

2020
V1

THE FLOT LINE hosted by Rick Hughes
2020 TRANSCRIPTS VOLUME 1 January-June

VOLUME 1



Rick Hughes
EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES



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

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

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

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

RADIO

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

PODCAST

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

BOOKS

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

BOOKMARKS & HANDOUTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you have listened to any of my broadcasts, this intro is familiar. "Welcome to *The FLOT Line*. I am your host Rick Hughes. Stay with me for the next few minutes. It will be a short time of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education and all done without any manipulation." Here for you, *Transcripts of the The FLOT Line 2020*.

Rick Hughes

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The Delusional Daydreamer

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 750 aired on January 5, 2020

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like to invite you to stick around. It's going to be a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education and always without any type of manipulation. So hang around. This is the new year 2020 - the first show of the new year. We need to make a few announcements before we get started today talking about the delusional daydreamer - that's what we are going to cover. I'd like to dedicate this show to Rex Allison, our dear wonderful friend who has been our radio spot-checker for the last few years. Rex has gone to be with the Lord. He was from Shreveport, Louisiana. Every Sunday he would get on the Internet and listen on streaming audio to make sure that each of the 27 stations was in fact fulfilling their commitment to us to play the show. If they didn't play the show he would contact us so we could follow up with the station. We recognize Rex and the wonderful job he did for us for so long. He is now with the Lord, bless his heart. "No more tears, no more pain, no more sorrow, the old things are passed away and all things are new" (Revelation 21:4). I imagine he is having a wonderful glorious time face-to-face with his Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. We've been on the air since 2005. That's roughly 15 years of radio broadcasting Bible studies across America, fifty-two Sundays a year. That's over 780 radio shows broadcast from California to New York. Some markets we don't broadcast in anymore. I think our two longest running shows are Jackson, Mississippi and Grass Valley, California. Thank you, Heavenly Father, and thank you to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who have provided the means and the direction for me as we pursue this ministry. We now have it on podcast. You can listen to the FLOT Line radio shows on your Apple iPod or go to Spotify or Anchor and type in The FLOT Line. You can cycle them through the Bluetooth in your car if you are traveling. Also, we are beginning to put the FLOT Line radio shows into print. These will be exactly as I spoke them, they are not edited prints, they are transcribed just like I spoke them. If you'd like to read them they will be available to you. This radio ministry is just a small part of what we do. If you would like to see the rest of it, go to our Facebook page - Rick Hughes Ministries. On the Facebook page you can see the schools that we speak in, the churches that we speak in, the radio shows, the Texas Wounded Warrior Foundation - so many things we have going on. I'm so grateful for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ again for giving me this opportunity. I don't know how long He will let me do it but I'll be here as long as He wills it, I promise you. Thank you for listening and for giving me your time. Thank you for praying for me. It's always a delight to hear from you so don't hesitate to write if you'd like. Okay, we are going to study the delusional daydreamer, what I think of as the dysfunctional Christian or the dysfunctional non-Christian. That's a person who is not operating normally in life. The warning verse we find in Proverbs 3:7 (which we mentioned lately) "*Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord turn away from evil.*" Wise in your own eyes is a reference to arrogant, negative volition. We find that arrogance has been committed before in the Bible - it actually started with Satan's original sin. The original sin was the arrogance of Satan in eternity past. I'll read it to you

out of Ezekiel 28:14-17. Listen to his arrogance. This is what God the Father said to him: He said, *“You were the anointed cherub who guards the throne, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in all of your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you [the unrighteousness is his arrogance]. By the abundance of your slander [this is when he maligned God] they filled your inner life [Satan’s motivation and thought pattern] with violence and you sinned; therefore I [that’s God the Father] have cast you out as defiled from the mountain of God. And I have excluded you, old guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; and you corrupted your wisdom because of your glamour. Now I cast you to earth and I place you before kings, that they may see you.”* This is his arrogance, thinking that he's equal to God, that he can replace God. Arrogance is actually one of the leading sins in the whole Bible beginning here with the fall of Satan. One of the leading sins in the whole Bible that leads to self-destruction. The plain truth is that an arrogant individual is his own worst enemy since he does not actually have a realistic image of self. That's exactly what happened to Satan. He was blameless in all of his ways from the day he was created until the unrighteousness was found in him. To put it mildly, he looked in the mirror one too many times and thought he was smarter than God. He was very glamorous. He had created quite a following. We are told that one third of the angels of heaven were cast out with him, that he had recruited that many and they are now fallen angels - we know them as demons today. These are the fallen angels that came with Satan and were cast to the earth. **Arrogance is a leading emotional number one sin. An arrogant individual is his own worst enemy. As I said, he doesn't actually have a realistic image of himself.** He is the delusional dysfunctional believer - wise in his own eyes. That’s what we're calling this study - the delusional dysfunctional believer who is wise in his own eyes - the delusional daydreamer is the word I was looking for. Let’s make a couple points for you. Arrogance is synonymous with vanity. Vanity is simply empty pride in regard to one’s person, one’s attainments or possessions and you couple that with an excessive desire to be noticed, lust for attention or lust for approval or praise from other people. **You cannot see arrogance. It's invisible. It's an attitude of the soul. But it is actually a complete complex of sins, not just one sin, many sins.** Put them together like jealousy and bitterness and competitiveness and being in inordinate competition with other people - that’s the indicator of arrogance. It's a mental attitude thought pattern that overflows into the motivation and the decision-making process of your soul. An arrogant person who rejects the Word of God, who rejects the plan of God is a delusional daydreamer if he thinks that he has a better plan than what God has. Arrogance comes in three stages (I’ve said this many times on the radio show). It starts with self-justification. This is where the arrogant person justifies why he's right and other people are wrong. This is the way the arrogant dysfunctional believer does it - he justifies why it's okay to sin or why it's okay to disobey God. The arrogant dysfunctional unbeliever justifies why the Bible is wrong and he's right. Maybe he heard some fellow that is smarter than God and that fellow told him, “You don't have to believe the Bible. Listen to me, I'm smarter than God.” So

people justify why they reject God's Word, they justify why they sin - it's called self-justification. Maybe take a student who doesn't do their homework and then when the teacher gets on to them then they say, "Well, you gave me too much homework and I couldn't do it and I had basketball practice and I had this and I had that I couldn't do my homework." Or maybe they cheat in the class and get caught and they justify saying, "Well, it was too hard and I was not able to study." People justify why they do what is wrong. Thieves justify why they steal. Two-timers justify why it's okay to two-time on their spouse. It is never okay. That is self-justification. Self-justification leads to the second stage of arrogance called self-deception. This is where once you've lied to enough people then you begin to lie to yourself and actually believe the lie. Then it moves into self-absorption, the third stage of arrogance. Self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption, totally wrapped up with self, totally involved with self, totally only wanting what self wants to the exclusion of God or God's plan or anybody else. This sort of attitude always, always leads to self-destruction if it's unchecked. If you have or anyone has an unrealistic self-image it is going to lead to unrealistic expectations. This was Satan. He had an unrealistic self-image, he thought he was as smart as God, he was handsome, beautiful, attractive, smart as God. He had an unrealistic self-image and unrealistic expectations. That's the downfall of the arrogant person. He or she justifies what they believe is true; actually they lie to themselves with unrealistic expectations and an unrealistic self-image. This in turn leads to self-deception, self-absorption and self-destruction - when a person is wise in their own eyes. Proverbs 3:7 warns, "*Do not be wise in your own eyes.*" It's the blindly arrogant person who completely rejects God's plan and, in fact, substitutes his own plan. He or she may reject the Bible as divine truth or any insight from the Bible and seek only your approval and your acceptance of their earthly wisdom. I can assure you that human viewpoint is no match for divine viewpoint. However, people believe it is. People really do believe they are smarter than God and they justify it by saying, "The Bible was written by men and you cannot trust it, you cannot depend on it and it's not really true." Satan loves to hear that sort of stuff. Anything to get him out of the Lake of Fire, where he's headed. Unbelievers often convince themselves that the God thing is really just another crutch for weak-minded individuals like you and me. We are not as wise as they are which means that those of us of faith are mental cripples and we are unreasonable. I think some politicians have even referred to us as that sort of person because we believe the Bible, we trust in the Bible, we trust in the wisdom of God over the wisdom of man. **The Bible clearly says, "Cursed is the man that trusts in man" (Jeremiah 17:5).** If you believe some politician can solve the problems of America today you are dead wrong. I don't care who you elect, no problem will be solved. It's a spiritual problem in this country and we'll go on to show you that. Jeremiah had much the same thing going on after Nebuchadnezzar captured him and took him back to Babylon. He kept warning the Jews in captivity to turn back to the Lord but they wouldn't do it. Jeremiah 4:22 says (this is a kind of eerie comparison to us), "*My people are foolish,*" He said, "*they have not known Me; they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil but to do good they have no knowledge of that.*" They don't believe in heaven or hell - that's in America today, this sort of person, wise to

do evil. What does this verse say? Don't be wise in your own eyes. Wise to do evil - the schemer, the manipulator, the deceiver - wise to do evil. But to do good they have no knowledge. They don't believe in heaven, they don't believe in hell, nor do they even believe in the sovereignty of God. Some people like this are simply agnostics. Some of them are atheists. Some of them are just plain negative. Bad decisions limit future options and stupid decisions get people hurt. I have told you that. **The worst decision you could ever make is to think you are smarter than God and reject anything the Bible has to say.** Rejecting any and all divine viewpoint found in the Bible is typical of many modern Americans today. Their arrogance and prosperity have fueled this disrespect for God's Word. They have become delusional and dysfunctional and they waste their lives chasing happiness that they can never catch. These verses I'm about to read to you indicate the negative attitude Jeremiah faced while he proclaimed God's Word and is eerily a mirror of modern progressive humanistic America. Listen carefully, see if you see us in these verses. Jeremiah 6:10, *"To whom shall I speak and give warning that they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot give heed."* That's a metaphor meaning they're negative, they're not going to listen, they don't want to listen, they don't care if Jesus Christ Himself walked down and stood among them. They are not going to listen and that was proven when our Lord did that - walked among men, demonstrated who He was and they still hated Him and despised Him. Do you think it is going to be any different in this country today? When the name of the Lord Jesus Christ is mentioned it is divisive - people hate it or they love it, there is no middle ground. Who can I speak wisdom to? Who can I give warning to? They are not going to listen. They will not pay attention. And that's going on today in this client nation called America. *"Behold, the word of the Lord is a reproach to them and they have no delight in it"* (Jeremiah 6:10). It offends them. They don't want to hear it. They don't like it. Haven't we had this struggle for years about putting the Ten Commandments up at the courthouse? "Get them down, we cannot have the Ten Commandments in the public arena. We cannot have a nativity scene in the public arena. It is offensive." We have gone deep, deep, deep into national arrogance. Listen to Jeremiah 6:13 (here's the eerie part), *"Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is given to covetousness [that's greed], and from the prophet even to the priest everyone lies [they deal falsely]."* Jeremiah 6:15-16 goes on to say, *"Were they ashamed when they committed these abominations? No, they were not ashamed at all; nor did they even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they'll be cast down," says the Lord. Thus says the Lord, 'Stand in the ways and watch, ask for the old paths where the good way is and walk in it. Then you will find rest for your souls.' But they said, 'No, we will not walk in it.'"* That is negative volition. There are a lot of things that go on in America today that people are not ashamed of at all. Public displays, public marches, public things - you know some of the things I'm talking about, I don't have to bring them up by name. My gosh, we are sick when people dress up like this and do some of the things they do in public and demand to be respected because of their attitude and the rejection of God's word. No wonder we are about to go under the fifth cycle of discipline. No wonder there's a train

wreck coming, you can hear the whistle blowing right now and you can see the light at the far end of the railroad track. The judgment of God is coming, it's on the way. We are in serious trouble today. So this is it. They won't listen, they won't walk in it, they won't pay attention to it. The problem is this, any individual must have a source of truth by which to base their decisions. Where does their truth come from? If it's flying across the ocean they use faith to trust that the plane will take them safely don't they? If they want to get on a plane and fly to Europe they are going to trust the pilot. They get in that plane, they trust the pilot, whom they have never met, with their lives. And this same person will not trust God since their own personal agenda does not line up with what the Bible teaches. For example, if the Bible teaches that marriage is between one man and one woman and the arrogant person is a proclaimed homosexual then, in their opinion, God must be wrong. They are wise in their own eyes. He must be wrong since His Word, the Bible, does not support their lifestyle and so they become dysfunctional. They are delusional. Illusions are a dime a dozen. Magicians use them on street corners and in auditoriums. What we need to remember is that Satan is the master illusionist. He has the ability to convince you that the lie is actually real. He himself is in fact a master liar, according to Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God. In John 8:44, the Bible says, *"There is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar, and the father of all lies."* The bottom line is the delusional dysfunctional daydreamer, who is wise in his own eyes, has bought into the lie. The lie is that his or her lifestyle is a better choice than what God offered in the Bible. **Proverbs 14:9** says, *"Fools make a mockery of sin, but among the righteous there is favor."* **In Lamentations 3:25**, *"The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul that seeks Him."* The issue always has been the love of God for us - always, always, always. John 3:16 tells us that, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."* So if God loves us, then would He try to keep us from following our desires and our dreams? The answer is no, He won't. He absolutely allows you to choose your own lifestyle even though He may know the choice will lead to frustration and failure and maybe even an early death in your life. Keep in mind, He did preserve His Word for all of us. And in His Word He did provide clear instructions on how we can have a full, wonderful, meaningful life. But the liar of all lies convinces people that it's not true or that God is actually being unreasonable. In Proverbs 3:1-2, listen carefully, *"Do not forget [don't put aside] my teaching, but let your heart keep my mandates; and they will provide length of years to your life and peace they will add to you."* Let me read that again. ***"Don't forget my teaching, let your heart keep my mandates [that's positive volition] and they will provide length of years to your life and peace they will add to you."*** I'm telling you, if you will learn the ten problem-solving devices that make up the FLOT line in your soul, you can add length of years to your life and peace in your life and the happiness you are looking for - if you will learn and use God's plan for your life. But if you are wise in your own eyes, if you reject the Word of God, reject the plan of God, then you will have nothing but frustration and failure all of your life. Proverbs 3:7-8 says, *"Fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will heal your body and refresh your bones."* That's a metaphor for having great health, good health. Fear means to respect, to

have reverence of God. Reverencing God, putting aside your own thoughts and your own teaching, and obeying his mandates give years of life and peace and good health. I just read it to you. Either you believe that or you don't believe that. I know, most don't believe it. They believe they are smarter than God. They are wise in their own eyes thus they are dysfunctional delusional daydreamers. Here's what God said, "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you, not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future*" (Jeremiah 29:11). There's a great promise from God for your life - a wonderful life, a healthy life, a long life if you learn and obey His Word. But if you are wise in your own eyes, and you turn away from God's Word and you seek your own way through your own arrogance, intellectually arrogant, emotionally arrogant, then you are going to bomb out and frustrate yourself and have one miserable life. It all starts with trusting God, trusting His Word, trusting His plan, and it starts with the eternal provision that God the Father made for you in eternity past. That's where it starts. In 2 Peter 3:9, the Bible says, "*The Lord is not slow concerning His promise, as some people count slowness, but He's very patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*" Change their mind - repentance - change of mind. There are three different Greek words for repentance in the Bible. This is not an emotion, being sorry. This word means to change the way you are thinking. You've been an unbeliever and now you've become a believer. How does a person get saved? The Bible says this, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved*" (Acts 16:31). The Bible says, "*He that believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16). The Bible says, "*These things are written so that you might know that you have eternal life*" (1 John 5:13). It all starts with faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. That's how much God loves you. His only begotten Son came, laid His life down on the cross to be judged in your place and my place, and to pay the penalty for our sins. 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). That's God's love. That's God's plan. That's God's provision for you. Don't be wise in your own eyes. Don't think you don't need this, that you've got a better deal or you are going to wind up on the short end of the stick. You are going to wind up being very sorry that you were a delusional daydreamer. You were wise in your own eyes. You thought you were smarter than God. You had it all figured out. But in the end it all came crashing down. I've seen it, you've seen it, we've seen people frustrated, failures in their life, because they were wise in their own eyes. Don't fall into that pattern. It takes humility, I promise you. That's why the Bible says, "*The Lord Jesus Christ humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation and took upon Himself the form of a servant*" (Philippians 2:7-8). That's why the Bible says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). Be wise to God's plan. Grow up. Learn it and live it and have a wonderful life. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Laconic Believer

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 751 aired on January 12, 2020

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stick around. Listen as I present to you some phenomenal principles from the Word of God about how you can establish a FLOT line in your soul. A FLOT line - Forward Line Of Troops - a main line of resistance inside your own soul, your mind, your body so that you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress. That's why we always say, adversity is inevitable and stress is, of course, optional. The Christian life is, in fact, a life without stress, a wonderful way to live so that we don't have to worry, be afraid, live under guilt, things like that. It's a great way to live and that's what this show is about giving you the accurate information so you can orient and adjust to the information if you desire. This show is a little different. We don't play music, we're not appealing to your emotions, we're not asking for money, we are just going to give you information. What you do with it, well that's between you and God. My job is to get it right and accurate. I'm not a pastor. I am an evangelist. My job is to point you to the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ, hopefully so you will trust in Him and receive Him as your Savior. Also to point you in the direction of a well-qualified pastor where you can grow up spiritually, learn God's Word, apply it in your life and give Him maximum glorification with everything you say, you think and you do. As we enter into the new decade, 2020, I want to start off by reminding you of a principle we have taught before that is worth repeating as we go into the new year. Maybe you could make this one of your New Year's resolutions. Whether or not you keep it is another story. I'd like to talk to you about something very unique. We live in a day and age when people are quick to mouth off, sound off. They say things they don't really need to say especially with social media Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, twit, whatever, all that stuff. Often it's unbelievable what people will comment on and say. There's something in the Bible called sins of the tongue. This is one of the three areas of sin that believers can easily get trapped in. I don't know about you, but it's real easy for me to get trapped into saying something that I didn't really want to say. I remember when I was a young man, probably 15 years old, standing in a grocery store in front of the owner at the meat counter and he asked me what I thought about one of the guys who lived down the street from me. I proceeded to give him my opinion and, unknowingly to me, the person that I was maligning, slandering and criticizing was standing right behind me listening to every word I said. I was being set up. It was embarrassing for sure. What I'm trying to say is, don't let yourself be set up by Satan. Learn when to speak and when not to speak. The Bible tells us constantly to watch what we say. We are going to look at that this morning. I'm going to go back some and remind you of some of these principles, something that we all need to remember. That's why I want to give it to you today. It's a challenge of when to keep your mouth shut. There are times to speak and there are times not to speak. The word laconic means to be a person of few words, a laconic person. When it comes to certain situations believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who are filled with the Holy Spirit (problem-solving device #2) and empowered by the Word of God (problem-

solving device #5 doctrinal orientation) have to be laconic. There's a time to speak up. There is also a time to keep our mouth shut. That's why the Bible says in Proverbs 13:3, *"He who guards his words, guards his life, for whoever is talkative comes to ruin."* The best way that I know to destroy your life and my life and have no hope of any future in our life is to run our mouth when we don't need to be running our mouth. We need to be listening. It's very important that we stay out of the sins of the tongue. We have a lot of sports talk radio today and I listen to it often because I'm a football fan. I hear people call into these sports talk radio shows and go on and on. They are looking for an audience, they are so arrogant, they want to say something, they think they're smarter than everybody else in the world and they want to criticize a coach and malign the players. It's unbelievable what goes on - the gossip, the slander, the criticism and the maligning - on these sports talk shows. Remember, if you are a Christian, mental attitude sins do quench the Holy Spirit but so do sins of the tongue and overt sins. The three types of sins that we commit are: mental attitude sins, (like worry or bitterness or jealousy), sins of the tongue (like lying, slander, gossip, maligning, criticizing, backbiting) and of course the overt sins that we get involved with (such as stealing, murder, fornication and adultery). You know, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are mandated not to let sin reign in our mortal bodies any longer. That's what Paul wrote in the book of Romans. What he is saying is we just don't have time to let the sin nature control us. The Bible indicates that if we will walk in the Spirit we can defeat the flesh. *"Walk in the Spirit and you won't be fulfilling the lust of the flesh"* (Galatians 5:16). There is always a battle there. That battle is always going on. So you, like me, have to be very careful about what you say and what you do. Let's look at some times when, in fact, we should keep our mouth shut. These are practical principles from the Word of God for people of principle. I hope you are one of those people and I hope this will help you formulate your New Year's resolutions. James 3:5-8 (New English Translation Bible) says, *"So too the tongue is a small part of the body, yet it has great pretensions. Think how small a flame sets a huge forest ablaze. The tongue is a fire. The tongue represents the world of wrongdoing among the parts of our bodies. It pollutes the entire body, and sets fire to the course of human existence. It is set on fire by hell itself. For every kind of animal, bird, reptile and sea creatures is subdued and has been subdued by humankind. But no human being can subdue the tongue. It's a restless evil, full of deadly poison."* Sins of the tongue. Sometimes we never think about it. Sometimes we just mouth off not paying attention to that and then we go back and say, "I wish I had never said that." Sins of the tongue are in three categories. The slander category is gossiping and maligning and judging and complaining against other people. Then there's the falsehood category which includes lies, deception, misrepresentation, perjury, fabrication, pathological lying, distortion, equivocation, ambiguous and unclear expressions designed to mislead in verbal duplicity and hypocrisy. I went through a lot of stuff right there. I don't know if you even got it all. Lies, deception, misrepresentation, perjury, fabrication, pathological lies, distortion, equivocation, ambiguous unclear expressions that are all designed to mislead, verbal duplicity and hypocrisy. That is the falsehood category of the sins of the tongue. And then there is the whining and complaining

