the term reboot and this is what it means: to pass from spiritual death into spiritual life. **When you make the decision to believe in Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Savior, you reboot or you start again, you start a new life in Christ.** That's why we quote the verse, *"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away and all things become new"* (1 Corinthians 5:17). So, let's look at John chapter 4 and here is something that you can see how the Lord lived by principle in His life. In John 4 the Pharisees were beginning to get wind of the tremendous amount of followers that the Lord Jesus Christ had amassed, people that were following Him. Quoting verses 1 and 2 now, *"the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John although Jesus Himself never baptized anyone but His disciples,"* thus at this point, and this is the principle, the Holy Spirit directed Him to leave Judea and to go back to Galilee; back up north to Galilee because the Pharisees were jealous and they were worried about their power. The Pharisees didn't want to lose their power over the people, and Christ intimidated them and He was definitely a threat to their power. That was the whole thing about having Him prosecuted and executed and crucified. He threatened their power. The Pharisees were afraid the Romans would take over and so they wanted one man to die for all of them so they wouldn't have to worry about Rome being mad at them. They wanted to keep their power. You know, political power is something that people will kill for. You know that don't you? People will kill for political power. It's all about power even today in our country. It's not about politics. It's not about who cares about you. If you believe that, you're in la-la land. It's about power. People want to control and

keep the power and they'll do whatever they have to do to keep the power. They may lie, they may spread public lies. If you tell it often enough, loud enough, and long enough somebody is going to believe it. And it's only for one reason, either to get the power back or to keep the power so that you can force people to live how you think they should live. What the politicians think is the best thing for everybody. No politician understands the sin nature of man, very few do. And most politicians think if they give man free chicken and free food and free healthcare we'll all get along together but that's not true. The sin nature of man is horrible. He's always been against God. He always will be against God. Jesus said, *"you've heard of wars and rumors of wars; don't be discouraged, they are going to keep happening"* (Matthew 24:6). So nobody is going to get man to love each other. So when He goes back to Galilee, got on the little rabbit chase there, forgive me. The Lord Jesus Christ goes back to Galilee and He goes through a place called Samaria. The Samaritan route took Him three days travel time to go back to Galilee but He goes through Samaria. And here's something that's interesting: God's directive may take you down a road that you had not planned on traveling. Do you hear me? This is not the direct route back to Galilee. This was through Samaria. Jews did not go to Samaria. They hated the Samaritans. They considered them half breeds. They absolutely would have nothing to do with them. If someone was walking down one side of the street and was Samaritan and a Jew was on the same side of the street, he'd go to the other side. **So the question you must ask yourself is this: are you willing to take a leap of faith and go down the road God leads you? You must be careful not to make an impulsive emotional decision that is based on intuition. Wait on the Holy Spirit, wait on the Word of God.** But this trip through Samaria was not about the quickest way home. That was not what it was about. It was about giving the Gospel to the Samaritans. That's what it was about. Giving the Gospel to Samaritans. So if you have a good study Bible, and I assume most of you do, you can read the history of Samaria. You can look it up. I don't have time to teach it all but understand why the Jews avoided that land and why they hated that land. By the way, that was the last capital city of the Northern Kingdom of Judah. It was later on in the book of Acts that Philip the evangelist had a tremendous revival in Samaria. Now here was our Lord preceding Philip going into Samaria. This hike up to Samaria was about 20 miles. They didn't take a taxi. They didn't have Uber. They went to a place called Sychar near the plot of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. You can read about that in Genesis 48:21. And near this plot of land called Sychar is a well called Jacob's well. Using a Roman timetable it was about six o'clock in the evening and it was hot. Jesus our Lord was left alone as He sent the disciples into town to purchase some supplies for dinner and some things they needed. He couldn't go because He would have attracted too much of a crowd. As He rested at that well, late in the evening, a Samaritan woman approached to draw water from the well. And much to her surprise, our Lord requested that she pour Him a drink as well. She was stunned, absolutely stunned that a Jew would ask anything of her since the Jews hated Samaritans. In John 4:9 she said, *"For Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans."* And she was right, but the Lord shocked her with His comments. It is interesting what He told her. And you can shock people much the same way.