category. This category is complaining when you are blessed by God and are the beneficiary of His grace but it's a distortion of the grace of God - whimpering, grumbling, complaining by you or me who have our very own portfolio of invisible assets. We have no need to complain. There is great blessing if we avoid these sins of the tongue in these three categories. Psalm 34:12-13, *"Who is the person who desires long life, who loves length of days that he may see prosperity? Then keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking slander."* There is a promise right there from the book of Psalm 34:12-13. Control of the tongue plus avoidance of the sins of the tongue is actually a sign that you are becoming a spiritually mature believer. James 3:2 says the mature believer can *"bridle the whole body,"* can control not only what he thinks but what he says or does. The book of James, as I read to you earlier, emphasizes the fact that verbal sins are always motivated by mental attitude sins and the arrogance or the emotional complex of sins in our life. James 3:14, *"But if you have bitter jealousy and strife in your heart [inordinate ambition; and you do, he says] then stop being arrogant and stop lying against the truth."* That's gossip or slander called lying against the truth. This is a sin of the tongue. In James 3:16, *"For where jealousy and inordinate ambition exist, there is dissension and every evil deed."* The evil or the worthless deed he's talking about are the sins of the tongue. Sins of the tongue are mentioned in several passages like Romans 2:1, Romans 14:4 and Romans 14:10. In James 5:9, *"Brethren, do not complain against each other, so that you yourself will not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door."* These warnings of Scripture lead us up to studying what it means to be laconic. A person with a few words. Expressing much in just a few words. **The plain truth is this, we simply need to learn how to keep our mouth shut at certain times so that we stay out of trouble and we don't get under discipline from God.** Let me give you a few of those times. We will start by looking at the verse that advises this laconic behavior. Here is the verse that advises it. Proverbs 13:3, again, *"The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; the one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin."* There you go, mark that one down. Here is the first thing I want you to remember. (1) **We should always keep our mouth shut when we get angry.** In Ephesians 4:30-31 the Bible says, *"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you [those are all sins of the tongue and mental attitude sins] along with all malice [that's an overt sin, that's an attempt to hurt somebody]."* Here it is, God said keep your mouth shut when you get angry. We should always do that. You can't allow your anger to become emotional explosions so that you say things you regret and do things you wouldn't normally do. That's letting your sin nature get out of control. Maybe you've done that this week. Maybe you didn't think you sinned. If you have done that, I suggest you go to God, admit the sin and then let Him cleanse you from it. He doesn't tolerate that. (2) **We should always keep our mouth shut when we are tempted to tell a lie.** As a matter fact, in Proverbs 6:16-19, there are seven things God hates. He says they're an abomination unto Him. Listen, *"a lying tongue, a false witness who utters lies, one who spreads lies among the brothers,"* sins of the tongue. In Proverbs 12:22, *"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal faithfully are His*

strength.” God doesn't tolerate liars. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and you have a propensity to tell a lie then you are sinning. It's straight up sin and you can get under serious divine discipline from God for lying. God says don't lie, stay out of it. (3) **We should keep our mouth shut when we are tempted to straighten out someone.** When we want to correct someone you may call him or her an idiot but it's not our job to straighten out idiots. They frustrate you, they get you mad, they make you want to say something you should not say. Proverbs 9:7-8, *“He who corrects a scoffer [the Hebrew word refers to an arrogant boaster] gets dishonor for himself, and he who reproves a wicked man gets insults for himself. Do not reprove a scoffer or he will hate you, reprove a wise man he will appreciate you [he'll love you for it].”* There are people that you can correct and people you can't correct. The arrogant idiot you can't correct. Don't waste your time. (4) **Do not speak if you don't have all the facts.** Having all the facts is critical. Proverbs 10:14 (New American Standard Bible) says, *“Wise men store up knowledge, but with the mouth of the foolish, ruin is at hand.”* Proverbs 3:7 says, *“Don't consider yourself to be wise.”* There are so many people who think they're wiser than God but they haven't stored up any knowledge. Proverbs 10:14 says, *“Wise men store up knowledge.”* Knowledge is appreciation and reverence for God. The foolish person doesn't have any appreciation or reverence for God so he runs his mouth. He doesn't have all the facts and his ruin is at hand. He'll destroy himself. Eventually he'll wipe himself out. (5) **You should keep your mouth shut if you are tempted to pervert the truth.** It's critical you understand this. Again Proverbs 10:31, *“The mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom, but the perverted tongue will be cut off.”* Do not pervert the truth. The very worst thing any Christian could do, the worst thing any minister could do is to pervert the truth of Scripture, pervert the Word of God. There's truth related to salvation and truth related to Christian living both of which are perverted daily by Satan's ministers who teach false doctrine. You say, “I didn't know Satan had ministers.” Yes, he does. There are men in pulpits across this country today and ladies in pulpits who are Satan's ministers. Do you want to hear the verse? 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, *“No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.”* They pervert the truth. They don't tell you that it is faith alone in Christ alone. They tell you that if you want to be saved and go to heaven, you have to be a good little boy, you can't do any bad things because in the end God's going to measure the good and the bad and if you are on the bad end of the bad you are going to hell. That's NOT what the Bible says. The Bible says Christ died for the sins of the world. The Bible says, *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us”* (2 Corinthians 5:21). Our sins were paid for by Him. His death, burial and resurrection are guarantees to us that we have eternal life through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. We are not allowed to pervert the truth, yet it goes on every day. One thing that is hard to face is that Moses himself misrepresented God once at the rock of Meribah. You can read it for yourself in Numbers 20:7-12. Here's what it says, *“Then the Lord spoke to Moses, and He said. ‘Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together and speak to the rock before their*

eyes, and it will yield its water. Thus you will bring water for them out of the rock and give drink to the congregation and their animals.' So Moses took the rod from before the Lord, just as He commanded him; and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock. And he said to them, 'Listen to me, you rebels: must we [Moses and Aaron] bring water out of this rock for you?' Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with the rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and the animals drank. But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'Because you did not believe Me, you did not hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you will not bring them into the promised land which I have given to them.'" He struck the rock instead of speaking to the rock. He perverted the truth. In Deuteronomy 3:24-28 listen to this, "'O Lord God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like You do? I pray, please let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains and Lebanon.' But the Lord was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me; and the Lord said to me, 'Enough of that! Speak no more to Me about this matter. Go to the top of Pisgah, lift up your eyes to the west to the north to the south to the east, and look at it, but you will not go over the Jordan River.'" Wow! God takes it seriously if we misrepresent Him in front of His people.

(6) Here's another one. **One should keep his mouth shut if he is tempted to malign his neighbor.** It's critical you remember that. The Bible says in Proverbs 11:9, "*The hypocrite, with his mouth, destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.*" How do we destroy our neighbor? By slander, maligning, gossiping and criticizing. (7) **If you have a quick temper you should by all means keep your mouth shut.** Proverbs 14:17, "*A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man of wicked intentions is hated.*" That quick temper will get you in trouble more than anything else because it will lead you to say things you shouldn't say and do things you shouldn't do. One of the signs of a mature believer is learning how to get his temper under control. If you have temper outbursts, get angry and explosive and let emotion control your life, you have not grown spiritually to learn how to handle that through the filling of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, "*The fruit of the Spirit is love and joy and peace and long-suffering and gentleness and goodness and meekness*" (Galatians 5:22). That's not you, is it? You are explosive and angry, bitter. That's an area you must grow in. (8) Here's another principle. **You must keep your mouth closed if you are tempted to be rude.** The Bible says in Proverbs 16:24, "*Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.*" I like honey. I bet you do too. I like it in my coffee and my tea. I put it on my oatmeal. Honey is pleasant and it's compared here to pleasant words. Not being rude with waitresses, waiters, with your spouse, with your children, not being rude. Okay, now buckle your seatbelts because this one may get a little tough. (9) **A woman should never use her words as an attempt to control her husband.** In Proverbs 19:13, "*A foolish son is the ruin of his father, and the contentions of a wife are a continuous dripping.*" That's called nagging. That's using words to control your husband. I was talking to my daughter about this the other day and she said, "I wouldn't nag if he did it the first time I asked him to do it." Most men are not going to do it the

first time you ask them to do it. You can be pleasant about asking again instead of getting angry and going off at them with your temper because they didn't do what you wanted them to do or just getting mad and withdrawing and not saying anything and pouting and having a little pity party because your husband is not doing what you want him to do. No man is perfect. No woman is perfect. Most of us men are just jerks. I'll admit it. If it wasn't for God's sense of humor we would probably already be a greasy spot somewhere. You married us. You have to put up with us. So don't nag us. That's what the Bible is saying, *"the contentions of the wife are continuous dripping."* Can men be naggers? You better believe they can be. They can be worse than a woman sometimes, critical, criticizing, maligning, putting their spouse down. There is no room in the Christian life for any sort of behavior like that. If you are that sort of man, you are not a man at all, you are just a mouse. You are a wimp if you pick on your wife, if you pick on your children or if you intimidate them in any way whatsoever. (10) **Definitely you should keep your mouth shut when you are tempted to judge another person.** God does not allow judging. Proverbs 21:23, *"Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles."* In Matthew 7:1-5, *"Judge not so that you are not judged. For with whatever judgment you judge, you will be judged, with the measure you use, it will be given back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, and you don't consider the log sticking out of your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Oh, let me remove the speck from your eye,' and then look, there's a log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first remove the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."* The log in your own eye is representative of your own self-righteous arrogance. Arrogant people don't see themselves as they really are, they see themselves as they think they are. If they have an unrealistic self-image, they have unrealistic expectations. That's the way it goes. There you have it - the laconic believer. It's very critical we understand this. This is information that we've given to you before but it is critical that we understand we are not allowed to judge, we are not allowed to malign, we are not allowed to criticize, we are not allowed to slander and we are not allowed to gossip. These are all traits of the sin nature. If you let your sin nature get out of control this will be you. You will be rude, you will be impatient, you will be judgmental, you will be doing exactly all these things we talked about. In this new year, the new decade, 2020, I'd love to know who's paying attention. We are signing contracts for new radio shows and it depends on who's there, who's listening and how effective we are being in that area. It is my prayer that you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. That you have made the most significant decision that you could ever make in your entire life. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved"* (Acts 16:31). A simple act of faith can change your life. The Bible says, *"Whosoever should call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Romans 10:13). You must do it if you haven't. Please consider the claims of Jesus Christ because God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. This is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Spiritual Tumbleweed

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 752 aired on January 19, 2020

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes I'd like to invite you to stick around. It's just 30 minutes of motivation, inspiration and education without any type of manipulation. We are talking about soul renovation. That's the whole reason for this show - soul renovation, not financial manipulation or anything like that. The purpose of this show is for you to build a FLOT line. To give you information so you will understand what a FLOT line is. FLOT, forward line of troops, is a military metaphor for a main line of resistance in your soul inside of you because of the way you think. You change your thinking, you begin to think in a different way. The Bible says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). The Bible says, *"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"* (Romans 12:3). Therefore, if you look in the mirror, God gave you two ends. One end you sit on and one end you think with. Success in life is dependent on which end you use. Heads you win, tails you lose. The Bible is clear about *"growing in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18), that's spiritual growth. The only way you can do that is to accumulate some knowledge of God and establish in your soul a main line of resistance, a FLOT line. Today we want to talk about the spiritual tumbleweed. You know, those things that blow across the desert, tumbleweeds. I often hear repeated phrases that don't make much sense to me and I bet you've heard them too. I bet you've heard somebody say, "I prayed about it." But a lot of times people don't understand the mechanics of prayer. They don't understand that if you have sin in your life, God is not going to answer the prayer. The Bible says, *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me"* (Psalm 66:18). They don't understand that when they pray they are to go through the Lord Jesus Christ using His name, to pray in His name, to God the Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Prayer has a protocol. We pray to the Father, in the name of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. We don't pray to Jesus. If somebody out there is praying to Jesus, it's not going to get answered. It has to go to the Father. That's the way it works. The Bible is very specific about following the protocol plan of God. Another term that I hear often repeated is, "Our thoughts and prayers are with you." It doesn't make any sense. What does that mean, "We are praying for you." Let's go back to the concept. You are praying for me? What are you praying? Are you praying for God's will? Are you praying for God to take it away? Are you praying for God to help me go through it? How are you praying? What are you praying about? It is critical you understand the ministry of prayer, how prayer works and what we are supposed to do in prayer. We can intercede in prayer. We can give a prayer of adoration, a prayer of intercession or a prayer of supplication. You can pray for your own needs, you can pray for my needs and you can give praise to God the Father in your prayer. Smart people often do dumb things, not really knowing exactly what they're doing but trying to sound rather sensitive and spiritual and sound like maybe they have something spiritual in mind when they say it. They convince themselves

that they are in the will of God by saying these things. This comes from some sort of misguided judgment in their mind or human viewpoint thinking over divine viewpoint thinking when they don't have any Biblical rationale to make decisions. This is true especially in the parable that our Lord Jesus Christ gave about the Pharisee praying and the Pharisee saying, "I thank God I'm not like the sinner over here. I do this and I do that." Jesus said, "Nope, this sinner is going to heaven because he asked for forgiveness and this guy over here on the other side, this Pharisee, was touting about how self-righteous he was." So that's misguided human viewpoint. Thinking that you have a right relationship with God when you don't because there's no Biblical rationale to make that kind of decision. So here's a principle, here's an aphorism I want you to remember, a maxim for you, **misguided judgment results in wrong conclusions.** Misguided judgment, especially in regard to yourself, results in wrong conclusions. Wrong conclusions equal you wasting time and coming up with self-condemnation eventually from your own guilt. Let's make it personal. Just exactly how many times have you flown the coop thinking you are making the right decision based on some sort of misguided judgment when you didn't have an accurate Biblical rationale to make your decision on? For example, have you ever convinced yourself that you are in God's directive will for your life? Have you ever done that? You said, "I prayed about it and I know this must be what God wants me to do." Really? What was it that convinced you that you were actually doing the will of God to start with? You prayed about it and then convinced yourself of some false conclusion. I was recently speaking at a high school where a board member told me how the principal of the school decided it was now God's will for him to move on to another job. My question is, how could he know God's will if he didn't understand the spiritual life to start with? On what rationale did he make his decision? I want to ask you the same thing. What are your rationales for making your decisions? At the end of the NCAA football season coaches move here and there and usually it's about a bigger opportunity and more money. That's not what the Christian life is about. How do you know what God wants you to do? How do you live your life without wasting time and going down dead ends because you rationally convinced yourself you are doing the right thing? If someone tells you they think this is God's plan for your life, you need to stop and consider how that person came to that conclusion because God doesn't authorize counselors. I hope you are not going to some counselor and paying money to get this guy to tell you what the Bible says when you should be under a well-qualified pastor that can teach you what the Bible says and then you can actually counsel yourself. Sure, there are people that need medical help and doctors and psychiatrists. I'm not saying that. But if you are having problems in your life, spiritually or mentally, you need the Word of God. That's what it is. **The Word of God can clear your thinking up. It can give you absolute direction in your life so that you know what it is God wants you to do. So that you don't have to rationalize decisions based on seeking some sort of happiness through people or circumstances.** That's usually what it boils down to, people or circumstances. "I prayed about it and this seems like where I'm going to be the most happy over here, or, these people are going to be the ones I feel the most comfortable around." Let me ask you a question, think about this.

Did you fall for the decoy of Satan that eventually led you to being out of fellowship with God? Some sort of temporal spiritual death for a while until you rebound (problem-solving device #1) and get back in fellowship where you belong? It's a shame but this happens every day. This show will hopefully encourage you not to let that happen, encourage you to learn what a FLOT line is and build a main line of resistance in your soul so that you are not giving into the decoy, so that you are not deceived, so that you are not discouraged by failure in your life. You can't rationalize decisions on wrong thinking. Anytime there's some sort of push for you to make a decision very quickly, you can probably bet God is not in it, unless it's a decision to save your life, then go quick. But if someone is pushing you to make a decision, take your time. Car dealers do it more than anybody else. You walk on the lot, take a look around and they ask you to buy before you decide if you're ready. That's an emotional decision based on some sort of persuasion from the sales personnel. There is no push to make any decision in your life spiritually. Let's think about this. What decision are you facing right now and how quickly must you make it? Is it a decision about who to marry? Is it a decision about where to go to school? Is it a decision about what job to take in the future? What decision are you facing? Take your time. **Take your time and let the Word of God counsel you. You don't have to be in a hurry. If you do not stop and determine God's directive will for your life then undoubtably you are probably going to step out of His plan.** Satan is certainly a master at using a decoy. Think about this, I've used this illustration before, think about the poor dumb duck. He doesn't know that he's falling for a decoy. Hunters hide in a boat with stuff over top of them while making quacking noises with decoys in the water. The poor duck flies over and looks down and says, "They look real, they sound real, they must be ducks, let's go down and join the party." Boom - he gets blasted out of the sky and winds up on the dinner table. You go from being a beautiful flying duck to being somebody's dinner. That is not my idea of success. 2 Corinthians 2:11, "*Lest Satan should take advantage of us we should not be ignorant of his devices.*" That's exactly what Satan will do with you. The Bible clearly says, "*The devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour*" (1 Peter 5:8). With misguided judgment and the wrong decision, you can wind up being on the dinner table for Satan. **Any decision that you make, apart from what the directive will of God for your life is, could lead you to a convoluted and confused life.** I'm not talking about a week. I'm not talking about a couple of days. I'm talking about a confused, convoluted life where you are thinking to yourself, "How did I get into this situation? How did I let this happen to me?" The worst thing is, you don't know how to get out of it. Discovering God's will is not necessarily an easy thing to do. It's related to knowing the Scriptures. Listen carefully as I read 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the apostle Paul wrote, "*All Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness [that's God's plan for your life]; so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good decision [every good work].*" That's what the Word of God is there for. It is there to be your guide. It is there to be your director. This is God's way of speaking to you. If you think you are going to go out into the middle of the swamp at midnight, sit under an oak tree and breathe in the fog or the air and listen for God to

Speak to you - it's not going to happen. **God speaks to you through His Word and more than likely he's going to speak to you through a man that has a gift of pastor-teacher communicating God's Word to you - if you listen.** Sure you can read your Bible and sure God can speak to you that way. But the Bible is not a novel, it's a textbook. It says, "*Study to show yourself approved to God a workman that need not to be ashamed*" (2 Timothy 2:15). If I gave you an algebra book and said, "Here you go, study," you are not going to pass algebra because someone has to explain it to you. It's the same thing in the Bible. That's why God gave people the gift of pastor-teacher so they can explain it to you, so that you can understand what it is that God is trying to teach you, why He's rebuking you, why He's correcting you and why He's training you in the plan that He wants you to live. The bottom line is God operates under protocol. Look at it this way. If the President of the United States walked into your periphery, you wouldn't go up and call him by his first name, "Hey Donald, how you doing Donald?" You'd call him Mr. President. You might not even like him but at least you understand protocol. That's the way God is - there is protocol. I hope you don't think when you get to heaven that you are going to run up to the throne of God and slap Him on the back and say, "Hey God, it's me, I made it." There's protocol in heaven also. God is a God of protocol. Thus He has provided these procedures and these principles from the Bible so we can live His life. They must be learned. Here's a fair question to ask you. Do you have a hunger for knowledge? Is knowledge pleasant to your soul? Are you willing to commit to studying the Bible more than five minutes a day? I see people on Instagram and Facebook who are committed to working out. They go to the CrossFit gym and they work out for an hour every day to make sure that their body is in peak condition and hopefully they're going to live a long time and feel great. Do you work out for God every day? I have been telling you this for a long time, the ideal workout is for you to open your Bible and listen to a qualified pastor teach you God's Word every day. You say, "My church doesn't meet every day." I understand that. Most churches meet about 30 minutes on Sunday morning, about 30 minutes on Sunday night, about 30 minutes on Wednesday night and that adds up to one and a half hours a week of Biblical instruction. You cannot grow up on an hour and a half a week. Fortunately there are places you can get more information. I have told numerous people over this radio show who contact me where they can get it free. You can get DVDs and MP3s from well-qualified pastors who will teach you God's Word. You can sit down in your home with a Bible and a notebook, take notes, learn it, apply it and glorify God in your life. It's available, but you don't have the time. That's what I run into. Even those that I know closely don't have the time to study. "I'm raising children. I have a busy day. I just don't have the time. I guess I could get up an hour earlier in the morning, but I'd be so sleepy." You will find the time when you are ready, I promise you. If you want it, you'll find the time. But knowledge right now is not pleasant to your soul. You are not willing to grow spiritually. You are not willing to do that. You are not willing to put in the time to study God's Word are you? You are not willing to learn the procedures and principles for living the Christian life. You don't have that hunger for knowledge. Many believers like this are what I call tumbleweed believers. What's a tumbleweed believer? He's blown all

around by every strange doctrine that comes up. Paul wrote about it in his letter to the Ephesians, that the gift of pastor-teacher was given for a reason, so that believers would not be blown all around. Ephesians 4:14, *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about by every wind of doctrine [the tumbleweed believer] that comes from the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, by which they lie in wait to deceive you.”* There are some really religious characters out there who would love to deceive you. They’d love to get you to part with your money. They’d love to get you to part with your time and dedicate it to them. They have a lot of plans and a lot of programs but none of them are designed to help you grow spiritually. You can’t afford to be a tumbleweed believer. Paul wrote to Timothy, *“Hold fast to that form of sound doctrine which you learned from me”* (2 Timothy 1:13). Hold on to it. Don't be distracted. The deceiver, Satan, is a mighty convincer and without solid sound Bible teaching you may find yourself involved in some weird stuff in the name of religion. Are you one of these spiritual drifters who moves from one church to another and never really get what it's all about since you live off your emotions? I don't mean to make you mad, but is that happening? Whatever service makes you feel good, gets you closer to God. I've heard this before. “It was so good. God was here tonight. We felt Him.” When you leave the building God is still there because He is immanent and transcendent. God is omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent. You are not going to summon up more of God by singing praise and worship songs over and over again until you lose your breath. You want to get to know God? Get into the Word. That's why Jesus Christ said the Holy Spirit will come and tutor you and mentor you. That's why God gave the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher to direct you in the Scripture. A spiritual drifter is a pastor shopper. One who, like a tumbleweed, drifts from one pastor to another pastor. He is usually confused, misdirected, never really living the spiritual life, goes for spiritual emotional highs, lacks knowledge and has no associated wisdom from understanding. I was talking to a friend of mine the other day who is a pastor and one of his best friends in life, the guy that actually led him to the Lord Jesus Christ, now considers himself to be something radically different than he was twenty years ago. I've known pastors who change their mind, who were going down one way and made an abrupt turn and all of a sudden don't believe in this anymore. Now they believe in that. They changed their doctrine, they changed their view and they convince people to stick with them. “You know I love you. You know I wouldn’t mislead you. I know this is not what we learned together twenty years ago, but I found something new so let's go down this road for a while.” That is a pastor that's a drifter and that's bad. If you are under one of those drifting pastors, that’s a tough thing. I am encouraging you to get under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor and grow spiritually. Many people write to me and ask where they can find one in their town. I get letters all the time from people asking, “Where is there a church in my town?” I don't know, I don't live there, but if there is not one locally I can tell you where to get it. I can tell you how to get it - free - so that you can grow until God shows you where you belong. The FLOT Line radio show is about you understanding these things. It's about you understanding how God's plan works in your life. That's what it's about. Here's a question for you. What is a spiritual life? When we talk about a

spiritual life, what exactly is that and where do you live the spiritual life? If I was in your presence right now, I'd be looking at you, I'd be looking at your image and your style. I'm sitting in a recording studio and you would be looking at me sitting here with a headset on talking into the microphone. But that's not the real me, that's what you would see. The real me is what you can't see, it's what I'm thinking inside my head. That's why the Bible says, "*As a man thinks in his heart, so he is*" (Proverbs 23:7). So guess where the spiritual life is lived? The spiritual life is lived in your thoughts. That's why it says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). You have to renovate your thinking. That's why I told you this show is about soul renovation not manipulation. Getting you to renovate the way you think, so that you can be a well-qualified believer yourself and you can have a significant impact in the devil's world. God is looking for good people like you who are hungry for truth, who want to learn it, who are willing to take whatever time is necessary. That's what God is looking for. That's what the FLOT Line is about, to keep you away from emotional highs and not go down some emotional road. The FLOT Line is about understanding how God's plan works, how the spiritual life works, how you recover from failure, how you fulfill the plan of God for your life. That's what this show is about. Without developing this ever-increasing inventory of Biblical knowledge, no one can understand or advance spiritually. An ever-increasing inventory of Biblical knowledge is true in my life. Every day I study, every day I learn, every day I see things I didn't know before. It's amazing how Scripture is layered. You can peel away the top layer and there's another layer underneath it and you peel that layer away and there's another layer. It's layered. It's a great treasure - the treasure of the Word of God. It's called in the Greek New Testament the thesaurus, a word treasure. As you learn the Word of God, it enriches your soul, it renovates the way you think, it gives you the ability to have a relaxed mental attitude, it gives you the ability to understand God and know what His plan is and to understand how to use grace orientation and Biblical orientation in your life (two of the ten problem-solving devices). Where do I get that from? The Bible says, "*Grow in the grace [grace orientation] and the knowledge [doctrinal orientation] of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). The ten problem-solving devices are: rebound, filling of the Holy Spirit, faith-rest drill, grace orientation, doctrinal orientation, personal sense of destiny, personal love for God, impersonal love for all, sharing the happiness of God and occupation with Christ. It's all there for you. I hope you'll take advantage of it. Write if you want to get the book *Christian Problem Solving* or the bookmark, they list them all out for you. Let me remind you that the show is now available on podcast so you can go to any podcast app and type in The FLOT Line and listen to the shows 24-7 anywhere in the world. We are also making available transcriptions of the radio show. If you'd like to have a transcript, let us know, we can email it to you or we can send you a printed transcript of the show. We will be putting those into book form shortly and I hope you'll enjoy that as well. Until next week, same time, same place. I hope you will come back and join me again. This is Rick Hughes host of The FLOT Line thanking you for being here today.

God Loves You - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 753 aired on January 26, 2020

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. F.L.O.T - FLOT Line. I'm Rick Hughes your host and for the next few minutes stick around. The FLOT Line stands for the Forward Line of Troops. We are using a military analogy here to describe how the Christian life works. The Word of God forms a main line of resistance in your soul to stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress. Adversity, as you well know, is unavoidable it's going to happen but stress is optional, it's up to you. You can refuse to give in to that sort of stuff. No need to worry. No need to be afraid. No need to live in guilt. No need to live in fear. That's not the Christian life. So the FLOT Line teaches you ten unique problem-solving devices found in the Bible. This is not something new. This is not some new discovery. This is not some book we are trying to sell you. This is simply something my pastor taught me many years ago. When we learn these ten unique Biblical problem-solving devices then we can use them to stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. That's why we always say, God gave you two ends. One end you can think with and one end you can sit on. Success in your Christian life will depend on which one of those you use. Heads you win, tails you lose. What does the Bible say about that? It says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). That's telling you which end to use - your head. The Christian life is lived in your thoughts, in your brain. That's where your soul exists. That's why the Bible says, *"As a man thinks in himself, so he is"* (Proverbs 23:7). The real you is what you think. The consideration is whether you are going to think divine viewpoint which is based upon what the Bible teaches or whether you are going to think human viewpoint which is based on what your friends may tell you, what the news may tell you, or what the world may tell you. Divine viewpoint is the way to think. That's why the Bible says 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 a standard of thinking from His Word."* There's divine viewpoint thinking - thinking from His Word. So let's remember that as we go through our studies. We are always talking about the spiritual life and the spiritual life is lived inside of you. That's what we do. We want you to orient and adjust to the spiritual life. If we can verify it and identify it, you can orient and adjust, if you want to. Thank you for listening. Our show is available as podcasts on the various podcast venues, such as Apple Podcast, Spotify, Breaker and Anchor. Any of these podcast venues can be used to listen to The FLOT Line. Also, we have begun to offer transcripts of our various messages that we give every Sunday morning on your radio station. If you'd like a transcript, we can email it to you or print it out and mail it to you for you to read. We are in the process of printing a book containing transcripts of the 2019 The FLOT Line radio shows. The book will be available in three volumes, each volume containing four months of transcripts, and will be free of charge. You can go to our website - rickhughesministries.org - and request anything that you need and we will be glad to fulfill those requests at no charge. Okay, now here is the greatest truth that's ever been told. Absolutely the

number one greatest truth that's ever been told, here it is, God loves you. You say, Me? That's right, God loves you. My pastor spent a lot of years talking about the unfailing love of God. He even wrote a book, *The Unfailing Love of God*, which taught me many things about the love of God. God's love for us and our love for Him. Many years ago I remember reading about a lonely, abused teenage girl who allowed so many males to abuse her. She said she did it because she was just looking for someone to love her. I'm not trying to humanize our mighty God but I'm taking this approach so that we can urge you to experience the reality of God's love in your life every day. That's what I'd like for you to realize, I'd like for you to come to realize that. That God has dealt with our sin. He's demonstrated mercy to those who accept the gift of Jesus Christ's sacrificial death on their behalf. Thus the guilt of all sins should be removed by faith alone in Christ alone and it should be replaced with absolute confidence in His love for you. You should know the mechanics of love - personal love and impersonal love are part of the problem-solving devices (problem-solving devices #7 and #8). We call it the virtue love series: personal love for God and impersonal love for your neighbor. Now I want you to experience, not the mechanics, but the confidence of His love for you. And I would like for you to embrace that confidence, to grip it, to grasp it, to receive it and believe it and use it in your life. **God truly does love you - that's the greatest truth ever told. He demonstrates that with His compassion, with His patience, with His forgiveness, with His concern and with His protection every moment of every day.** If you don't believe me, listen to what Paul wrote in the Bible about God's patience, forgiveness, concern, protection, compassion. Here it is. Romans 8:38-39, "*I am persuaded [the Greek word persuaded is *peitho*; absolute confidence] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" There are several words for love in the Bible and we are going to look at those, but this word is *agape*. **Nothing can separate you from the love of God.** In 1 John 4:8 John wrote, "*He that loveth not, knoweth not God, because God is love.*" God is justice and righteousness, we understand that; and what the righteousness of God rejects, the justice of God is forced to judge. All of this is wrapped up in God's love. He loves you. God will judge you in love, He will forgive you in love. John 5:42, "*I know you [Jesus said to the religious leaders] that you do not have the love of God in you.*" He could tell because of the way they acted that they didn't have it. In John 3:16 (a verse you are very familiar with) is the reason God sent His Son, "*God so loved the world that He gave His uniquely born Son so that whoever believed in Him would not have to perish but have everlasting life.*" In this verse, God revealed Himself to us with this one word - "*God so loved the world.*" The written Word, the Bible, is His revelation to us of His divine character. That's where we learn about this amazing love that God has for you and for me. The Bible, 2 Timothy 3:16, "*All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.*" That's why you hear me constantly referring to the Bible, to Scripture - not human viewpoint, not rationalization, not some kind of empirical data - but the Scripture, faith. This is what it is. "*All of the Scriptures are inspired by*

God and profitable for teaching.” When I’m teaching you that God loves you, that is for your profit. It is a wonderful problem-solving device. God loves you. In the faith-rest drill you can stand on those promises found in the Bible. In Proverbs 30:5, *“Every Word of God is tested [that means every Word of God is proven true] He [God] is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.”* That is amazing. That’s how much God loves you. He protects you. He watches over you. He blesses you. Many people, sadly, don’t think they can be loved. They think they’ve done something so bad. They have the wrong view of what love really is. I don’t know, maybe that’s you. Maybe you’ve done something that’s absolutely horrible and you know it and you feel like you are unlovable because of some failure in your life in the past. I don’t care what you’ve done. I don’t care where you are, free or not free, God loves you. In Romans 5:5, the Bible clearly says, *“Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”* In 1 John 3:1, *“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the sons of God.”* **If you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are a son or daughter of God by faith alone in Christ alone. That’s the love God poured out on you. He made it available for you to be brought into His royal family.** When two people get married they express their love for one another by the vows that they take, the tokens that they give. Their love for one another is really mesmerizing to each other but that does not even come close to the love that God has for you. God’s love never varies, even in your darkest failures. His love never, ever varies. Do you remember the illustration of the prodigal son our Lord Jesus Christ gave? The prodigal son wasted everything on wild living and then came back home and said, “Father forgive me.” Remember how the father loved him and welcomed him back? This is exactly what happens through rebound in your life. You can get out of fellowship, you can commit sin and you may be disciplined for your sin - just as the prodigal son was disciplined until he came to his senses and went home, but God never quits loving you. You may be involved in something right now that is dishonest. You may be involved in something right now that’s immoral. But God loves you. He’s not mad at you. He doesn’t hate you. He loves you. His token to you, just as a man and woman would give a ring as a token, God’s token to you and demonstration of His love is this, Ephesians 1:13, this is what He gives you, *“And whom you also trusted, after that you heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after you believed [here it comes] you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”* God’s guarantee mark on your life is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit is different. You can quench the Holy Spirit with your personal sin and grieve the Holy Spirit but you can recover the filling of the Spirit by using problem-solving device #1: the rebound technique. The Bible says, *“If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us”* (1 John 1:9). Our point of reference for the operational spiritual life that we are trying to live is indeed the love of God. It’s our security. It’s our comfort. And coming from us, our love for God. **There are the two different loves: the love of God for you and your love for Him. The love of God - our security and our comfort. Our love for God - that is the greatest virtue that you could ever possess.** Personal love for God is a tremendous

virtue. That's why the Bible says, *"If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard"* (1 John 5:3). So ask yourself this question. Does God really love you? Does He? Is that some kind of term, some Biblical theory or can you really prove it? Does He really love you? Here's another question. Is this love something you can feel in your life? Can you experience it? Can you feel it? Can you get God to love you more? Can you get closer to Him than you've ever been? Here's another question. Would you be jealous if God loved me more than He loved you? That's a good question. Here are some principles. **(1) The love of God never changes toward us. He's immutable or unchangeable, and it doesn't change. (2) There is no such thing as the diminishing of God's love because of our failure. He loves you just as much in your failures as He does in your successes. You may walk away from God - He will love you from behind. (3) God's love for us will never and does never change demonstrated by the cross. (4) God's love maintains the same intensity. We cannot do anything to change God's love for us. (5) He may approve of what you are doing, He may disapprove of what you are doing but His love never changes. It's not a matter of does He love you or not love you; it's a matter of does He approve of what you are doing or does He disapprove of what you are doing.** So let's just start with this word love. Love is the most misused word in the world. You have to watch out for a 'mouthful of teeth' who says, "I love you baby." Look out, that's not love. That may be emotion but that's probably not love. The characteristic of God is a tremendous problem-solving device. The love of God is a tremendous problem-solving device. The real issue may not be does God love you? The real issue may be do you love Him? That might be the issue. Peter said in 1 Peter 1:8, *"And though you have not seen Him, you love Him."* Do you love God? I mean, we know He loves you, but do you love God? Let's look at these words in the Bible about love. The word we have in the Bible for love is the noun *agape* and the verb *agapao* which means to have a virtue driven love. Your love for God is the greatest virtue you have. The cognitive noun is the word *agape* characterized by devotion and respect in your life. What does the Bible say about respecting God? Does it have anything to say about that? You better believe it. Proverbs 1:7, *"Respect for the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."* So a total soul love that you should have as virtue in your life is based on your respect and your reverence for God who loves you. A lack of love for God can be seen in your arrogant intelligence, artificially motivated by your own arrogance. Proverbs 3:7 talks about this, *"Do not be wise in your own eyes."* That's the delusional daydreamer we've talked about on this radio show. *"Wise in your own eyes"* is a person steeped in human viewpoint who thinks he knows all the answers. He doesn't believe the Bible is relevant to his life or he may indeed be a Christian and just ignore the Bible and make decisions based on emotions. Every decision you make is going to be based on one of two things. It's either going to be based on what you think or what you feel. It has to be. There's no other way to make a decision. If you are a daydreamer - deluded - you are probably going to make decisions based on what you feel. That's not necessarily the love of God. That's arrogant intelligence. *Agapao* (this is the verb), the love we are talking about, is this wonderful love of God. *"Respect for the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."* This is where all wisdom comes

from. It starts with being respectful and reverential toward God Himself and believing and understanding that God loves you and has a perfect plan for your life. There's another word for love found in the Bible and it's always translated into English as love but in the original manuscripts it could be *agapao* or it could be *phileo* (we get the word Philadelphia from that). The word *phileo*, or to love, is used for an intimate love and it means to have some sort of strong affection, to regard or treat someone as your own, it's a love among members of the family. This is interesting, all discipline from God comes from family love. He loves us. We are in His family. He doesn't discipline us because He hates us. He doesn't discipline us because He is angry at us. He disciplines us in love just as a parent would do to a child - trying to break the arrogant streak in the child and keep that child from self-destructing in their own life later because it can't handle authority. This is what every parent must do, they must orient their child to authority. God does this as well. He punishes us in love. You don't believe that? Listen to Hebrews 12:6, "*Those whom the Lord loves [agapao] He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.*" This love discipline keeps you and me from self-destructing if we will listen and take heed. This *agapao* is a specialized soul love, which requires the filling of the Holy Spirit in our life. *Phileo* is a complete and total soul love and rapport that's developed over a period of time. Those are words from my former pastor Col. R. B. Thieme Jr., who pastored his church in Houston Texas for fifty-three years. These are his words, "*agapao* is a specialized soul love, which requires the filling of the Holy Spirit and *phileo* being a complete and total soul love and rapport must be developed over a period of time." Principle: When love emphasizes the object, it's personal. When love emphasizes the subject, it's impersonal. We have two loves: personal and impersonal. God loved you impersonally when it says, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son*" (John 3:16). You were a sinner, you were in sin; He gave His Son, who became your substitute on the cross and He was judged in your place. So on the cross there is the judgment. God allowed that to happen because He loved you, you were His creation. When you believe in Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Savior, you are brought into the family of God by being given the righteousness of Christ. Listen again. "*He who knew no sin was made sin for us, so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him*" (2 Corinthians 5:21). When we receive that equivalent righteousness - Christ took our sin, He gives us His righteousness - now this impersonal love that God had for us becomes personal. Now we are part of the family of God and it's a personal love. It's amazing. There's another word in the Bible, we've given you two words *agapao* and *phileo*, now we want to go to *erao*. The English word we get from it is erotic; that's a love of passion and it's based on body chemistry and it actually can control and seize control of your mind. You have to be very careful about erotic type stuff. I don't think there's anything as addictive as erotic images or what we know today as pornography (which is freely distributed over the social media today). It is one of the most addictive things in the world. There's also another word for love. Our fourth word for love is *storge* and that's translated in the Bible as without natural affection. In Romans 1:31, Romans 12:10 and 2 Timothy 3:3, *storge* meaning no love, without natural affection. So we have *agapao*, *phileo*, *erao* and *storge*. These

four words are the words for love in the Greek New Testament. The Greek New Testament doesn't use the word *erao* anywhere but it's a Greek word, we know that. So here's the question. What proof do you have that God loves you with His impersonal love? As someone once said, He knows me better than I know my own self - and God does. God knows you better than you know yourself. Do you realize that? Listen to what the Bible says in Psalm 139:1-4, "*Oh Lord, You have searched me and know me [David wrote this]. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thoughts from afar. You comprehended my path and my lying down, and You are acquainted with all of my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it all.*" God knows you better than you know yourself. In Psalm 139:13-14, "*For You formed my inward parts, You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.*" God knows you better than you know yourself because you and I are a product of what we call a divine design. In Jeremiah 29:11-13, "*'For I know the thoughts that I think towards you,' [that's the divine design] says the Lord. 'I think of peace and not of evil. I think to give you a future and a hope. And then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all of your heart.'*" I hope that's what you are doing. I hope you are searching for God's will in your life motivated by the fact that He loves you, and that you reciprocate this love by loving Him. In 1 John 4:9, "*By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.*" That's how we know He loves us. In 1 John 4:10, "*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*" That's how much God loves you - He gave His only begotten Son. There is so much more to say about this and I will give you some demonstrations of that love and how it plays out in your life on the next radio show. I hope this is making sense to you because I want you to understand this critical concept - God loves you. Sure you've failed, sure you've messed up, sure you've done some dumb and stupid things - but He loves you. He hasn't given up on you. Maybe you gave up on yourself but God hasn't given up on you. I hope you will use problem-solving device #1: rebound. Confess your sin to God, He will be faithful and just to forgive you. Until next week, I'm your host Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

God Loves You – Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 754 aired on February 2, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and I'd like to welcome you back for 30 minutes of inspiration, motivation, a whole lot of education and obviously no manipulation. That's right, this is not a con game, we're not going to ask you for any money. We don't need to beg people to support us. I don't mean to put it like that, but we're not out trying to hustle money is what I'm trying to tell you. We're not asking you to join up, fess up, give up, we're just asking you to listen up. Listen as I teach the Word of God. If you like it, if you can orient and adjust to God's plan, you will find a wonderful life awaiting you. We call our show The FLOT Line. F.L.O.T. FLOT stands for the Forward Line of Troops. What we're basically doing is using a military analogy of how God's Word, especially ten unique problem-solving devices, can form a main line of resistance in your soul, a FLOT line. That main line of resistance 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 but stress is optional. You have to think to live, you have to be able to concentrate to live. That's why you'll hear me tell you constantly that God gave us two ends; one end we think with and one end we sit on. Success in life depends on which one of those you use - heads you win, tails you lose. So if you are going to think and understand how God's plan operates, the first thing you have to learn is Proverbs 3:7, "*Don't be wise in your own eyes.*" Don't be a delusional daydreamer. Don't think that you are smarter than God. He put it all in writing, left it all in the Scripture, it's all there. However, scoffers scoff at the Bible. Scoffers ignore the Bible, ignore the Scriptures, and I pray that you don't do that. I pray you'll take a moment to listen, learn and apply in your life these principles that we give you from the Word of God. Oh, by the way, we're making these shows available in transcription form. We'll have them a year at a time. We're working on that now and soon we will have the entire year of 2019 available. If you'd like to have the transcriptions of every show taught in 2019, write to us, let us know from our website. It's free, it costs you nothing. We'll be glad to send it to you free of charge. I encourage you to continue praying for us as we look for new markets and to expand in new territories where the Lord would have us go with our radio show. Okay? All right. By the way, we do podcast all of these shows. They are available on podcast platforms such as Apple iPod, Spotify, Anchor and others like that. If you just type in The FLOT Line in the search engine of the podcast, you'll find our radio shows and you can listen to them anywhere in the world. We have listeners in Africa. We have listeners in Australia. We have listeners all over the world that just check-in to the podcast and pick up the radio show that way. So you can hear it terrestrially in your own city as you may be listening to me right now over your radio station, you can hear it on streaming audio as the radio station puts it out on streaming audio over the Internet, or you can hear it on a podcast venue. And again, no charge for anything we do. If God is in it, He'll pay for it; if not, we'll stop - it's that simple. Okay, we've been talking about the love of God. God's love for you. We started that last week and we're going to continue that a little bit, talking about the divine love that God has for you. We asked a question