When you give them truth it shocks them. I'm around people, and you are too, so much of the time we just keep our mouth shut. They're so full of themselves and so full of braggadocios and think they're smarter than anybody else and we just let them ride along, we don't shock them. But our Lord shocked this woman in John 4:10. He said, *"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."* A never ending source of life is what He's talking about, eternal life. This was a divine invitation by our Savior for her to reboot her life since she made a mess of things and all of her bad decisions she had made. Jesus went on to say in John 7:38, *"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"* That's the promise of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit coming to live inside of each of us. In John 4:14 He told this woman, *"whoever drinks of the water that I give him shall never thirst again; the water I give him shall be a well of water springing up into everlasting life."* What's interesting as you read this passage in John 4, she never gave Him a drink of water but she did receive the drink He offered. She did receive the eternal water that He gave her. He identified Himself as the Messiah whom she had heard of. In John 4:25-26, *"The woman said unto him, 'I know the Messiah is coming and He is called the Christ; when He comes, He will tell us all things.' And then Jesus said to her, 'I that speak to you am He.'"* A face-to-face confrontation with the King of kings and the Lord of lords, the Savior of the world. I am Him. You can believe she was stunned! I think about when our Lord was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane and they came looking for the Lord Jesus Christ. When they said, where is He? Where is He? The Lord stood up and said "I am." And they were knocked flat. They were knocked on the ground. The power of that. Who is that? Christ the Lord. Down they went. Here Christ looked at her and said, "I am the Messiah." You know, it's amazing to see that. She left and went into town and told how she had met the Messiah and half the town came running out to meet Him as well. In John 4:39, *"many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him because of the testimony of the woman, and many more believed when they heard Him speak themselves."* This is what they said in John 4, *"now we believe, not because of what you said, for we heard Him ourselves and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."* And the Lord stayed there for two days ministering to the Samaritans. It's an amazing story how the Lord handled this. And God extends to you the same invitation. You can have the river of living water springing up in your soul. A well that will never run dry. A thirst that will always be quenched. You can reboot your life just like she rebooted her life. I mean, do you think your sin is unknown to God? Do you think God is not aware of what you've done? That is a serious question I'm asking you now. Listen to me. Do you think God is not aware of what you've done? In John 4:16-18 Jesus told her, *"Go get your husband, and come here. And she said I have no husband. And Jesus said, well, that's correct. I know you have no husband for you have had five and the one you live with now is not your husband."* In other words she was in an affair. He knew exactly how many men she had wed and bed and even their names, just like He knows my failures and my flaws and yours as well. Just as she rebooted that day when she met the Messiah, her life changed and you can do the same thing.