last week. What proof do you have that God loves you? Remember this, before we become a Christian, God loves us but it's with an impersonal love. It's not based on who we are, it's based on who He is. That's why He said, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"* (John 3:16). The world is me and you and He loved us even though we were not His children. Even though we were not born again believers, He loved us with an impersonal love. And then once we believe in Jesus Christ and receive Him as our Savior we're brought into the royal family of God, adopted in, made heirs, to all that Christ is heir to. Now, it's personal love. Now God loves us with a personal love. So what proof do you have God loves you? Here it is. Someone once said He knows us better than we know our own self. Yes, the Scripture does indicate that. Listen to Psalm (in review, I gave you this last week but I'll give it to you again) Psalm 139:1-4, *"O Lord, You have searched me and You have known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up. You understand my thoughts are far off. You comprehend my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all of my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it all together"* (Psalm 139:1-4), the psalmist wrote that. Yes, God knew you in eternity past. He knew what you would be like. He determined a plan for your life. He provided a Savior for your life. He provided all sorts of information and the potential for you to have an amazing life, unless you ignore all of that, unless you get wise in your own eyes and scoff at God's plan and substitute your own plan. So the writer goes on to say, *"You formed me and my inward parts,"* Psalm 139:13-14, *"You formed me and my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."* So you and I, we are a product of a divine design. He designed us in eternity past, and He knows us perfectly well. He has a plan for our life. You want to hear your plan? I can give it to you right here. Jeremiah 29:11-13, *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the Lord [He's thinking about you and me]. 'Thoughts of peace, not of evil, to give you a future to give you a hope. And then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all of your heart.'*" These are the plans God has for you. I know the plans that Satan has for you. He's a liar, he's a deceiver and he's a murderer. This is what Jesus said. But in 1 John 4:9, *"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him."* There it is, the impersonal love of God motivating Him to provide a Savior for us. And, in 1 John 4:10, *"This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us [and I put in parentheses, 'first?'] and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* **So God paid for our sin with His own Son's life. That first demonstration of His love for us is grace. That's the first demonstration. God's grace to you and to me is an indication of His love for us.** (1) In order for the manifestation of God's purposes of salvation, grace must go before mercy. Grace has to come first for God's purposes. Grace before mercy. (2) Peace is the result of grace and mercy. (3) Peace with God is the reconciliation that we have to Him. We are brought nearer to Him through Christ. (4) The act of Christ on the cross restored our relationship with God and that's why Romans 5:1 says, *"Therefore being justified by faith, we*

now have peace with God through our Lord [by means of, because of] our Lord Jesus Christ.” Grace, mercy, and peace. That's the demonstration of God's love for you. His demonstration of mercy is the Hebrew word *chesed*. It's the word for kindness. Genesis 39:21, *“The Lord showed mercy to Joseph.”* He's compassionate in Exodus 33:19, *racham* the Hebrew word for compassionate. The Greek word *eleos* means to have pity, to be merciful, to show compassion to those who have need. In Titus 3:5, listen carefully, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but [here it is, listen carefully] according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, which He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* **This is mercy granted to you because of grace. That's how much God loves us. If you can capture that thought, if you can fathom that idea, God loves you so much that He gave His only begotten Son. He was motivated by grace and mercy and you have the peace that comes with it.** Oh my gosh, don't ever forget that. He saved us according to His mercy. Hebrews 4:16, *“Let us come boldly to the throne of grace, so we can obtain mercy and find grace when we need help.”* (1) Mercy is an expression of God's love for us. (2) Mercy is extended to each of us, and it extends to each of us a forgiving hand and that's the act of eternal kindness that God has for us. (3) Mercy is seen in the work of the cross where *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we may be made the righteousness of God through Him”* (2 Corinthians 5:21). (4) Mercy is an outward expression of God's perfect love based on His perfect character which includes justice and righteousness. The justice and righteousness of God. Remember this, what the righteousness of God demands, the justice of God provides. Justice is the guardian of God's righteousness and these are all expressed in love, mercy, peace. It all comes because He loves you. God's justice guards His righteousness, and this is why you can have - I don't mean to be complicated - but this is why you can have an eternal relationship with God. *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we may be made [here it is, listen] the righteousness of God through Him.”* **The only way you can have a relationship with God is to have perfect equal righteousness. And the only way you can have perfect equal righteousness is through Jesus Christ who gave Himself as a ransom for our sin. He took our sin and gives us His righteousness. That's the expression of God's love for you in mercy and justice. Amazing, the peace you can have. You can go through life knowing that God loves you. You can go through life knowing you have no fear of death.** You can go through life knowing this. *“Things are written,”* the Bible says in 1 John 5:13, *“so that you might know that you have eternal life.”* You don't have to hope it. You don't have to wish it. You can know it. That's a question I have for you right now. Do you know you have eternal life for sure? Are you confident if you died today that you would go to heaven? You don't think much about dying when you are young, but once you hit 50 and then you get to 60, then you get to 70, the thought will cross your mind - I'm not going to be here forever. Where will you be after you die? Do you know that? Do you have confidence that you are going to heaven? You can always settle it. You can do it at any time. You simply have to do what the Bible says, *“He that believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God”* (1 John 5:1) and *“Whosoever shall call*

upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). You make a decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, receive Him as your Savior and generally you will express that in prayer telling God the Father what you are doing. *"And this is the confidence we have in Him, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us"* (1 John 5:14). Yes, He will hear you. Yes, He will give you eternal life based on Christ. Not based on you, not based on how good you are, not based on the fact that you don't do any bad things anymore, based on the fact that Christ paid for your sin. And when Christ walked out of that tomb alive three days later the perfect indication that He conquered death and proof to you and me so that we, even though we may have died in the flesh, that we will live forever in heaven in a resurrection body just as our Lord does. An amazing thing. So this mercy that God gives is the understanding, kindness and the forgiveness to those that, like me and like you, don't even deserve it. We don't deserve it. That's how much mercy He gives us. It's giving undeserved kindness, giving forgiveness to us who don't deserve it. Likewise, the Word of God directs us, you and me, to show mercy to our fellow human beings who have needs. Romans 12:8, *"Show mercy, with cheerfulness."* And, the Bible in Matthew 18:35, mercy is demonstrated in your life when you forgive people. Mercy is demonstrated in forgiveness. (5) Again mercy is God giving undeserved kindness or forgiveness to those who don't deserve it. (6) The Word of God directs us to show mercy to our fellow human beings in need, Romans 12:8. (7) Mercy is demonstrated in forgiveness, Matthew 18:35. Listen carefully to Lamentations 3:22-23, *"The Lord's lovingkindness indeed never ceases [that's His love for you, it never ceases] and His compassions [His mercies] never fail. They are new every morning; great is His faithfulness."* So His love will never fail. His mercies never fail. They are always there for you based on His justice and His righteousness, because you have believed in Jesus Christ and accepted Him as your Savior. The Bible clearly says in Ephesians 2:4-5, *"But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy [do you hear it?], because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions"* (by grace you have been saved). So, rich in mercy - made a provision - because of grace - provided forgiveness through Christ even though we were dead in transgressions and sin. There is no way we could save ourselves. It's not possible, we were dead in transgressions and sin. So it's God's grace extended to us in mercy that gives us peace. Mercy, *eleos*, the Greek word *eleos*. I refer to that because that's the way it's found in the New Testament in the original languages of the New Testament - mercy, *eleos*. One of the great minds of our times, the Vine's New Testament dictionary says, "Mercy is the outward manifestation of pity. It assumes need on the part of the one who receives it and the resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it." God shows it. It meets our need. We need it. We receive it. What did He give us? Total forgiveness in Christ Jesus completely. *"And,"* Luke 1:50, *"His mercy is on them that fear Him, from generation to generation."* And Proverbs 1:7, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."* That's the reverence of the Lord, the respect of the Lord. And, in Jude 1:21, *"Keep yourself in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."* You see how much mercy is in the Bible? God loves you. God loves you so much. You can't go

through this day without thinking about that. He loves me. He's watching me. He cares for me. He gave His Son for me. He extends His mercy to my life, to my needs, to my health. His mercy is overwhelming. And then there's forgiveness. **The third demonstration of God's love for you is His forgiveness. And that's an indication of just how faithful He really is.** There are two forgivenesses now, I want you to remember this. The first one is related to time, when we sin. 1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* That's the forgiveness that we are talking about. And then John 3:36 is the forgiveness related to eternity. Both forgivenesses are based on the salvation work of Jesus Christ our Lord on the cross. So even though we believe in Christ and receive Him as our Savior and are forgiven, we can still sin as Christians and we need to be forgiven daily for our daily sins, through rebound, 1 John 1:9. One forgiveness refers to your position and one refers to your experience. Remember, there is not forgiveness - and this is something that a lot of people miss - there is not forgiveness at the cross. There's judgment at the cross - judgment - judgment and redemption. The forgiveness comes when you receive Christ. You weren't forgiven at the cross, sins were judged at the cross. Galatians 3:13, *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us - because it is written, 'Cursed [or judged] is everyone who hangs on the cross.'"* The forgiveness comes when you receive Christ as your Savior. It's technical, but you need to remember it. On the cross was judgment. The sins of the world were judged and when you receive Christ, you are forgiven. So, our Lord referenced forgiveness of sin as He stood in the synagogue on the seventh day back in Nazareth, His hometown, and read from the book of Isaiah. Listen to what He said. *Aphiesis* is always used for divine forgiveness of sin, and when He uses this word *aphiesis* we have to remember this. Okay, here we go. The verb *aphiemi* is the word forgiveness of sin and is used in 1 John 1:9. So our Lord referenced that, talked about that, read from the book of Isaiah. And in the word *charizomai* the verb, Colossians 2:13-14, listen carefully, *"When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven you, having forgiven you all of your transgressions, canceling out the certificates of debt consisting of decrees they had against us which were hostile to us, He took it out of the way, and He nailed it to the cross."* Alright, now, listen to what Jesus said in the synagogue. I got ahead of myself but I want you to hear this. This is in the synagogue when He referenced forgiveness of sins. In Luke 4:18, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He's anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance [aphiesis which is forgiveness; letting them go as if they never even committed anything; remission of their penalty] to preach aphiesis to the captives, and the recovery of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty them that are bruised."* Luke 4:19-20, *"To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.' And then He closed the book of Isaiah, gave it again to the ministers that were at the synagogue, and sat down; and the eyes of all of them that were in the synagogue were fastened on Him."* This is where He proclaimed publicly to the religious leaders that He was claiming to be a royal figure with a prophetic mission. He quoted Isaiah as He read from it, *"The spirit of the Lord is on Me, He has anointed Me to preach*

the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, and to preach forgiveness of sin to the captives, and the recovery of sight to the blind.” That was quite a shock. When they heard that, they kind of got blown out of the saddle, thinking this guy is from Nazareth and He’s saying that He’s been sent by God? Paul made this forgiveness very clear in Colossians. In Colossians 1:13-14, *“He’s rescued us from the dominion of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of His Son, [He loves us] in whom we have redemption and the forgiveness of our sins.”* Redemption and the forgiveness of our sins. Mercy has been shown to us because of God’s grace and we have peace knowing our sins are forgiven. *The Mounce Expository Dictionary* says, “Sin has destroyed the relationship between God and the human race, but the cross of Christ is the means that God used to remove the fissure bringing us back into fellowship together.” In Hebrews 9:22, *“Without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness,” referring to the cross. So this forgiveness that God offers you, a demonstration of His love for you, is a royal pardon from the Lord Himself.* In Isaiah 43:25, *“I, even I, am the one who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and furthermore I will not remember your sins.”* There it is. Forgiveness is a requirement for members of the royal family of God. We must forgive others. Colossians 3:13, *“Bearing one another, forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone else; just as the Lord forgave you, so also you should forgive them.”* And I mean never bring it up again. It’s clear the mature believer has a tender heart and does not hold a grudge or seek revenge. Ephesians 4:32, *“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God for Christ’s sake forgave you.”* So this means that if someone asks you for your forgiveness and in honor you forgive them, then integrity and loyalty to the Word of God demand that you forget whatever was done against you and that never again do you recall it or hold it against them or penalize them for what they did. That’s your job. That’s where you have to come in with forgiveness in your life. Even though we have forgiveness for pre-salvation sins because of faith alone in Christ alone, we still need forgiveness for post-salvation sins - that’s the 1 John 1:9 passage. The first forgiveness is our positional forgiveness. The second is our experiential forgiveness. In our position He has made us alive and forgiven us for all of our sins nailing them to the cross, Colossians 2:13. And the second forgiveness is post-salvation, that cancels out the repercussions of our sin and restores us to fellowship in the spiritual life. I gave you a lot of information. A lot of information on grace, mercy and forgiveness. This is all indicative of how much God loves you. Don’t forget it. And, you must reflect these same things in your life as you grow and become a mature believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope it’s made sense. I hope you’ve learned something. Write to me if you have a question. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

God Loves You – Part 3

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 755 aired on February 9, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes stick around. Thirty minutes of motivation, a little bit of inspiration, a whole lot of education, but absolutely no manipulation. We don't play games. We're not trying to con you. We're not trying to solicit money from you. We're just here to give you some accurate information that may help you verify and identify God's plan for your life, if you are interested. If I can do that, you can orient and adjust to the plan if you want to. My job is to be accurate, get it right, give you the correct information and see how you handle those things. God gave you two ends; one end to sit on and one end to think with. Success in your life starts with the one you think with; heads you win, tails you lose. Remember bad decisions limit future options. If we make enough bad decisions, we don't have any options left. FLOT, Forward Line of Troops, is a military analogy we are using for how God's Word forms a main line of resistance in your soul to stop the outside source of adversity before it ever becomes the inside source of stress. That's why we have a FLOT line - ten unique problem-solving devices. Problem-solving device #1: rebound, confessing our sin to God solves the problem of failure in our life when we sin (1 John 1:9). Problem-solving device #2: filling of the Holy Spirit, solves the problem of the genetically formed sin nature. We don't have to let the sin nature control our life; when we rebound we're filled with the Spirit. Problem-solving device #3: faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God. Problem-solving device #4: grace orientation; #5: Biblical orientation; #6: having a personal sense of destiny; #7: personal love for God - virtue love; #8: impersonal love for all mankind; #9: sharing the happiness of God; #10: occupation with Christ. Each one of those can take hours to teach. I didn't come up with that, my pastor came up with that years ago. He's gone to be with the Lord now, but he taught me this years ago. Now I'm replicating, reteaching the things that he taught me. If you learn these ten problem-solving devices then you can stop the outside source of adversity before it becomes the inside source of stress. We have personal love for God (problem-solving device #7) because God first loved us. It is called reciprocal love. "*We love, because He first loved us*" (1 John 4:19). God's love was demonstrated to us in grace, mercy and forgiveness. We want to take that up today beginning with forgiveness and moving on from there; understanding that God's forgiveness is an indication of His faithfulness to us. God demonstrates His love for us, love for you and love for me, by forgiving us for what we've done. There are two different forgiveness (as we mentioned last week). The first one is related to time. These are post-salvation sins, things we do after we get saved. In 1 John 1:9, "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" This we do as a Christian in time. When we sin we break fellowship with God, we quench the Holy Spirit and we grieve the Holy Spirit. By confessing our sin (or rebound as we call it) then we are filled again and we can advance spiritually in our life but not without the filling of the Holy Spirit. The second forgiveness is the one that is related to eternity when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, receive Him as our Savior. In John 3:36, "*He who believes in Him shall not perish but have*

everlasting life; but he that believes not, the wrath of God abides on him already.” We have forgiveness in our position - total forgiveness - and we have forgiveness in our experience - daily forgiveness. Both of those are based on the salvation work of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. Remember this, there is no forgiveness at the cross, just judgment. Our sins were judged at the cross and we were redeemed. *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us, for it is written, ‘Cursed [judged] is everyone who hangs on the cross’”* (Galatians 3:13). The forgiveness comes when we accept Christ as our Savior. That's when the forgiveness comes. The judgment of sin was on the cross. Our Lord referenced forgiveness of sin (and I mentioned this last week) when He stood in the synagogue on the seventh day in Nazareth (His hometown) and read from the book of Isaiah. He amazed those Sadducees and scribes that heard Him when He said this, Luke 4:18, *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach forgiveness.”* *Aphiesis* is the Greek word for forgiveness, letting them go as if they never even committed anything, remission of the penalty of their sins. That is what He came to do and that's what He did for you and me. It's as if we've never sinned when we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior. **I don't care what you've done in the past, how horrific or how bad it may have been, there is forgiveness when you come to Jesus Christ, who was judged in your place, and receive Him as your Savior. Your sins are forgiven.** Remember that. This is where He claimed to be a member of the royal family of God, in this passage. He quoted the book of Isaiah and it's clear that He is the Son of God. In Luke 4:18-20, the Greek word *aphiesis* is used for divine forgiveness of sin. There is another word, *aphiemi*, and that word is forgiveness of sins in rebound. So in 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us,”* it's the Greek word *aphiemi*. In Luke 4:18 it is *aphiesis*, that's divine forgiveness. Then there's another word *charizomai* and that's found in Colossians 2:13, *“When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us our transgressions.”* *Charizomai* - He bestowed on us an unconditional favor, it is freedom. We are set free from the penalty of sin, set free from the death of sin, free in Jesus Christ. Christ said, *“You shall know Me and you shall be made free”* (John 8:32), that's the freedom we have in Christ. Paul made forgiveness very clear as he wrote in the New Testament. For example, in Colossians 1:13-14, *“He rescued us from the dominion of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom [that's Christ] we have redemption [aphiesis].”* In Hebrews 9:22, *“Without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness,”* that's the spiritual death of Christ on the cross assuming our place. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:21, *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us, so that we can be made the righteousness of God through Him.”* Principles. **Forgiveness is a royal pardon from the Lord Himself. It's divine impersonal love being expressed to you and to me. That's what God does when He forgives us. When we receive Christ, He expresses His divine impersonal love on the cross and now we become members of the royal family of God.** Let's get this straight. Before you accept Christ, He loves you with an impersonal love and after you accept Christ, He loves you with a

personal love. Isaiah 43:25, *“I, even I, am the one who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.”* By believing in Christ and receiving Him as your Savior, all sin is blotted out in your life. **Forgiveness is a requirement for members of the royal family of God. In other words, we are required to forgive also.** In Colossians 3:13, *“Bearing one another and forgiving each other [charizomai], whoever has a complaint against anyone else; just as the Lord forgave you, you should forgive others.”* That means you should forgive them and never bring it up again. If you are a mature believer, you are supposed to have a tender heart and forgive people, not hold a grudge or seek revenge. Ephesians 4:32, *“Be kind to one another; tenderhearted, forgiving [charizomai] each other; just like God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.”* This means that if someone asks you to forgive them, and in honor, you do forgive them, then integrity and loyalty to the Word of God demands that you forget what was done against you and you never again recall it in your mind or penalize the individual because they did it to you. That's what it means. **So even though we have forgiveness for our pre-salvation sins through faith alone in Christ alone, we still need that post-salvation forgiveness through rebound (1 John 1:9).** The first forgiveness was our position in Christ, He's made us alive, forgiven us (Colossians 2:13-14) all of our transgressions, nailing them to the cross of Christ. The second forgiveness is after we get saved, post-salvation. It is called experiential forgiveness and it cancels the repercussions of the judgment of sin in our daily life and restores the status of the spiritual life. Listen, *“Those whom God loves, He chastens and scourges with a whip”* (Hebrews 12:6). As a believer in Jesus Christ, when we sin, get out of fellowship, quench the Holy Spirit, we come under the discipline of God. We can be forgiven if we go to God and admit the sin, name the sin. *“If we confess [if we cite, if we name, if we agree with God] then He cleanses us from all of our unrighteousness”* and that has to happen daily in your life. You can't let sin build up in your life. Remember, sin comes in mental attitude sins, sins of the tongue, and overt sins. Remember that. Don't forget that sin can come in one of three ways. The first forgiveness qualifies you to live eternally in a resurrection body and the second forgiveness qualifies you to continue your spiritual life in time. That's what you have. This is all review from last week, but I wanted to run it by you again. Remember this, **God judged our sins on the cross, therefore the sins we commit today already went to court over 1900 years ago. Thus, any post-salvation sin that you and I may do tomorrow or the next day has to be dealt with through a non-meritorious function and that's the rebound technique. This is where we go to God and admit our sin.** Good decisions are always grace decisions. Remember that. This means that if, as a believer, we fail and we sin then we use the privacy of our own priesthood to acknowledge our sin to God, admit our sin to God, name our sin to God without promising that we're going to do better, without trying to get emotional about it, without begging Him for forgiveness. Just go and name the sin to God and He said He would be faithful and just to forgive you. Acknowledge your sin to God totally apart from any good works or human good deeds being added, such as penitence or public confession or feeling sorry for it or promising you can do better. No system like penitence, lustration, ceremonial reification, purification rights,

nothing like this. No self-imposed or ecclesiastical punishments are included in the function of rebound. If you just go to God and name your sin, He is faithful and just to forgive you. That's how much He loves you. He loved you so much that He forgave you in eternity past, sent His Son to die for you. *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"* (John 3:16). He judged His Son in your place and now through Christ, freely offers grace, mercy and forgiveness. How do you reflect God's immutable essence of love in your life? Since love is immutable - it's an immutable essence of our heavenly Father - is it even possible for us to reflect that same quality of love in our lives? Is that possible? According to 1 John 4:16-19 it is possible. John wrote, *"And we have come to know and have believed [that means we've accepted it, we've metabolized it] the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love [that's reciprocal love] abides in God, and God abides in him. So by this, love is perfected in us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is now, so also we are in this world."* We are not immutable, but we can possess and we can operate under God's system of virtue love, we can do that. Galatians 5:22-23 says, *"The fruit of the Spirit is love [agape], joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there are no laws."* All of these characteristics I just mentioned to you in Galatians 5:22-23 are traits of divine love which you can emulate in Christ when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. They are even seen in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, *"Love is long-suffering [there's patience], love is kind [there's kindness], love does not envy [that's self-control]; love does not rejoice in iniquity [that's faithfulness; these are all the essence of God, qualities of God] love does not parade itself, is not arrogant, is not unrealistic, is not rude, is gentle, it does not provoke, it thinks no evil, does not rejoice in any immoral behavior; love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."* When you live like that, by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit and by growing to spiritual maturity in your life, you are reflecting the person of Jesus Christ. He was kind, long-suffering, had self-control, was faithful, was not arrogant, was not rude, did not think evil, He bore all things, believed all things, hoped all things, endured all things. That's why the fruit of the Holy Spirit produces love - one of the first things mentioned - love. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, the virtue love that you can replicate in your life, which begins with personal love for God and then follows up with impersonal love for all mankind, this is what the Holy Spirit produces in you, love one for another. John 13:34-35, *"A new mandate I give you, that you love one another [agapao], even as I loved you, you also must love one another. This is how all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another."* That love is expressed in long-suffering and in a relaxed mental attitude with no revenge motivation because you practice forgiveness in your life. The fruit of the Holy Spirit has also given you another divine asset. Not only does He give you love, but He gives you joy. Joy is a characteristic of the Lord Jesus Christ. Joy [*chara*] is you experiencing plus H (problem-solving device #9: sharing the happiness of God) and is seen in John 15:11, *"These things I have spoken to you, so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."* The joy of Jesus Christ flowing through our life through the filling of the Holy Spirit is an

indication of our love for one another. Nehemiah 8:10, *"The joy of the Lord is your strength."* What really brings God joy? Do you have any idea about that? Luke 15:7, *"I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous people who don't need any repentance."* In Romans 14:17, *"For the kingdom of God is not meat and not drink, but it's righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."* You heard the word peace, that's another characteristic of divine love. *"The fruit of the Spirit is love and joy and peace and long-suffering."* Peace is a characteristic manifested in you by the filling of the Holy Spirit expressing the love of God to those around you. Philippians 4:7, *"And the peace of God [the Greek word for peace is eirene, His characteristic], which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."* It's a wonderful thing when you have mercy and peace, and when you can demonstrate peace and exhibit peace in your life. Our God enjoys peace at all times and so should you. Peace is tranquility, it's not being overcome with fear or doubt. The Bible says this about fear in Matthew 10:34, *"Think not that I come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace, but a sword."* That's an extension of the angelic conflict. The unbeliever who fails to adjust to the justice of God can never have peace. His humanistic attitude rejects Christ's forgiveness and he deems himself smarter than God. That's the delusional daydreamer who's mentioned in Proverbs 3:7 where it says, *"Do not be wise in your own eyes."* He'll never find completeness in his life, he'll never have happiness in his life, not now and not in eternity. In fact, the only happiness he might possibly even explore is finding a spouse. That's a divine institution. Even if someone rejects Christ as Savior and goes to hell, they can have happiness in marriage because God ordained it. But this peace we are talking about is God's peace. God's peace is expressed in confident expectation, absolute confident expectation. Our Lord, when He was here, functioned in hypostatic union. That means He was God and He was man in one body forever - the God-man - hypostatic union. The God-man walked into the devil's world. In John 14:27 Jesus tells the disciples, *"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, give I unto you. Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."* So the Lord Jesus Christ walked into the devil's world, through the manger to the cross, never afraid, total peace, total confidence, total perfect confident expectation in fulfilling the plan of God for His life and God being faithful to Him. Any type of fear, any type of anxiety, that's not peace. The mature believer who possesses the peace of God never fears his time on earth or his time in eternity because of the confidence he has in God Himself. Do you want to hear it? *"May God Himself, the God of peace sanctify you through and through; and may your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, patience. Patience is another characteristic of God's divine love which is bestowed upon you through grace and reflected out of your life. In 2 Thessalonians 3:5, *"May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ."* Romans 15:5, *"Now may the God of patience and of encouragement grant you to be of the same mind one with another according to Christ Jesus."* The God of patience, the patience of Christ. James 1:4 says, *"Let this patience have its perfect work in you [there are several words*

for patience that we will look at, but the word here is *hupomone* and it means steadfastness], *that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*” Patience perfects the Christian’s character. It’s an essential element of the Christian’s character. God was very patient with you in love. Your love for Him must reflect that patience to others. In Psalms 86:15, *“But You, O Lord, are a God of mercy and graciousness, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”* Mercy, gracious, slow to anger, unfailing love, faithfulness, characteristics of God Himself available to you by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit. There it is. It’s all for you. You can demonstrate God’s love to those that you know - patience towards people, patience in circumstances and the patience of God. We’re going to take a look at all of these words. I don’t know if we’re going to get to them all today. The renowned teacher, Archbishop Richard Trench (famed for his early work studying the English language, for his unmatched knowledge of church history and for his love of preaching) and George Abbott-Smith, in his Greek Lexicon, state that *hupomone* [the Greek word I just gave you] expresses patience with regard to adverse things and *makrothumia* [another Greek word] expresses patience with regard to antagonistic persons. These are the different patiences taught in the Bible. It’s an attitude of patience you have, patience toward people, patience toward adverse circumstances and then God’s patience as well. You may be surprised to learn that God’s patience has its limits. Isaiah 7:13, *“Listen now, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to try the patience of men, that now you are going to try the patience of God also?”* Wow! Romans 1:18, *“The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and the unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”* I have a lot to say about these things. We’ll get around to them next week, I promise you. If you’d like to tap into our show, you can always get the transcripts of this broadcast. We offer them one year at a time. These are new just coming up online. We also podcast all these radio shows. If you’d like to get onto Apple or Spotify or Breaker or Anchor you can hear the podcast anywhere in the world. I thank you for listening. If we can help you, write to us and we will send you whatever you need. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

God Loves You – Part 4

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 756 aired on February 16, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes you have an invitation to stick around. It will be about 30-minutes of motivation, a whole lot of inspiration and education but absolutely no manipulation. No con games, no asking for money, no soliciting support, not trying to sell you anything, just give you information. Information that may help you verify as well as identify the plan of God for your life. If you are able to do that, then you have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. My job is to communicate the truth to you and your job is to act upon what you hear, if you so desire. The FLOT Line stands for Forward Line of Troops. We're using a military analogy here talking about you establishing a forward line of troops or a main line of resistance in your soul made up of ten unique problem-solving devices. The reason we talk about this is if you learn these things, they will give you internal support in your life and stop the outside sources of adversity from ever becoming the inside source of stress. We've said it hundreds of times, adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. Adversity is what circumstances do to you. Stress is what you do to yourself. Let's talk about that. We started this study several weeks ago, I guess this will be number four on God loves you. I think that's the most amazing statement in the whole Bible. Why would God love me? I'm just a jerk. Why love me? But 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). God loves me and God loves you. I spent my whole life wanting to be loved and I guess you have too. I never met my father. I don't know who he was. I had conflicting reports before my mom passed away. Never having had a father, you know, I would have liked to have known what it's like to have a father that loves me. When I accepted Christ as my Savior, that void or that emptiness, that lack of love was filled up. I discovered my heavenly Father loved me and had a wonderful plan for my life. It took a while to discover it. I had to get into a local church and get under a well-qualified pastor that I could learn God's Word from, but as he taught the Word of God and the Holy Spirit unfolded it to me, like a picture in front of my eyes, I began to see just how much God loved me. I could see that with His tolerance for my failures, I could see that with His support of my endeavors, the things that I did, God loved me. He really did. It wasn't romantic love, it wasn't the type of love that you might think. It was a comforting love that was full of security and full of expectation, knowing that God loves me. I know He loves you also. If He loves me, He loves you; you're a lot better guy than I am. That's amazing. We've talked about the principles on reflecting God's love in our life. These are some of the things I wanted you to see. By the way, all of these messages have been put in transcript form. We have three books available now. Each book includes four months. There are 52 Sundays in a year and we have 52 lessons that we did on the radio. Now they are all transcribed and in three different books, four months in each. So you can actually read these messages or you can go to podcast on Apple, Spotify, Breaker, or Anchor, any of the podcast platforms and listen to them again. Or you can go to our website rickhughesministries.org and

look on The FLOT Line, all the radio shows for the last 15 years are logged in there and you can go back and listen to any of them. Today we want to continue the study on how you and I can reflect this immutable essence of love that God has for us. Can we in fact reflect that love to other people? The answer is yes. Since love (I told you this last week) is an immutable essence of our heavenly Father, I asked you the question, was it possible for us to reflect it and show the same quality in our life? The answer is yes, you can and you should. We showed you in 1 John 4:16-17 where the Bible says that, "*We have come to know and have believed [that means we metabolized it, we put it to work in our life] the love which God has for us. [here it is in a bold statement] God is love, and the one who abides in love [reciprocates that love back to God] abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is now perfected [the word perfected in the original languages of the Greek New Testament is teleoo and it means to make perfect or to accomplish its results; so by this, love accomplishes its results in us; what are the results?] so that we may have confidence in the day of evaluation; because as He is [that's Christ], so also are we in this world.*" We are reflecting His love. We are replicating His lifestyle. We are representing Christ to our neighbors. You know we're not immutable and you know we sin, but we can do this, we can possess and operate under God's system of virtue love. We can do that. It's under the filling of the Holy Spirit. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, that is problem-solving device #2 the filling of the Holy Spirit, which comes about when you use problem-solving device #1 the rebound technique, or confessing your known sin to God. Anytime you sin you quench the Holy Spirit and you grieve Him. When you go to God and admit the sin, then you are filled again or restored to fellowship. That's what rebound does. You are mandated in Ephesians 5:18 to "*be filled with the Spirit,*" not to quench Him, not to grieve Him. In Galatians 5:22 it says, "*The fruit of the Spirit [the results of that filling of the Spirit] is love, [one of the first notifications, love, agape, love, that's the Greek word agape; all the things that are listed here] joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.*" I told you they are all the results of the filling of the Holy Spirit and I told you that they are all characteristics or traits of divine love expressed to you. That God is long-suffering toward you. That God does show kindness toward you. That God does demonstrate self-control. God is faithful to you. And you can be faithful to Him. It says love doesn't act rudely or behave rudely, love doesn't think evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, that's true. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit through the rebound technique, this gives us the ability to love one another. This is something very simple. The Lord Jesus Christ said this and I want you to think about this in your local church. If you go to church and there are a few people in there you can't stand, it's probably an in-law or something or maybe a relative (I'm just joking, you know that) but if there is someone in your periphery that you can't stand listen to John 13:34, "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love [the Greek word agapao] one another, even as I loved you, that you should also love one another.*" This is the Lord saying, "I loved you even though you denied me Peter. I loved you even though you weren't faithful to stay awake when I was praying. I loved you." The Lord Jesus Christ loves me, loves you, loved the disciples. We are products of His love and we are told here that we must love one another. It

says in John 13:35, *"This is how people will know you are My disciples, if you have love one for another."* Love is expressed in His way of thinking, in long-suffering, putting up with and having a relaxed mental attitude with no type of revenge motivation. If we are filled with the Holy Spirit, if we are loving one another, then we have another divine asset, that is God's asset, called joy - *chara* in the Greek New Testament - joy. This is the ninth problem-solving device, sharing the happiness of God. Jesus said in John 15:11, *"These things I've spoken to you, so that My joy may be in you."* There it is. *"The joy of the Lord is your strength"* (Nehemiah 8:10). You need to remember these things. Another characteristic of God's immutable love for us is peace. We have wonderful peace with God and tranquility with God. It's absolutely amazing. Then we came to patience; another characteristic of God's divine love which is bestowed upon us and we can reflect that same divine love by being patient. 2 Thessalonians 3:5, *"May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God [there it is] and into the patience of Christ."* That patience was manifested because He loves you and He loves me. If you think just for a minute how patient God is with us, you and I (you know I'm kidding around a lot of times but you know) we probably should just be a big greasy spot on the earth somewhere, but we're not, we're still here. God loves us. God has a plan for our life. He tolerates us. He's patient with us in spite of our failures, in spite of how ridiculous we may be sometimes. He loves you. You should fall on your knees and thank God He loves you because if He didn't love you, you'd be in big trouble. He does love you. I don't care what you've done. I don't care where you are. He loves you. He sent His Son to die for you, to take your place on the cross, to pay the penalty for your sin. That's how much He loved you. He's also a God of patience. In Romans 15:5, *"The God of patience and of encouragement grant you to be of the same mind one with another."* We saw this last week. We saw that God is a God of patience. We saw in James 1:4 we are commanded to *"Let patience have her perfect work in us so that we can be mature and lacking in nothing."* And I told you about the word *hupomone* in James 1:4, *"Let hupomone [the word for patience] steadfastness have her perfect work in you."* I told you there are a lot of different words for patience in the Bible. Anytime you see the word patience, it's always patience, but not in the Greek New Testament. It can be the word *hupomone* and it can be the word *makrothumia* and it can be the word *anochē* - three different Greek words all translated into English as patience. The first word, *makrothumia* means to persevere. This is patience towards people. **God expects us to have patience towards people, just as He, in love, is patient with you. When you are patient with people you are reflecting God's love through you.** 1 Thessalonians 5:14, *"We exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble, support the weak, and be patient toward all men."* Now let me back up, comfort the feeble-minded is what the verse says, not feeble weakness, feeble-minded. Those that don't have the doctrinal information to sustain the attack in the devil's world, comfort them. Support the weak, those that don't have the spiritual strength and be patient towards all men. Everyone is not on the same page with you. That was a hard thing for me to learn. I wanted to grow quickly. I wanted to advance in my spiritual life at an accelerated speed and others don't. People just don't. They are so distracted, they have so many irons in the

fire, they don't find time to grow spiritually. Sometimes I was showing a lack of patience. You have to be patient toward the weak, patient toward the feeble-minded - that's important - using *makrothumia* - persevere with people. There's another word for patience; the word for when we have adverse circumstances in our life, when things go wrong is the word *hupomone*. Romans 12:12, "*Rejoicing in hope, being patient in tribulation.*" Romans 5:3, "*And not only this, but we glory in our tribulation also, knowing that tribulation teaches patience.*" Adversity teaches patience. Did you hear that? Tribulation teaches patience. The word for patience is *hupomone*. So when you go through trials, testing of your faith, it is designed to teach patience to you. Don't ever think for one minute that your heavenly Father is unaware of the trials you are going through. In fact, God Himself, because He loves you, may have decreed these things for your own good, so that He can teach you how to glorify Him in future trials that you may face. You are mandated in the Bible to be patient toward all men, which is *makrothumia*; you are mandated to be patient in tribulation, which is *hupomone*; and you are now going to see where God is long-suffering with you. Listen carefully again, here it is, "*The Lord is not slack concerning His promises, as some men count slackness, but is long-suffering towards us [that's the word makrothumia, He's patient with us] not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9). **God doesn't want anyone to go to hell. That's not what the Lake of Fire was prepared for. That's why His Son came into the world to die for us, because He loves us and He's long-suffering towards us. This is characteristic of God's unfailing love for the lost. He never designed the Lake of Fire for you or for anyone on this earth, and He is long-suffering, not wanting any to perish. But I will tell you this, God's patience has its limits. His grace and compassion have limits.** Do you know what tries the patience of God? I'm not speaking for God, but I think this is clear in the Bible - negative volition. Volition is in your soul. It is your desire to either know Him or not know Him. It's your desire to either obey Him or not obey Him. Every decision you make, you choose, it's your choice, you decide. The negative volition of the world toward God's Word tries His patience. Isaiah 7:13, "*Listen now, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to try the patience of men, that now you are going to try the patience of God also?*" Where is this patience stopped? When does God say, "That's enough. All right, I've had it with you." Romans 1:18, "*The wrath of God [that's the discipline of God] is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and the unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.*" If you go on to read the rest of Romans 1:18-20, you'll be surprised about what it is talking about. It is talking about the very evil, degenerate, perverse generation that we live in. "We live in a very twisted world as you know, a world where everything is reversed. Dark has substituted for light. Evil has substituted for good. Bitterness has substituted for sweetness, to borrow the words of the prophet Isaiah. It's a twisted world where sins have become rights, iniquities have become virtues. Evil is considered personal freedom." That's a quote from the famous Pastor John MacArthur. That's what we live in. That's the world we live in. A twisted, weird world. God has something called forbearance. He tolerates this for a while. The word is *anochē* in the Greek New Testament, translated forbearance. It means to hold back

or delay punishment; the quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation, which does not hastily retaliate or properly punish. It's the opposite of anger and it's associated with God's mercy. Listen to 1 Peter 3:20, "*The long-suffering [makrothumia] of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which eight souls were saved by water.*" But there came a day when the door to the ark was closed. They had one hundred twenty years to get on that boat and they wouldn't do it. And then when the rain started and the flood started and Noah tried to be compassionate, open the door and let them in, God shut it. Men tried the patience of God and that was it. Romans 2:4, "*Do you despise the riches of His goodness and His forbearance [that's the word *anochē*] and long-suffering [makrothumia], don't you know that the goodness of God leads to repentance?*" Listen, God gave those folks in the days of Noah one hundred twenty years to get it right and all they did was laugh at that old man for building the boat in the middle of nowhere. God gives you plenty of time to either rebound and recover from your failure and perhaps even relocate or destroy yourself by rejecting His love and rejecting the grace that He offers you in Christ Jesus. **Here's a principle I want you to remember: our long-suffering is us being comforted by the love of God; our patience is manifestation of His love flowing through us - we must do that. (1) Patience, the faith-rest drill, plus occupation with Christ equals confidence in our life, which means we avoid emotional sins and frustration about failures and trials and tribulations. (2) Patience maintains confidence in God's perfect timing. (3) Your faith will be tested and through it your patience will increase. That's God's design for you, to develop confidence and trust in Him. (4) Patience is divine good production; it's rewardable at the Judgment Seat of Christ.** Listen to what Paul writes in Titus 2:2, "*That the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, sound in love and sound in patience.*" This is what Titus was to teach so that sound doctrine would come to the older men in the congregation. The older men in the flock must learn patience among other important doctrines. If there are people who are not patient, it's older people sometimes. The next principle. **Patience is not inherited. It must be acquired.** God's love is manifested to you, to me by His patience toward us, His long-suffering, His *anochē*, His long-suffering and His forbearance. God's love for you never gets frustrated at your failures. Thus, your divine impersonal love does not demonstrate frustration toward others. You are not allowed to get frustrated toward others because God doesn't get frustrated toward you. If you are going to reflect the love of God, frustration is not in it. Your love for God is demonstrated by your patience with others. 1 Corinthians 13:4, "*Love is patient*" - that means it's calm in times of anger and is quick to forgive. Patience in adversity is indicative of spiritual maturity. That's what the Bible says in Romans 12:12, "*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and be constant in your prayers.*" In Ephesians 4:2 Paul wrote, "*With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love.*" "*With all lowliness [humility; the Greek word *tapeinophrosunē*, an interesting word, it means modesty or humility or humble opinion of self] and gentleness [the Greek word *prautes* which means a mild disposition] with long-suffering [makrothumia patience with people, endurance with people] showing tolerance for one another*

in agape love.” Listen again, Ephesians 4:2, “*With all lowliness and meekness, and long-suffering, forbearing one another in love.*” That's the extent of patience in your life. Biblical indications of the love of God demonstrated through you are *makrothumia, anoche*, forbearance, all these words we just gave you. All right, humility, gentleness, patience and love. That's an indication of God's love demonstrated through you to the world which He loves. His love is reflected through you. You are the agent of His love, and you must come to grips with that. You must come to grips with the fact that when you meet someone you are to reflect God's love to them. There's nothing wrong with telling them “God loves you.” Just like I've told you on this radio show for the last four shows - God loves you. I've demonstrated through the Scriptures why He loves you and how He loves you. He's patient, He's long-suffering, He's enduring, but His patience has limits. Your negative volition can bring about your own destruction. Your arrogance can destroy you when you get into self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption, you will eventually move into self-destruction. That is not God's plan for you. God said He knew the plans He had for you in Jeremiah - a wonderful life, a great life, a life of happiness, not to destroy yourself. But you can do it when you ignore the mandates found in the Word of God. **God loves you. God has the best plan for you. He doesn't intend to hurt you or harm you. He wants you to represent Him to the world. That's why you are still here. Think about this. Think about every time you walk out of your door, you are reflecting the love of God. Every time you get in your car and drive to the store or go down the interstate you are reflecting the love of God. Don't forget it. God loves you, and you must love in return. Not only God reciprocating His love to you, but loving others as well. That's what our Lord Jesus Christ did and that's what He mandates you to do as well.** There is so much to say and so little time. Thank you for listening. I hope you 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.