In John 3:3, *“Jesus answered and said to Nicodemus, ‘Truly I say unto you that unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”* Those words spoken to Nicodemus were unbelievable words. In the middle of the night, in late night midnight conversation Nicodemus approached the Lord seeking some answers. He knew something was different about this man and the Lord replied, you must be born again. Nicodemus was shocked. That is impossible; nobody can go back in the womb and be reborn. But Jesus said, don't be amazed that I told you to be born again. Nicodemus said, how is it even possible? Our Lord told him, you mean you're a teacher of Israel and you don't understand these things? The mechanics to being born again, the mechanics to rebooting your life, starting your life all over again simply means that you are born spiritually dead. You were made alive physically. Yes, your mom and dad copulated and you were born. You had a body and a soul but your human spirit was born dead. That's why the Bible says, *“for by one man sin came into the world, and death by sin, and now death is passed on all for all have sinned”* (Romans 5:12). You are spiritually dead because of your relationship to Adam. But you can be made spiritually alive when you identify with Christ. **When you come to the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Savior, God the Holy Spirit enters into you and makes you spiritually alive. Listen to these words in John 3:16, “... whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.” and “he who believes in Him is not judged.” Why would God not judge us? In Romans 5:8 Paul wrote the reason why, “God demonstrated his love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** Why would He not judge you? Because He's already judged Christ. That's why. You are not going to be judged for all your sins when you get to heaven. Your sins have been paid for. You are going to be judged on the basis of - is your name in the Lamb's book of life? Did you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior? The Great White Throne of Judgment will be a shocking horrible event for many people because the Bible says, *“Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, did I not prophesy in Your name, in Your name did I not cast out devils as a people in the ministry? And He said I'll tell them I never knew you, depart from Me”* (Matthew 7:22-23). It's possible to be religious and never have been born again. Religion is man's effort to approbate God. It's you trying to turn God on by being good and that doesn't work. The justice of God is not impressed with your good deeds because the Bible says, *“there are none that are good, no not one”* (Romans 3:10). The only perfect one was Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. His death on the cross was our substitutionary concept. One man—the Lord Jesus Christ—died for all. You and me. The fact that He walked out of that grave alive demonstrates to us that we can have eternal life through His sacrificial death. Paul said it this way in his letter when he wrote back to the church in Corinth, *“if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature [a Christian]; the old things have passed away and behold new things have come”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). Spiritual death is the penalty of sin. Given as a warning to our original parents in Genesis 2:17, God the Father warned them, *“If you eat of the fruit, dying you will die.”* When they partook the forbidden fruit, they died spiritually and the penalty was imposed at the fall of mankind. Man is born into sin. The entire human race is born physically alive but spiritually dead. We are not condemned by the

imputation of our own personal sins but through the imputation of Adam's original sin. That's what condemns us. So if we are going to reboot, if we are going to believe in Christ, if we are going to offer a simple prayer of confession to the Father and say, "Heavenly Father, I believe Jesus Christ is Your son and I would like to receive Him as my Savior." That's all it takes. Because the Bible says, "*Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" (Romans 10:13). So here you are this morning listening. Have you ever done that? Have you ever simply told the God the Father you're a sinner and you believe Jesus Christ died for your sins and you would like to receive Him as your Savior? If you will do that, wherever you are, in a car, at home, in your easy chair, you will reboot - you will start your life again. A new racial species in Christ. If you are Christian and you've already rebooted, you may just need to rebound. You may need to confess your sin to God. Maybe you feel like you are not saved anymore because you did something that is so horrific and so horrible that you're ashamed of it. If you're still alive, God is not through with you. So I would suggest that you go to God the Father and do exactly what 1 John 1:9 says, "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" So if you have a spiritual birth, born-again, then you have a spiritual life. You now are alive in Christ. **The key to living the spiritual life is to reconnoiter and to rebound.** Reconnoiter means to survey, inspect, examine your life, minute by minute because sin is very subtle and sometimes it can even be difficult to analyze. Mental attitude sins are sometimes the most unrecognizable to ourselves. When we are arrogant, we don't see what we really are. We see what we think we are. So the biggest danger, I think, that believers face is blind arrogance coupled with impetuous actions. Because at this stage in our life we don't see ourselves as we are but rather what we think we are. In emotions we do things that we don't even need to do to impress people that are not even listening. Without doing personal reconnaissance you cannot handle your personal responsibilities. I mean sometimes it's hard to see or admit our own weaknesses, but we have to take a look at that. We have to see our fatal flaws before they destroy us. It is best to reconnoiter every day than in retrospect to look back and reminisce about what you assume was your failure or your frustrations in your past life. There's danger in reflecting on your past sins or your past failures. It's dangerous if we fail to do what Paul mandates in Philippians 3:13-14 where he says, "*I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: I forget what lies behind and I reach forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" Don't look back. Don't look back at your failures. Don't look back at your flaws. Don't look back at the abuses that you suffered at the hand of someone. **Look ahead. Put your eyes on the prize - on the Savior. Don't look back.** That is the wrong thing to do because that's where Satan will gain an advantage of you and your emotions. Well, that's it for this week. Until next time, this is your host Rick Hughes. Thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

GOD'S PROBLEM SOLVING DEVICES

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FILLING OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT

FAITH-REST DRILL

GRACE
ORIENTATION

DOCTRINAL
ORIENTATION

PERSONAL SENSE
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