God Loves You - Part 5

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 757 aired on February 23, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes, please stick around. This show is simply about motivation, inspiration, education all done without any type of manipulation. We're not out hustling money, asking for funds, not trying to get you to join anything, just simply giving you some Biblical information. Hopefully that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life and, if you can do that, you always have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. We tell you every week that God gave you two ends; one of those ends you sit with and one you think with. Success in your life will be based around which one you use; so it's heads you are going to win and tails you will lose. Thinking is the key indicator to a successful life in Christ. You have to learn to think. That's why the Bible says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). Learn to think like He thought. Not in terms of arrogance, self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption - not that, but in terms of humility. He humbled Himself, the Bible says, and made Himself of no reputation. Humility is a key attitude in growth. If you can understand that God was in business before you got here then you will be a lot better off. In Proverbs, the Bible clearly says, "*the one who thinks he is wise is a fool.*" Many people think they're wiser than God. Many people reject the plan of God. It is a sad thing to see. That doesn't mean we love them any less, it's just sad to see them move into self-destruction. When you are alone in the devil's world with no way out, it's a sad state of affairs. Okay, I want to continue today, this is my objective, this will be the fifth lesson we've done on God loves you. We would like to try to wrap it up today if we can, but this is an amazing subject. I'll be in Houston teaching in the near future and I'll be teaching this subject when I'm there in a local church in Houston, Texas. God loves you. However, this love has to be reflected through you to other people. That's why you are still here. There are some key indications of the love of God demonstrated through you. This is how people see Christ in you. The Bible says this in Colossians 3:12-14, "*So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved [and then we have a mandate here] put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you forgive them. Beyond all of these things put on love [that's our key indication that we reflect the glory of God in our love] which is the perfect bond of unity.*" Here is Colossians 3:12-14 again, "*So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved [that's you], put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you forgive them. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*" Put on love is a key volitional decision you have to make. Put on is an aorist middle imperative of the verb *enduo* in the Greek New Testament (the Bible was written in the original language). The imperative mood is a command. It's a mood of command. This is not Paul asking the Colossians to put on love, this is Paul commanding the Colossians to put on love. The constative aorist

means there never is a time when you are not to have love reflecting in your life for the lost, for the believer or the unbeliever. There never is a time when God doesn't love all of us. This divine mandate is a volitional decision. You have a volition. It's part of the makeup of your soul: your mentality, your volition, your consciousness, your self-consciousness. This is a volitional decision and what motivates that is your virtue love, it's your personal love for God. That's what motivates you to put on a heart of compassion for others. You are chosen of God, you've been set aside, you are loved by God and you are to put on mandates from God and this is not an easy thing to do. Listen in 1 John 5:3, "*This is the love of God, that we obey His mandates; and they are not a burden.*" Putting on the mandates of God is not hard, it just takes some positive volition. If you are going to obey God, you have to say, "Yes sir, no sir, I will sir, when do you want me to do it sir." You can't justify your own arrogance and try to step out of it. You have to understand when the Bible says you are "*holy and beloved*" that simply means you are free from sin and consecrated to God by means of your salvation through Christ. You are beloved, the Greek word *agapao*, this is the constant love and interest of God towards any unworthy object like you or me. When we see that love coming to us, it should bounce back reciprocally to Him. Reciprocal love towards God is based on God's love for us. If you look these words up in the *Vine's New Testament Dictionary* (one of the books I use in my research) it says, "love can be known only from the action that it prompts. God's love is seen in the gift of His Son." That's how we see it. 1 John 4:9-10, "*By this the love of God [here it is, the love of God] was manifested to us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*" That's how God demonstrated His love for you and me. He sent His Son to pay for our sin. Vine goes on to say, "But obviously this is not a love of complacency, or affection, that is, it was not drawn out by any excellency in its objects." He didn't send Christ to die for us because we were worthy or that we are great, we are phenomenal people. Romans 5:8 says, "*But God demonstrates His love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" This love, Vine says, "was an exercise of the divine will in a deliberate choice, made without assignable cause save that which lies in the nature of God Himself." He loved us. He sent His Son to die for us, to pay for our sin, and He didn't do it because we deserved it. Listen to Deuteronomy 7:7-8, "*The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all the peoples, but because God loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the Lord brought you out by a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*" This love of God is indicative of God's very personality. The unfailing love of God is simply amazing. **God loves us. This love is based on His character, not ours.** I mean, come on now, look in the mirror and tell me why God should love you. Have you ever heard the poem "The Man in the Glass?" It starts, "When you get what you want in your struggle for self / And the world makes you the king for a day / Just go to the mirror and look at yourself / And see what that man has to say." Whoever wrote that, just simply says you can't hide yourself from

you. You know what you are and if you think God loves you because you are something special, well you have the wrong idea about the love of God. He loved you because of who He is, not because of who you are. John 3:16, *“God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.”* He loved you even when you were in sin. He loves us. He loves us even though we are steeped in sin. That's what has to get your attention. The only reason we can discuss this is because God reveals Himself to us and redeems us by means of the sacrifice of His Son on that cross. That's the only way we can even talk about it. We would not even know that God loved us if He hadn't revealed it to us by Christ on the cross; that's how He revealed His love to you. How can you walk away from a love like that? God made a deliberate choice to love you, just like you are required to respond to that love with reciprocal love, appreciation and devotion. He made that choice and you have to make that choice with your volition. It is through the man Christ Jesus that God's love was revealed to us. It's through you, me and you, us, that the revelation continues as we replicate His lifestyle to our friends. It has to be that way. The Bible uses the word fervent love in 1 Peter 4:8, *“Above all, keep fervent in your love one for another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”* Keep fervent in your love one for another. Well, continue to possess, the present active participle of *epecho*, continue to have and continue to hold fervent in your love one for another. The adjective of *ektenes* the Greek word, the fervent love *agape*; definition *ek* out from plus *teino* to stretch and used metaphorically relating to a metaphor or a figurative type love, keep fervent, keep stretching your love, keep pushing your love. Your love, again, listen to it, *“keep fervent in your love for one another.”* This is how people know that you are a believer. In Acts 12:5 fervor is used as the intensity of prayers for Peter when he was imprisoned by Herod after Herod killed James, the brother of John. It says, *“The church prayed fervently”* for his release. They kept emphatically asking God, please, relating to this metaphor, figuratively, to pull him out or stretch out or get him out. In Luke 22:44, *“Being in agony, He [that's Christ Jesus] prayed more earnestly; [earnestly is the same word as fervently used as an adverb in a neuter form denotes more fervently; He prayed fervently that the cross may be taken away from Him] and His sweat became like great drops of blood, falling down on the ground.”* Wow, let's get some principles. (1) The definition for fervent is having or displaying a passionate intensity. (2) It implies great passion and great enthusiasm. That's what fervent is. Go back to that verse, *“Above all, stay fervent in your love one for another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”* So, we display a passionate intensity of loving one another with enthusiasm. Synonyms include: passionately, devout, static. Here's a principle: fervent can be an emotional attachment from great appreciation for a person or for a cause. Great appreciation. Fervent. Yes. When I first walked into my church in 1974 it was an emotional moment. I'd gotten saved. I had accepted Christ as my Savior. I had been listening to the pastor but I had never been to the church. It took me about four years before I got there. But it was an emotional moment because I had a great appreciation for what I was then allowed to observe. When my pastor passed away, it was an emotional moment, not only for me but for many people who loved him and especially for his son. There's nothing really wrong with emotional appreciation for a person or an emotional

appreciation for a cause, but there definitely is something wrong with emotional manipulation that's used by those who seek to capitalize on circumstances. That being said, we, you and I, should have a great emotional appreciation for the unfailing love of God. We should have a great emotional appreciation for the unfailing love of God and that appreciation should also include your fellow believers who are advancing side-by-side with you in the Christian life. 1 John 3:16, *"For we know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."* Did you hear that? Do you want me to read that again? *"We know love by this [this is how it was revealed to us] that He laid His life down [that is Christ on the cross] and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."* Wow! A passionate appreciation for the work of Christ on the cross is always in order in your prayers of adoration and supplication. There is nothing wrong with having a passionate appreciation for the work of Christ on the cross. Psalm 84:2, *"My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord [David wrote that]; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God."* Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 26:8-9, *"Indeed, while following the way of Your judgments, O Lord, we waited for You eagerly; Your name, even Your memory is the desire of our soul. At night my soul longs for You, indeed, my spirit within me seeks to find You diligently; for when the earth experiences Your judgments, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness."* In Deuteronomy 6:5, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might."* That's a passionate love and it means a sacrificial devotion on your part. When you have this kind of passionate love in your life, you have a sacrificial devotion. Luke 9:23, *"And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'"* That's a sacrificial devotion based on a passionate love for the finished work of Christ on the cross, following Christ in the devil's world. What does this mean, pick up your cross and follow Him? What exactly does that mean? **Following Christ in the devil's world will absolutely entail some sort of suffering and hardship.** Why? Because we are in a spiritual war. There is a spiritual war going on. **Denying self is the first requirement for all believers. We cannot be selfish. That's the first requirement, pick up your cross and follow Me. Your life is not about you. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, your life is about Him. Denying self is the first requirement of the believer who wants to fulfill the plan of God. This is an act of sacrificial love.** It's the same exact sacrifice that Christ Himself made. He sacrificed His life because He loved His Father and He did exactly what His Father asked Him to do. Now you are being asked to sacrifice your life to follow Him. This is an act of sacrificial love, the exact same sacrifice Christ Himself made. Listen to Paul in Ephesians 5:2, *"And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us [there's the same thing] and gave Himself for us, as a fragrant offering and a sacrifice to God."* Your walk in this world is based on sacrificial love and a passionate love for your heavenly Father and for your Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. We take up our cross daily. This means that we are prepared to die to self daily. This means we are prepared to put aside our selfish desires daily. Principle: **Selfishness is not an act of sacrificial love. Sacrificial love is an act of staying filled with God's Holy Spirit (problem-solving device #2) and by moment-by-moment obeying God's**

will for your life, not your own will - living God's will, not your will. Listen to what the Lord Jesus Christ said in Luke 22:42, *“Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Your will be done.”* This is a question you have to answer. What is God's will for your life? If you are selfish, you want your will. If you are selfish, you want to do what you want to do. I've seen this many times. I've seen many people that God has equipped to do a specific task for Him, selfishly walk away from it to pursue something else. Maybe a high profile business career or a career in television, movies, whatever. I've seen it in several ways. Our Lord Jesus Christ loved His heavenly Father and in an act of sacrificial love laid down His life to redeem you and me from the slave market of sin. The biggest challenge for us, the biggest challenge for any man; especially a man that has a communication gift, a pastor, an evangelist, a missionary is the act of selfishness. Will he or will he not use the spiritual gift God gave him? Will he sacrifice his own pleasure and his own desires to be obedient to the call of God? The funny thing about this is God will give you your heart's desire, but in the right priority.

Sometimes we get things mixed up and we put our passion before our priority. I had to face that in my life. There are some things I was very passionate about, but they were not the priority. I knew what the priority was, it was my gift, to use my gift, to stay filled with the Holy Spirit, to learn God's Word and advance in God's plan and then He gave me the passion that I desire, that I love, but it was not first, it came second. The biggest challenge to a marriage is selfishness. Selfishness is a lack of love motivation. Listen to Ephesians 5:25, *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”* Husbands, love your wives that's sacrifice. Here's another sacrifice, Ephesians 5:22, *“Wives, submit to your husbands, as to the Lord.”* Let the wife be subject to her husband in everything. Submission is an act of sacrificial love. An act of selfishness is the lack of love. So if a husband loves his wife, he should love her as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. It's a sacrificial love. And she must have a sacrificial love in return. She puts down her own will, her own desire, her own wants to serve her husband. Let them be subject to their own husbands in everything. So the secret to contentment in your life or in my life is to put aside self. Philippians 4:11, *“I've learned that whatever state I'm in to be content.”* Content. I have learned to be content. Contentment is a learned lifestyle. You have to learn it. Paul's daily cross is seen in Philippians 3:8 where he said, *“I've suffered the loss of everything [his standing as a Pharisee and his personal wealth] but I count it all as rubbish so that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness from the Law, but that which is found through faith in Christ.”* The biggest challenge to living the successful Christian life is our own selfish ambition to have our freedom and to do what we want. That's not love. That's not sacrificial love. You may want God to bless you and your family but you may not be willing to get in the boat with the Lord, like in Matthew 8:19, the excuse makers. “Not me. I've got something to do today Lord, hold the boat, I'll be back tomorrow, don't go anywhere without me.” Excuse makers. They were not risk takers. Here's the bottom line. You do not love God or you would obey God. That's a hard thing for me to say. If you love Him, you will obey Him. How can I say that? Where did I get that from? 1 John 5:3, *“This is the love of God, that*

we keep His mandates and His mandates are not a burden.” This is the demonstration that you love God, that you obey Him. In order to survive in the devil's world, we need to follow orders and our orders are very specific. We are to train the Bible says, *“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* We are to train consistently. That's a mandate from God, not a request. We are to sacrifice. Remember that song *I Surrender All?* That means put His will ahead of your will; not my will but Thy will be done. If you are going to survive in the devil's world, you are going to have to train and sacrifice and serve. Yes, do you remember that song, *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus?* That's serving, putting your desires aside and following Him. Most of all we must love Him and love one another. The Bible says, *“We love Him because He first loved us.”* Yes, God loved you first and you should love Him second and love me third. Yup, that's how it goes. That love of Jesus Christ reflected through us, that sacrificial love, that servant love is what motivates us to continue following Him. God loved us. We love Him. Christ paid for our sin. We reflect that appreciation and that joy in our lives and we love others, as Paul said, and it is a mandate that we must do that. I hope you are listening. I hope you are learning. I haven't even gotten to persistent love. The persistent love of God. I was going to get there today but I didn't quite make it. That love is consistent and persistent, it never fails, never goes away, regardless of who you are or what you've done, God loves you. This is your host, Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

God Loves You – Part 6

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 758 aired on March 1, 2020

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 stick around. Thirty-minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education without any type of manipulation. Just some teaching from the Word of God that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you'd like to know that and if you want to orient and adjust to the plan, then you can do so. You have freedom and privacy to do that. But remember that God gave you two ends; one to sit with and one to think with. Success in your life will depend on which one you use; heads you'll win, tails you'll lose. That's up to you. Now here's the good news, everybody who is listening to me has a brain. Some have high IQ and some have middle-of-the-road IQ. However, here's a wonderful thing, in God's wonderful plan your human IQ can be supplemented by learning God's Word and developing a spiritual IQ. There's a huge difference between human IQ and spiritual IQ. I'm telling you that from experience myself. How do you develop a spiritual IQ? Well, it starts with the ten problem-solving devices. Problem-solving device #1 is the rebound technique or how to confess your sin and get back in fellowship once you've broken fellowship with God. Once you quench the Holy Spirit and grieve the Holy Spirit by an act of disobedience, if you go to the Father in 1 John 1:9 as the Bible says, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and even to purify us from all of our wrongdoing."* We do that and that allows the Holy Spirit to take control so we're not living under the sin nature's control anymore. We have a battle. The battle is *"The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh; they are contrary one to the other, so that you cannot do the things you'd like to do"* (Galatians 5:17). As long as you're alive, as long as you are in this world, you are related to Adam and you have Adam's genetically imparted to you sin nature. You've got it and you know you've got it. Nobody sat you down and taught you how to lie. Nobody sat you down and taught you how to be jealous. Nobody sat you down and taught you how to get mad. It's your sin nature. So when you allow the Holy Spirit to control your sin nature, that's what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:18, *"Be filled with the Spirit."* You are not letting your sin nature control your life if you're filled with the Holy Spirit. Using the rebound technique, confessing your known sin immediately, fills you with the Holy Spirit and then you apply Operation Z. Operation Z? What's that? That's learning God's Word and applying it into your life. Operation Z starts with a qualified pastor. You listen to that pastor teach God's Word. As he teaches it, if in fact he does teach God's Word, and you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the Holy Spirit will take what he's taught you and allow you to comprehend it and understand it so that it transfers into your mind where it becomes *gnosis*, knowledge from the Word of God. But until you apply it by faith and utilize it, it doesn't do you any good. So you have to, by faith, believe it and apply it in your life. That's why the Bible says, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it"* (Luke 11:28). Operation Z is hearing and keeping the Word of God on a consistent basis. If you stay filled with the Holy Spirit by using the rebound technique, if you consistently listen to the teaching of the Word of God by a

qualified pastor and apply what he teaches in your life that's called positive volition. If you have the Holy Spirit filling you, plus you are fulfilling Operation Z, plus you're using your volition to obey, this gives you a spiritual IQ. As a formula it would look like $HS + OpZ + V = SIQ$. The invisible ministry of the Holy Spirit takes the power of the living Word of God, "*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), the living Word of God. The Holy Spirit takes the living Word of God - Bible doctrine we call it - and plants it into your soul where it becomes wisdom. When it's in your soul as wisdom, it gives you phenomenal discernment and insight through the eyes of the Scripture. I call this spiritual X-ray vision. If you have spiritual X-ray vision, which is spiritual IQ, then you can see a lot of the mistakes that you could make. You can see them before they happen because you have discernment and insight. You can save yourself a lot of money, you can save yourself a lot of heartache, you can save yourself a lot of time wasted by having spiritual IQ. Save yourself a lot of mistakes. Spiritual IQ is taught through those ten problem-solving devices that we call the FLOT line of your soul. You develop a FLOT line in your soul beginning with problem-solving device #1: rebound, confessing your known sin to God which solves the sin problem. Problem-solving device #2: the filling of the Holy Spirit which solves the sin nature problem. Problem-solving device #3: the faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God. You can't do that if you haven't metabolized or learned and applied God's Word. You have to have the Word of God to use the faith-rest drill. You're standing on God's promises. Then you move into grace orientation, you begin to understand the grace of God in your life. You move into doctrinal orientation, the importance of God's Word in your life. These two things together give you a personal sense of destiny, knowing why God planted you here, what God expects out of you. These are all motivated by your personal love for God, which is the greatest virtue you could have, and your impersonal love for others, which is a tremendous problem-solving device. This gives you happiness, sharing the happiness of God is a wonderful problem-solving device. Jesus Christ, our Lord, said it, "*My joy I leave with you*" (John 14:27). That leads us to occupation with Christ. There are those ten problem-solving devices. We have those on a bookmark. If you would like one, just let me know and we will send you how many you need. Put one in your Bible and remember those ten problem-solving devices because they are the invisible power of God the Holy Spirit that gives you X-ray vision. These ten problem-solving devices that we teach on the FLOT Line can save you years of misery and save you tons of money where you will spend it trying to cope with the mistakes that you made. Okay? It's important that you remember that. By the way, all of these radio shows that we do over the air (we're now on the 758th show) all of these are being transcribed. All of the 2019 shows are now in print and they are free. All you have to do is write and ask and we will send it to you. There are three different books that deal with each of the 2019 shows four months at a time. These are just transcripts, they are not edited, so if you want to read it and you want to have it to read or refer back to, then just get a hold of me through the website rickhughesministries.org and you can see the FLOT

Line transcripts and we'll send them to you free of charge. Never a charge for anything we do here. Okay? Now let's move on a little bit today. We have done five, I think we've done five studies on the love of God, this should be number six, and we're going to wrap this up today. God loves you. Let me say that again. That's right. Look in the mirror really good now, take a long look and say, "God loves me." That ought to wake you up. "Really, He loves me?" Yes, really! This love is a phenomenal persistent love. This love never goes away. This sort of persistence you must demonstrate in your spiritual life if you're going to represent the Lord Jesus Christ. What is persistence? Let's get some principles down. Persistence is an action that exists for a longer than usual time and it continues without change in function or structure. **The concept is that God's love never gives up on you or me in spite of our stupid failures that we have.** Look at your own life. Look at the things you goofed up just this month already and here it is not even the end of February yet. You know what you've done. You thought nobody knew about it but, I've got news for you, the Lord is well aware of it, and He still loves you. That's what should just shake you to your bones. God loves me in spite of the fact that I can be such a loser sometimes? Yes, He never gives up loving you. That's His essence. Love is part of His character. Under the filling of the Holy Spirit we are to be persistent with that message that we tell other people, "God loves you." I mean that's why God left you here. You are His mouthpiece. You are what He uses to spread the good news that Christ died for the sins of the whole world. You are the messenger and you are to be persistent spreading that message. God loves you. That doesn't sound like very much. It's just three little words. God loves you. But it's an unbelievable powerful statement. My message, my mission, your mission is not to crusade against sin. God did not send us to straighten out the sinful world. We can't do that. It's not possible. The devil controls this world and we don't even belong here. We are sojourners. We are passing through, the Bible says, our home is in heaven. We're not here to straighten out the sinners. We are here to lift up Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who paid for our sin. If we will lift Him up then He will draw people to Himself. What do we lift up? The fact that He loves you. He paid for your sin. Why did Jesus Christ go to the cross? Well, number one, to be obedient to the Father's will and, number two, because in eternity past He loved you and He loves you now. That's why the Bible says, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son*" (John 3:16). God loved the world. Are you part of the world? Yep. Were you a heathen when God loved you? Yep, just like me. God loved us even when we were heathens (just being funny about that). Yes, He loves us. He loved us in eternity past and He loves us now and sent His Son to be a sacrifice for our sin. My mission and your mission is not to straighten out the drug dealers, not to make them go to jail, not to make everybody go to jail that does something bad. That's not my mission, that's the mission of the police officer and the people that do that sort of stuff. My mission is to lift up Christ, not to combat sin and go march downtown and try to get the sinners to quit sinning. Our persistent love for the lost world will reflect His perpetual love for all mankind. If you're persistent in your love, if you demonstrate your love, if you act upon your love, then that reflects the perpetual love of God for all mankind. Notice something about one of the books in the Old

Testament. It's a very interesting book. I'll read some of it here to you in a minute. The book of Hosea. Yeah, Old Testament prophet, Hosea. In the book of Hosea God demonstrated His persistent faithfulness and love for the people through Hosea's action toward his unfaithful wife. Listen as I read to you what the Lord told Hosea to do. *"When the Lord first spoke to Hosea, the Lord told him to marry a prostitute [What? Marry a prostitute? Why would God tell him to marry a prostitute? This was going to be a great lesson in the unfailing love of God, the persistent love of God] and have children with the prostitute; for the people in this land have acted like prostitutes, they've abandoned the Lord. So Hosea married Gomer and she became pregnant and she had a son. Then the Lord told Hosea to name him Jezreel; 'For yet a little while, and I will punish Jehu's family for the people they slaughtered at Jezreel, and I'll put an end to the kingdom of Israel [that's divine discipline]. And on that day, I will break Israel's bows and arrows in the Valley of Jezreel.'* And Gomer became pregnant again and the Lord said to Hosea, *'Name her Lo-ruhamah [which means unloved] and I will no longer love the nation of Israel or no longer forgive them. Yet I will love the descendants of Judah and rescue them because I am the Lord their God, and I will not use bows, swords, warhorses or horsemen to rescue them.'* So then Gomer, after she weaned Lo-ruhamah, became pregnant again and had a son named Lo-ammi [which means not my people], *'For you are no longer My people and I am no longer your God''* (Hosea 1:2-8). These three children went on to be an act of God's attitude towards the sinful inclinations of the people of Judah. This is what we have. Read through the book of Hosea. It is really amazing. Eventually Gomer left Hosea, she was sold as a prostitute, and he bought her back. Hosea went and bought her back. He brought her back and gave her everything a wife should have. This is a perfect picture of God's unfailing love for us. That marriage to Gomer was a living example of God's faithfulness to His people. Hosea never stopped loving her and God never stops loving you, even when you and I play like a harlot. When we get out of fellowship, when we break God's will, He still loves us. Isn't that amazing? Like a good father, God remained faithful to His love for His people even when they became the harlot. If you become a harlot, if you step out of God's will, if you move into uncontrolled sin nature activity, God will still love you but you're going to find out the Bible says, *"Those whom He loves He disciplines, and scourges with the whip"* (Hebrews 12:6). Like those to whom Hosea spoke to, we must decide. Are we going to respond to that unfailing love or will we continue to neglect the wisdom that God gives us, the wisdom we need to navigate through the devil's world? What do you want to do? You can neglect the love of God. You can say, "I don't believe it. I don't believe the Bible. I don't believe Christ is the Son of God." You can trot your merry way down the My Way Highway. But listen to what Hosea said in Hosea 14:9, *"Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is prudent, let him know them. For the ways of the Lord are right, and the righteous will walk in them, but the transgressor [that's those that neglect it] will stumble in them."* God is looking for those who know Him and understand Him, Hosea 14:9, again, *"Let him understand these things; who is prudent, let him know these things"* understand and know. That's what Jeremiah 9:24 says, I'm looking for people that *"know Me and understand Me."* It's

critical. You may know God, I don't doubt that, but you might not understand the God that you know, especially His justice and His righteousness and His love. So God's wisdom gives discernment. God's wisdom gives understanding. These elements are essential, needed to combat any sort of discouragement from testing or failure in your life. You must have this. The believer's love for God, God's love for you, your love for Him. There are two different things here - the believer's love for God and God's love for us. The believer's love for God motivates persistent perception of His Word. You feed on it. "*Knowledge becomes pleasant to your soul*" (Proverbs 2:10). Do you have a quest for knowledge? Do you have a hunger for God's Word? Do you wake up in the morning wondering what you can learn today? When you have that sort of hunger you can advance to spiritual maturity. When you are motivated to be persistent in your intake of God's Word, you can advance to spiritual maturity. The greatest issue in the Christian life is being persistent in the cognition and the application of Bible doctrine. That's what my pastor used to say. I remember that phrase so well. **The greatest issue in the Christian life is being persistent in the cognition and application of Bible doctrine.** The Word of God. Hear it. Learn it. Apply it. Someone once said LAG - Learn, Apply, Glorify. **Remember when God created you, He also loved you with a persistent, unfailing, overwhelming, amazing love. Don't walk away from that. That's a gift. Don't walk away from such a gift as His persistent, overwhelming, amazing love for you because of what He's provided for you, because of what He's done for you, because of what He will do for you starting with the cross, starting with sending His own Son to die for your sin, paying the penalty that you should've paid, it should've been me, it should have been you, but He did it, He paid for it because God loves us.** Do you understand that? 1 Corinthians 15:58, concerning the resurrection of believers, Paul wrote, "*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*" Be steadfast, this is what God wants from you. To be anchored, to be locked down, steadfast. Peter called it in 1 Peter 5:9 "*Steadfast in the faith*" - unmovable. What does it mean? It means that your love for the Father is not deflected, your love for the Father is not distracted on something that's not essential. It means your love for the Word of God is not swayed by people or circumstances. It means that your faith is not shaken by adversity. Be steadfast, be anchored, be unmovable, be locked down. On my bass boat I have a trolling motor and the trolling motor has what we call a spot-lock. The spot-lock, if I step on it, keeps the boat in one position, even if the wind is blowing, even if the current is moving. The trolling motor uses a GPS signal from the satellite and it will hold me on that spot even in the middle of the lake. You must have a spot-lock in your life. You must be locked in. You must be anchored. **You must be steadfast in your faith, not shaken by adversity.** The Bible goes on to say again you've got to be *immovable*. This means to be anchored in your purpose. Steadfast in your faith and anchored in your purpose. Then *abounding*, the verb *abounding* means to exceed a fixed number. *Abounding in the work of the Lord* over and beyond and past the work of the Lord. That's what God expects out of you. Steadfast, *abounding*, anchored. Amazing. Let me read it one more time so you won't forget it, "*My beloved brethren,*

be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing your toil is not in vain in the Lord.” Why would you do that? Because you love God. **God loved you so much that He sent His only begotten Son, that's His love for you and you reciprocate that love by learning and applying His word and becoming a personal representative of Jesus Christ in this world steadfast, immovable, abounding in the work of the Lord.** That's the testimony of Christ right there. Steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the work of the Lord. That is exactly what He did and that's exactly what's expected of you to replicate the life of Christ to re-present the Lord Jesus Christ to those in your periphery. That's your job and that's my job. Well, I hope you're learning. I hope you're getting this information. We will be teaching this coming up in the city of Houston in a couple weeks; going through a whole series on the love of God or God loves us. Don't forget now, your human IQ is not an issue. The issue is your spiritual IQ. If you're filled with the Holy Spirit and you are consistent to take in the Word of God under a well-qualified pastor then you can bank on it, you're going to get some spiritual IQ and it will take you way past what your human IQ is. I know that from experience in my life as well. It's amazing to watch God do this. You know that's the amazing thing about it. Again, all of these are available on our website. All the FLOT Line shows are now being podcast by the way, if you go to Apple or if you go to Spotify, a free app on your phone, or Anchor or Breaker, some of these podcast apps, then you can listen to The FLOT Line anytime, anywhere you'd like, by just typing in The FLOT Line (you can pick up the radio show in the middle of the ocean if you'd like to listen to it). And again, the transcripts are available. The printed material that we have is available. Visit our website, take a look at it, at rickhughesministries.org. We appreciate your prayers. Thank you so much for listening to our radio show. I hope you'll continue to come back as we grow. We're now broadcasting in Hawaii. I hear from people all the time, some want to straighten you out, some want to tell you where you're wrong, some agree with you - you just never know what people think. My job is not to convince anybody of anything, just to give you what the Bible says. I let the Holy Spirit do the convincing, that's for sure. I really hope you're listening. I hope you're growing. You can always contact me through rickhughesministries.org or you can email us rick@rickhughesministries.org. We'll be back next week, about the same time, on the same station. If you would, be praying for us to continue to advance these stations and grow more and more; we'd like to have about 50 of them across this nation. Maybe one in every state if we could. That's my prayer and hope we will be able to do that. Thank you for listening, until next week, same time, same place, this is Rick Hughes, host of The FLOT Line, saying thank you for being here with us today.

Divine Discipline - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 759 aired on March 8, 2020

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 stick around. Thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, all without any manipulation. The FLOT Line is about learning God's tremendous problem-solving devices. If you do that, if you can verify and identify those ten things we talk about, then you can orient and adjust and use them in your life and stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. Adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. God gave you two ends; one of them you sit with and one of them you think with. You better learn which one to use because it's heads you win, tails you lose. This show is going to give you information, no emotion, we're not playing with your emotions. We're here to give you some information. In God's wonderful plan, human IQ is never an issue. The human IQ that we have can be supplemented by learning God's Word and staying filled with the Holy Spirit and then we develop a spiritual IQ. Yes, if you use rebound (problem-solving device #1) to make sure that you deal with your known sin, that guarantees that you can stay filled with the Holy Spirit. Then, if you take the Word of God that you learn under a well-qualified pastor in your local church as he teaches you God's Word and you use your volition to apply it (you have positive volition and negative volition; yes, I will do it or no, I won't do it) then you can have spiritual IQ in your life which I call spiritual X-ray vision. You have discernment, you have understanding, you have wisdom. That's what wisdom does, it gives you spiritual X-ray vision so that you can see what people don't see. You can understand the deceptions and the delusions that Satan throws your way. So please stick with me, listen up, learn and apply it into your life. Today we want to talk about something that is very important to us. All of us need to understand this and learn this. I want to give you three verses. Listen carefully, you may have to apply these to your life. I hope not, but it deals with how the love of God administers discipline to us. Beginning in Revelation 3:19, *"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore, be zealous and repent."* Repent basically means to change your mind, change the way you think. Your spiritual life is lived in your soul. In your soul is your mentality. The Bible says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). That's dealing with how you think. The Bible also says, *"Stop thinking of self 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"* (Romans 12:3). When we say repent it means to change the way you think. *"Those that I love, I reprove [that's the discipline that God puts into our life] and I discipline, therefore, be zealous [do this quickly] and change what you're thinking."* In Psalm 7:9b, *"For the righteous God tries the hearts and minds"* of each one of us. **There's nothing you can hide from God. He can see what's in your mind. He can see what's in your heart.** In the New Testament the mind is called the *nous* and the heart is called the *kardia*. The *nous* is where the information assimilates when your pastor teaches it to you. The *kardia* is where it needs to go because it's never wisdom until it gets into your heart. Just because you

heard it and understood it doesn't mean you've applied it yet. God is looking at you to see what's in your heart, what you're listening to, what you're learning, what you can apply. That's the critical thing, the justice of God is always checking us out. In Hebrews 12:5, *"And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, My sons, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him."* That means that God may have to sometimes take us to the woodshed to get our attention. That sometimes happens because we get out of fellowship with God. We'll talk about that here as we go through this. Hebrews 12:6-10, *"For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives. It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with a son; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not really a son. Furthermore, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness."* This is talking about the difference between our earthly father and our Heavenly Father. *"Those that God loves He disciplines."* It is possible, it may be probable, that what you're going through right now, what you think is a run of bad luck may actually be discipline. It may be God dropping the hammer on you to get your attention. Hebrews 12:11, *"All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."* So it's not fun to go under discipline, but it's imperative that we have it to get our attention. God must get our attention sometimes because we wander off down the My Way Highway, and He does the discipline to get us back. Proverbs 15:10 says, *"Grievous punishment is for him who forsakes the way; but he who hates reproof will die."* Listen carefully, He will discipline us. *"What son is there whom the father does not discipline?"* All of us get discipline as children of God. *"He scourges every son whom He receives. It's the discipline that we endure."* There's warning discipline, when God has to get your attention, that may be from reading a verse in the Bible, that may be from seeing a sign on the side of the road, that may be from hearing a preacher on TV or radio, but somehow or another the Holy Spirit reaches out and gets your attention. You can respond to that by confessing your sin or you can ignore that and keep going merrily down the My Way Highway using your volition to quench and grieve the Holy Spirit. If that warning doesn't work, then the intense discipline comes, the scourging. Sometimes He is just going to have to take you out behind the woodshed to get your attention and give you an attitude adjustment. If that doesn't work, the verse goes on to say, *"Grievous punishment is for him who forsakes the way, but he who hates the reproof of God shall die."* There is something called dying discipline. This is when God is not able to get your attention, this is when your soul is wrapped up in your own arrogance, in your own self-righteousness, that you're not listening, not paying attention and you don't care. Just like your earthly father disciplined you, God disciplines you. Listen again carefully, Hebrews 12:9, *"Furthermore, we have had earthly fathers discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and*

live?" Did you hear that? And then I go back to Proverbs 15:10, "*Grievous punishment is for him who forsakes the way; but the one who hates reproof will die.*" There's a difference - living and dying. It's possible that you can check yourself out way too soon because of your arrogance, not responding to the discipline of God and becoming hardened in your heart. So let's take down some principles that hopefully will help explain what I'm talking about here today. When we believe in Jesus Christ, God's anointed Son, we enter into a post-salvation spiritual life. After we get saved, we are mandated to love God and love our fellow man. That's what the Bible talks about, love God and love your neighbor. You have to have virtue love: personal love for God and impersonal love for your neighbors, problem-solving devices #7 and #8. When we believe in Christ, we enter into this post-salvation spiritual life, which mandates that we have love. All believers are beneficiaries of God's love because God's love did not reject us. John 3:16, "*God so loved the world*" - all of us. But what do we do? We reject the love of God. His love doesn't reject us, we reject it. When we reject the spiritual life, we are rejecting the love of God. The Bible says, "*Cursed is the man who trusts in man*" (Jeremiah 17:5). That's rejecting the spiritual life. The Bible talks about you having this artificial wisdom in Proverbs 3:7, the fool thinks he's smarter than God, rejecting the spiritual life. **If we reject the spiritual life, we are rejecting the love of God, because this is something He gave you. This is how He prepares you and equips you to live in the devil's world. If you reject the spiritual life, what's going to happen? If you're a Christian and you reject the spiritual life, you are going to come under divine discipline.** Here are the principles: (1) If you have known sin in your life and you haven't confessed that sin to God you may be out of fellowship with God. (2) If you're a Christian and you're not growing consistently in God's Word, taking it in and learning it, you may be out of fellowship with God. The Bible says, "*Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of truth*" (2 Timothy 2:15). That's a mandate, that's a requirement, it's not a request. "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). That's a mandate, a requirement, not a request. If you are not growing, if you are not studying, if you are not advancing in the spiritual life, you're sinning through disobeying the mandates. This discipline that God brings into our life is not because He's angry at us, it's because He is disappointed in us. He loves us and He wants to keep us from self-destructing. We have to understand that the love of God is one of the most important things in our spiritual life. God equips me, He preserves me, He protects me and He disciplines me when I step in the wrong direction to get me back onto the right road. This may be what's happening in your life. Maybe this is why you're having financial problems. Maybe this is why you're having marriage problems. Maybe this is why you're having social problems. Maybe this is why everything keeps tearing up, breaking down, going crazy because God is trying to get your attention. Are you listening to Him? Look at your life. Look at the sin in your life. Admit your sin. Go to the Father and admit it. David said in Psalm 32:3-5, "When I withheld my sin I about dried up and died, but when I went to the Lord and admitted my sin He cleansed me." "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us.*" (1 John 1:9). You can't keep living a lie.

As a Christian you can't keep hiding in the darkness, acting like no one knows what you're doing. The Father knows and the discipline is there and that may be what you're going through right now. (3) Yielding to the temptations of this world, the temptations of the flesh or the temptations of the devil will result in you using your volition to go negative to the mandates of God. And when you do that, you submit to the control of your sin nature. That's what you do when you yield to the temptations of the world, the flesh or the devil. You use your volition (part of the format of your soul) to go negative to the love of God, the mandates He gave you, thus you submit yourself to your sin nature controlling yourself. Paul talked about the sin nature in Romans 7:15-20, *"For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I'm doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I don't want to do, I am agreeing with the Law, confessing the Law is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me [that's the flesh]. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing to do good is present in me, but the doing of good is not present. For the good things that I want to do, I don't do; but I practice the very evil things I don't want to do. But if I am doing the very things I don't want to do, then I'm no longer the one who is doing it, but the sin nature that dwells in me."* There's a battle going on inside of you. Every day there's a battle inside of you. Your sin nature may raise its ugly head on the interstate driving to work. Your sin nature may raise its ugly head when your in-laws come around. It's tax season and your sin nature may raise its ugly head with that one. Or maybe politics gets you out of fellowship. You have a sin nature and if you submit to your sin nature, if you allow your volition to choose that, once your sin nature seizes control it will turn to the lure of the cosmic system to fulfill its desires. The cosmic system is Satan's world, what Satan offers you. It is the spirit of the times, the zeitgeist. It's out there spinning around and is luring you. "Come over here and do this. Come on over here and try this. Here's a good time. Here's fun. This is what you need to be doing." Many a Christian has been sucked into this sort of stuff like a duck decoy. When a duck hunter has the decoys out and he's quacking away and the duck flies over and sees the decoys and goes down to join them - bam he gets wasted. That's what happens to you. You get decoyed, you get diverted. Satan is really good at decoys and diversion in your life. You can't let the lure of the cosmic system take control of you. In Galatians 5:17, *"The flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, the Spirit sets its desire against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things you please."* This is the battle you have every day. This is the fight that goes on in your life. You have a sin nature. Your sin nature may even be on steroids, I don't know, I mean, it may be hopped up, your sin nature. Some people get legalistic. I remember meeting a guy one time telling me he didn't sin. By the time we got through talking he was so mad at me he was sinning. Yeah, you got a sin nature, but you may be a legalist. You may think you're a good person because you don't smoke, drink, chew or run around with those that do. Or you may be lascivious - the other end of the totem pole. You may be a wild-child and when your sin nature gets in control, there's no telling what you're liable to do. If you drink too much or you say too much or do too much, sin natures have different trends and different patterns. The hardest

one to see is the legalistic person because the self-righteous, legalistic person will judge you and hammer you and control you quicker than anyone if you let him. Here we have the sin nature, the flesh wanting to control your body, the Spirit wanting to control your body. What this is talking about is the way you think - your thoughts, your motives and desires. If you let the sin nature take over, it will lure you into the cosmic system with no returning probably. But if you let the Holy Spirit control you, then He will lead you and guide you as a tutor and a mentor as Jesus Christ our Lord said, *"I'm going away, but I'll send My Spirit and He'll be your tutor and He will guide you into truth"* (John 16:7,13). You have this Holy Spirit living in you, but if you quench Him and you grieve Him then He can't do His job. That's why you have to rebound and put Him back in control of your life. Again, Galatians 5:17, *"The flesh sets its desire against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh."* These are battling. They are battling every day. Who's going to control your thoughts? The Bible goes on to say, *"These are in opposition one to another, so that you may not do the very things you want to do."* The concept is the sin nature never ever turns back to God. Once you let the sin nature get in control it only ventures out deeper and deeper into sin and evil. In order to break the control of your sin nature, you must first recognize what's going on. You have to recognize the trends and the patterns of your sin nature and what you are likely to do when you let your sin nature take control. The only way you can do that is by the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit. The only way you can break control once you submit to the sin nature, once your volition goes negative to God you're trapped by the lure of the world (the flesh or the devil) and you sin and fall into the trap; the only way to get out of it is for the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit to make you aware of what's happened. If He convicts you, then you have to make a decision to confess your sin and return to the spiritual life. This is where you allow the Holy Spirit to gain control once again. You may have to do this seven or eight times a day, maybe more, until you understand what's going on, until you get ahold of your life, your emotions and those desires you have. This is a battle. This is what the Bible says, it's a battle, a war - a war for your thoughts. Once you're convicted you have to make the decision, I'm going to go to God, I'm going to confess my sin, I'm going to walk away from the sin and I'm going to let the Holy Spirit have control. But the sin may come back tomorrow. What do you do then? You confess it again. Any time you sin, you go to God the Father and confess it. God's not counting, He does not have a bean counter out there saying, "Okay now, you've done this 23 times and I'm not going to forgive you for it anymore." That's not true. *"If we confess our sin He's faithful [He does it every time] and just [He doesn't compromise His righteousness] to forgive us of our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). Every time we do it. You may sin twenty times a day and confess your sin twenty times a day and you get in and out of fellowship twenty times a day. **The idea is not to let the sin nature control your life over lengthy periods of time. You have to confess your sin. You have to get back in fellowship. If you fail to rebound, if you fail to recover, then you are opening the door to God's discipline because you quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit.** There are some mandates in the Bible about that. In 1 Thessalonians 5:19, *"Don't quench the Holy Spirit"* and in

Ephesians 4:30, *"Don't grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you are sealed into the day of redemption [that's the day you walk away from death into eternity]."* You can grieve the Holy Spirit and you can quench Him. Quenching Him means to shut off His power. It's like taking a garden hose and crimping it so the water can't come out of it. Once you quench the Holy Spirit, He can't sustain your spiritual life and you grieve Him. He doesn't cry, He doesn't get sad but you grieve the Holy Spirit. He's disappointed in you. He disapproves of what you're doing. **Every bit of punishment, every bit of discipline that comes to us as believers from the Supreme Court of Heaven is always based on God's personal love for us. He loves you. He's not doing this to hurt you. He's doing this to deliver you, to get you to respond and recover.** It comes under warning discipline, it comes under intense discipline and it comes under dying discipline. If you fail to rebound and admit your sin, then it can result in unbearable suffering from the prolonged discipline of God. If you stay in the arrogance system long enough you're going to be miserable. You may already be miserable and this may be the reason why. I pray that you will wake up and realize this. I pray you will take a look at yourself and see what's going on in your life because you have an option to rebound and get restored to fellowship. You have the option to ignore what I'm telling you. Ignore it and the warning discipline will move into your life from warning to intense discipline, maybe even dying discipline. You can still rebound. You can still receive forgiveness. You can still be restored to fellowship if you will admit it to your Father. It always takes God's love to keep us in line. The mature believer needs the love of God to discipline him, to keep him in line. We don't want to live and learn. We want to learn and then live. Live and learn means you make mistakes and learn from your mistakes. It's best not to make those mistakes I promise you. Learn and live begins with rebound. We are punished by God because we didn't use the divine solution, we quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit, we're not obeying the mandates of the spiritual life, so we're not learning and living, we are living and then learning the hard way. **The divine punishment from the integrity of God is administered with exactly the same divine love as is His divine blessing. God loves you. He will discipline you to correct you, to deliver you, to get you to see what's going on in your life.** I pray you'll respond. I pray you will listen. I pray you see yourself. Take a look in the mirror, see what's going on so you know who you really are. I hope you're listening. I hope you're responding and I hope you'll stay in touch. Come back next Sunday, same time, same place and learn some more and apply it into your life. That's my prayer. I hope you'll do that. If we can help, don't hesitate to go to the website and drop us a note. Until then, this is your host, Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Divine Discipline - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 760 aired on March 15, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes, please stick around. It will be a time of motivation, inspiration, education all done without any type of manipulation. We're not trying to con anybody. We're certainly not asking for money. We're not trying to sell anything. We're just simply giving you information. Information that may indeed help you verify as well as identify God's plan for your life. If that's possible, you can orient and adjust to the plan, if you wish to do so. My job is to give you accurate information. Your job is to process information and hopefully use it. God gave you two ends; one of those ends you sit with, one of those ends you think with. Success in your life depends on which one of those you use. Obviously it is heads you win because bad decisions limit future options. If you make enough bad decisions you're not going to have any options left, that's for sure. So the information that I'm giving you is Biblical based information. We talk about how you can have spiritual X-ray vision. Spiritual X-ray vision is a play on words that means when you develop wisdom in your soul from the content of the Word of God then you have tremendous discernment and insight. When you have discernment and insight you're able to see the traps that the devil will lay for you, you're able to understand what's happening to you in the suffering world (the suffering side of it) and you have tremendous spiritual insight. Spiritual X-ray vision I call it and it comes from spiritual IQ. Everybody has a human IQ, some good, some not so good, but spiritual IQ, the Holy Spirit takes that into consideration. You may be normal on the IQ scale but if you learn the Word of God you can be a genius on the spiritual IQ scale and have that great discernment from wisdom where you have insight and understanding. Today we want to continue our study we started last Sunday on divine discipline. That's a hard thing to study because sometimes we don't like to know that we're under divine discipline, but God does discipline us. We saw in the Bible where it says those whom He loves, He disciplines. Revelation 3:19, *"Those whom I love, I reprove [or correct] and discipline; therefore, be zealous and repent."* There are two ways that God can teach us. He can teach us from instruction without pain or He can teach us from instruction with pain. It depends on how stubborn you are, how arrogant you are, but God is going to discipline those that He loves. In Hebrews 12:5, *"And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, 'My sons, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him.'"* Hebrews 12:6, *"For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines."* It's not a question of whether He loves you or not. If you ever get under divine discipline it's going to hurt. It is designed to correct you, to reprove you. Why? So you don't self-destruct. You have the amazing ability to destroy yourself. There are people listening to me right now that have done things they wish they had not done and they've destroyed their future, they've destroyed their lives. Many of them may perhaps even be incarcerated and they said, "You know if I could go back I sure wouldn't do that again. I was stupid. I was dumb. I got suckered into doing something I shouldn't have done." That's the devil's world. That's what he offers. He's a liar, he's always been a liar, he's a murderer, he's a thief. We

have to learn how to look out for that. How to have some wisdom, some insight, some discernment, spiritual X-ray vision, so that we can avoid being duped by the devil. Let's talk about divine punishment a little bit. In 1 Corinthians 11:30 we have something here that is very important. Paul talks about divine discipline as a result of communion. This is what I want to carry on with you today. We call this ritual without reality. Ritual without reality is absolutely meaningless. You can have all the ritual you want, but if you don't have any reality to it, it's not doing you any good. Sometimes taking communion is ritual without reality. When that happens discipline is sure to follow. In 1 Corinthians 11:23-31 Paul is talking about the Lord's Supper and ritual without reality. He said, *"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, [what he's teaching them, Jesus Christ Himself taught to him] that the Lord Jesus on the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'* [this is the reason we take communion] *In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'* *For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself [we have to take a look inside before we take communion] and in doing so he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you are dead. But if we would judge ourselves rightly, we should not be judged."* This is a mandate to make sure you do a right thing in a right way. Understand that God observes protocol. If you are going to follow the ritual plan of God, there's protocol involved. That means that you cannot take communion with known sin in your life, out of fellowship, quenching and grieving the Holy Spirit. If you're just going through the ritual and there's no reality to it, you're going to get under divine discipline for not obeying what the Lord said. You're not remembering Him. Remembering Him is something different than just popping a piece of bread in your mouth and drinking a sip of wine. It's much more than that. When you take communion out of fellowship it means, as a believer, you're not filled with the Holy Spirit, your sin nature is in control. Yes, you're in church. Yes, you're taking communion but you're doing a right thing in a wrong way. You're not honoring God because it's not coming through the filling of the Holy Spirit, it's coming through the good process of the sin nature. The sin nature can do good. People that are not even Christians can do good deeds, can give money to charity and can help people out. The Christian under the sin nature control can do good, but it's not divine good, it's not the good that God is looking for. Taking communion with known sin in your life is you observing the ritual without any reality. That's what this verse is dealing with - the ritual of communion. Most all churches, most all denominations, serve communion and it's a common thing for believers to take it. Although some don't even know what they're actually doing. So Paul issues a warning, a warning to the Corinthian church about this sort of thing. The Lord said, *"Do it in remembrance of Me."* What

exactly are we supposed to remember? Is there a proper way to approach the communion table? The answer to both of those is absolutely yes, there is a right way and a wrong way. God's plan for us is very important we understand it. **We are never to take communion with known sin in our life - never. We're never to take communion out of fellowship. We're never to take communion when we're quenching and grieving the Holy Spirit. We only take communion when we are in fellowship. If you take communion with known sin in your life you're going to get disciplined as a result. If you keep doing it, the discipline could be severe.** Illustration: You're getting ready to go to church on Sunday morning and you and your spouse have a little fight over the kids. The kids aren't getting ready, they're dragging around. Finally you get everybody in the car and the traffic is all backed up and somebody cuts you off. By the time you finally get to church your attitude is terrible. You've been mad and fussing at your wife. You've been mad and griping at the children. You've been mad and would like to have punched out the guy who cut you off on the interstate. Then you get to church and you didn't even think about your mental attitude sins. It never crosses your mind that you're out of fellowship. You have not allowed the Holy Spirit to control your life. You've enjoyed these mental attitude sins of bitterness, anger, frustration and vindictiveness. And you're going take communion? You're going to remember the Lord Jesus Christ like that? I don't think so. That's what you're doing. That's exactly what happens. Another illustration: Two deacons in the church who hate each other because of a business deal that went sour and one owes the other one some money but he can't pay it. The one that is owed the money hates him, can't stand him, won't even look at him. But he'll pass out the communion elements and he'll take the communion. Right thing, wrong way. The Holy Spirit is quenched and grieved in that person because of his anger, bitterness, vindictiveness, hatred. He hasn't learned how to forgive as God has forgiven anybody else, he can't do it. Yet here he is taking communion. He looks great. He looks spiritual. He's got his head bowed but instead of remembering the work of Christ, he's remembering that idiot on the other side of the church who owes him money. See what I'm talking about? This is why we are told to examine ourselves. We must examine ourselves. No pastor should ever offer communion to the congregation without telling them this verse. Examine yourself first. Why? Paul said it's because of this that many are weak, many are dead, many are sick because they don't take communion properly. They go through the ritual and there's no reality to it. That's all organized religion is, ritual without reality and it's meaningless. There's got to be something behind the church, communion and whatever is going on in that church. It must be to replicate the life of Christ. It must be to re-present Christ to the community through the local body of believers in that local church. We are told to examine ourselves, make sure we do this right. **If you take communion, it's a right thing but you can do it in a wrong way. Taking communion out of fellowship is a right thing being done in a wrong way.** God's plan demands we follow protocol and not ignore these divine mandates. This is a command from God through the apostle Paul. If you ignore this mandate, if you don't judge yourself first, then God will judge you because you didn't do what the apostle Paul told you to do. Anytime you have a mandate in Scripture and disobey the

mandate you are committing a sin because God is speaking through that apostle. So here you are in church on Sunday morning, you're ready to take communion and there's unconfessed sin in your life which leads to the quenching of the Holy Spirit, the grieving of the Holy Spirit. You're in the right place, doing the right thing, but you're under the control of your sin nature, you're not filled with the Holy Spirit as Ephesians 5:18 says "*Be filled with the Spirit.*" You're just going through the ritual. You're trying to look the part. You may even be thinking about where you are going to go for lunch and what time you're going to get there. If that's what you're thinking, you're certainly in the wrong place in the wrong way. If you violate the protocol plan of God, you are not going to be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ and it will bring swift and divine correction for the act of disobedience. You want to be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ. You want to hear the Lord say, "Well done My good and My faithful servant" instead of pulling up His record and saying, "I see you took communion 495 times in the ten years you were down there in church and every time you were out of fellowship." Remember He said, "*Do it in remembrance of Me.*" What are you remembering? First of all, and forgive me for being so stern here, we're not on a first name basis with the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the Lord Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God. Before we get too familiar with Him, let's remember that He is the Almighty, He is the Creator of all things, without Him nothing was even created, and He will judge the living, the quick and the dead. It is Christ that does all of that. It is the Lord Jesus Christ our King, our Savior. If we take communion out of fellowship, it's just a ritual and you're not remembering anything, it's an insult to Him. You're insulting Him. I hope that's not you. What exactly are you supposed to remember when you take communion? The first thing that a deacon or an elder is going to pass out to you is a little piece of bread, unleavened bread, that represents several things. When you put it in your mouth, you have to remember these things. This is where you recall the Word of God. If the rate of forgetting has exceeded the rate of learning you're not going to be able to recall anything. You're just going to be sitting there twiddling your thumbs until the preacher is through and you didn't recall anything. How can you pray and how can you have a prayer of adoration and thanksgiving to God if you can't recall anything? When that bread is being passed out you're supposed to be praying and remembering and thanking God for what that bread represents. First of all that bread represents the virgin birth. He was not contaminated with the sin nature of Joseph. He was uncontaminated. He was virgin born. Mary had never had any sort of sexual involvement with Joseph or anyone else. She was a virgin. Her conception was the miracle of God the Holy Spirit. He was born of a virgin. That's important because there was a curse on Coniah who is the lineage of Joseph and God had already said that none of Joseph's family would ever rule in Israel because of the curse of Coniah. If the Lord Jesus Christ had been born as a result of Joseph impregnating Mary, then He could never have been the King of kings and Lord of lords. The Father would have to take His word back and He cannot do that. Christ was born of a virgin. That's the first thing you need to remember. Then we remember His celebrityship. You talk about Elvis or about some celebrity like Kobe Bryant, a celebrity, but Jesus Christ is the celebrity of the universe. He is God's anointed Son. He is God's

chosen Redeemer. Jesus Christ is the one we worship and admire. He's the one we will see coming back riding upon a white horse when the whole world will see Him. That's a celebrity. It won't be on television. It will be right in front of our eyes. Celebrityship - Jesus Christ is the celebrity - He is God's anointed Son. You want to drop names? I know this guy or that guy or I had dinner with a celebrity or I met a celebrity and had my picture taken with him. If you know the Lord Jesus Christ, you know the number one celebrity in the whole universe - Christ the King. He's impeccable. That's something else you need to remember when you take communion. What does impeccable mean? He cannot be accused of ever sinning because He never sinned. He never committed a sin. Not once in His life did He ever commit a sin. He did not have a sin nature because He was born of a virgin. He didn't receive Adam's original sin. He was impeccable because He never sinned, He was without sin. That's the impeccability of the Lord Jesus Christ. You should remember that because had He sinned, He would not have been worthy of going to the cross and paying for the sins of the world. He was the innocent Lamb of God, without spot and without blemish, that took away your sin and my sin. Our sins were nailed to Him on the cross and He was judged in our place. That's why it says, *"He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we may be made the righteousness of God through Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). He was impeccable. He was the King of kings. There you go, another principle King of kings, Lord of lords. He is the King of the universe, God's virgin born Son, the only true celebrity, impeccable, King of kings and Lord of lords. You might want to remember He is hypostatic union. Hypostatic union means that He is God and man in one body forever - the God-man. Jesus Christ was God and Jesus Christ was man, the God-man in one body forever. The resurrection body of Jesus Christ is in heaven now awaiting the exit resurrection of you and the Church, the Rapture, the Exit Resurrection. He's the only person in heaven right now in a resurrected body. You will be there to join Him at the exit resurrection when *"The dead in Christ will rise first. Then we which remain alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds and so shall we ever more be with the Lord"* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Hypostatic union is amazing. Theanthropic union, God-man in one body forever. The disciples didn't know they were talking to God but they figured it out. The disciples didn't have a clue what was about to happen to their lives but they learned and God used them to spread the word of Jesus Christ, the anointed Son, to the whole world through what we know as the Gospels, the Bible and we have it today. So that's the bread. **That piece of bread represents virgin birth, celebrityship, impeccability, King of kings and hypostatic union.** You should remember those when you put it in your mouth. Maybe you need to write to me and get a copy of that so you can remember it, so you can study it and you can look over it. I could teach you for a couple hours on each one of those subjects. I just skimmed through it like a rock skimming across the smooth lake surface. I didn't get into depth here. What about the cup? What about the cup they pass around and you're supposed to hold? The pastor says we are to retain the cup until all have been served, then *"This do in remembrance of Me,"* and down it goes. **What does the cup represent? It represents the death of Christ on the cross. His spiritual death on the cross, not His physical death.** A lot of

people died on a cross but a lot of people weren't the Son of God. This is Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, being judged in our place. All of our sins were poured out on Him. There's a statement in the Bible where He said, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*" which is translated, "*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*" (Mark 15:34). It was a horrible thing for the sins of the world to be dumped out on the anointed Son who was impeccable, but it happened. His spiritual death on the cross - we know it as the blood of Christ being shed for the remission of sin. That's exactly what happened. So imputation means that our sins were imputed to Him. **This is what you remember. You take that cup, you thank God for the imputation of our sins being imputed to Him and for the imputation of His righteousness being imputed to us.** Remember the verse, "*He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him*" (2 Corinthians 5:21). He took our sins and we take His righteousness. God is absolutely righteous. The Bible says, "*There is none righteous, no not one*" (Romans 3:10), but **when we receive Christ as our Savior then His righteousness is imputed to us and we are redeemed from the slave market of sin. Jesus Christ buys us out of the slave market of sin. That cup representing His spiritual death on the cross is indicative of what He paid to buy you out of the slave market of sin. He paid for your sin and now you're justified.** Justified - something else you need to remember when you drink the cup. You're justified. Just as if you had never even sinned, you're justified before God. No, not because of what you do, not because of how you act, because of what Christ did for you. That's where the justification takes place. You are also sanctified, which means you are set apart. You are sanctified in time by the filling of the Holy Spirit and you are sanctified in eternity when you are set apart and you go to heaven. There you are. You are going to get your resurrection body, you're going to be face-to-face with the Lord Jesus Christ and you certainly want to hear Him say, "Well done My good and faithful servant." You don't want to hear Him say every time you took communion you daydreamed your way through it. You took communion out of fellowship. You took communion with sin in your life. No wonder you went through so much suffering. No wonder you had so much discipline. It never even occurred to you what's happening. That's why I'm giving you this message on discipline. God will discipline you when you do what I'm talking about, when you don't understand what you're taking, when you're going through the ritual without the reality. "*For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you are dead.*" Three stages of discipline: warning discipline, intense discipline and dying discipline. All because you didn't take communion in fellowship. All because you just went through some ritual with no reality to it. All because you ignored the mandates of God through the apostle Paul. I hope you're listening. You don't need to suffer anymore. You don't need to go through anymore discipline. You're probably tired of it by now. My suggestion is you rebound, you confess your sin to God the Father and He will be faithful and just to forgive you. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Crisis Living Through God's Ten Problem-Solving Devices

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 761 aired on March 22, 2020

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 stick around. Thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education and always without any manipulation. Remember that God gave you two ends. One of those ends you sit with. One of those ends you think with. Success in your life will depend on which one of those ends you use. Heads obviously you win and tails, well obviously you're going to lose. So here's the good news. Everyone listening to me has a brain. Some people have super high IQs. That's not me. Some have middle-of-the-road IQs. However, in God's wonderful plan human IQ is not the issue. It can be supplemented by learning God's Word and developing these ten problem-solving devices in your life that we talk about called a FLOT line and this gives you spiritual IQ. Spiritual IQ is totally different from human IQ. Spiritual IQ is the ability to have the invisible ministry of God the Holy Spirit take the power of the living Word of God in your life and place it into your soul where it becomes wisdom. From there, wisdom gives you tremendous phenomenal discernment and insight through the eyes of the Scripture. We call it spiritual X-ray vision. By having wisdom, discernment and insight you can save yourself a lot of trouble and a lot of mistakes. As we go into perilous times in our country, a lot of weird things happening where you live and where I live, people have to wonder about what's going on and what God is saying to us. The Bible talks about the fruit of the Spirit and we'll mention a little of that today but as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ the most important thing is that you develop a FLOT line in your soul. That is so you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. Adversity is inevitable and stress is optional. Stress is what you do to yourself. Adversity is what circumstances do to you. When we have a national emergency as we have in this country today there are a lot of people stressed out, there are a lot of people afraid and there are a lot of people that don't have peace in their life. This doesn't mean that we don't all face perilous times. It means some people face it with a different attitude, a more relaxed mental attitude and that's the mind of Christ. That's the relaxed mental attitude that goes with what the Lord Jesus Christ said, *"My joy I give unto you"* (John 15:11). Even in the fiercest battle of life we can have joy and a relaxed mental attitude by leaning on the FLOT line in our soul. Remember, the FLOT line is made up of ten unique problem-solving devices. The FLOT line starts off with rebound, that's confessing any known sin to God. The reason that has to be done is the Holy Spirit cannot help you develop wisdom when you have sin in your life. Sin in your life, the Bible says, quenches the Holy Spirit and grieves the Holy Spirit. Thus the believer has to have a way to get rid of sin. The Bible says in 1 John 1:9 and also in the Old Testament in Psalm 32:5, *"If we confess our sin, He [God] is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and to purify us from all wrongdoing."* Sin quenches the Holy Spirit. Paul talked about it when he said, "I don't understand myself at all because I don't want to do some of the things that I do and I hate doing them but it's sin inside of me." Yes, there is a sin nature inside of all of us and that sin nature can be controlled or it can be manipulated. Satan is a master at manipulating your sin

nature but the Word of God gives you control over the sin nature by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit and by means of the residence of Bible doctrine, the Word of God, in your soul. This gives you discernment, gives you insight and gives you the power to live it. We're all under a strange virus - not the coronavirus, I'm not talking about that - the virus of sin and death the Bible talks about. *"For by one man sin came into the world, and death by sin, now death is passed upon all, for all have sinned"* (Romans 5:12) and *"The wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23). Strangely enough that's the very thing people fear with the coronavirus today - death - and death is something to be feared because after the death comes the judgment. The Bible says, *"It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27). Even with no coronavirus, we will die. We have to die because that's the way we're made. We're going to die and we're going to face the Judgment Seat of Christ or the Great White Throne. One of the two, you'll be at one of two judgments. If you're a believer then you'll be, in 1 Corinthians 3, at the Judgment Seat of Christ. If you're not a believer you find yourself, Revelation 20, at the Great White Throne of Judgment, and that's where you don't want to be. The Bible goes on to talk about if the Holy Spirit controls your life some of the wonderful things you can have. In Galatians 5:22-23 it says, *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, mildness."* These are all wonderful Christ given assets that we can acquire through the filling of the Holy Spirit. These immutable assets of our Lord Jesus Christ are ours to use as well through the filling of the Holy Spirit, the second problem-solving device. Rebound is the first, filling of the Holy Spirit is the second. The filling of the Holy Spirit handles the problem of the sin nature. We don't have to live under the sin nature. We don't have to be dominated by the sin nature. Even though we are infected with it, we'll get rid of it when we do die and get a resurrection body, it will be a sin-free body like the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we learn these things, we learn about the faith-rest drill. That's another problem-solving device. This is where we can use Scripture to stand behind and act as a shield to deflect the fiery darts that Satan may throw your way to intimidate you, to move you into fear, to depress you. You don't have to live like that. Using the shield of faith is a wonderful thing to do. Those are the first three problem-solving devices: rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit and the faith-rest drill. Then we move to grace orientation. You're saved by grace, you live by grace, you die by grace, there is surpassing grace in heaven. All of these things are wonderful things to study and learn. Then there's Biblical orientation where the Bible says, *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). The Bible is here for a reason. **Because in times like we face today, in crisis living, there is strength to be found in the Scripture, there's comfort to be found in the Scripture, there's confidence in the Scripture - if you believe it and if you use it.** It's important that you have some Biblical orientation to know where you go. Where do I go to get that peace? We're going to talk about that here in just a second. From Biblical orientation we move into a personal sense of destiny. God has a plan for your life and that begins the moment you believe in Christ and ends when you move into heaven to be face-to-face with your heavenly Father. All of this is motivated by your personal love for God, a

great virtue in your life, and motivates you to be obedient to God. Then you use impersonal love for those that you have a hard time dealing with and that allows you to love them based on who you are, not based on who they are because it's exactly the way God loves you, with His impersonal love. The Bible says, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son”* (John 3:16). You were a sinner when He did that and He wasn't in love with you when He did that. He used His impersonal love. Once you believed in Christ, you moved into the royal family of God, became a child of God, and then you have personal love of God applied in your life. So we have personal love for God, His love for you and impersonal love for others. And there's also your love for God, that's reciprocation. He loves you, you love Him back, and by loving Him back, that's your personal virtue. That is the greatest virtue you could have is to love God because the greatest virtue He showed was loving you. Then there is sharing the happiness of God. A wonderful thing to understand. Christ said, *“My joy I give to you”* (John 15:11). **This is the ability to be happy regardless of the circumstances because you have something called contentment.** Paul said it didn't make any difference whether he had a lot or whether he had a little, he was content at all times in his life. And finally there's occupation with Christ, which is what we'll talk a little bit about today, reflecting the character or essence of the Lord Jesus Christ through your life. You are to be a representative of Jesus Christ by re-presenting His life to your friends. When you're filled with the Holy Spirit that's exactly what you do, you represent the mind of Christ. That's why the Bible says we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, the Bible says. God loves us. And, if we are filled with the Holy Spirit, then we can love as well, just love right back. That's a wonderful thing. I can love people that don't love me. If you think about the worst person in your neighborhood that you don't like, you're mandated in the Bible to love that person. Not with physical love, not running down there and throwing your arms around his neck; but to be relaxed, to have a relaxed mental attitude, to be helpful, to pray for them if they need prayer, to assist them if they need assistance. You're loving them based on who God is in you, not based on who they are. They might not have anything worth loving in them but you do, because you have Jesus Christ living in you and He died for them just like He died for you. So you have no right to be prejudiced. You have no right to have hatred. You have no right to have bitterness toward any person, any race, any individual. Love, joy, peace. Peace is a wonderful asset of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's a divine characteristic and it's developed in your life when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. How do you get filled with the Holy Spirit? Well you're born into this world and when you accept Christ you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, filled with the Holy Spirit and sealed with the Holy Spirit. But when you sin, you quench the Holy Spirit and you grieve the Holy Spirit. So, what do you do? You go to God and admit your sin (problem-solving device #1 rebound). Jesus Christ our Lord promised the Holy Spirit to the disciples. He told them He had to go away but He would send an associate that would help them, a mentor, the Holy Spirit who would guide them and lead them into all truth. Whenever the Holy Spirit is leading you, you're going to be reflecting the life of Christ by having peace, love, joy. Peace, part of the filling of the Holy Spirit. It's a characteristic

of divine love manifested in you when you're filled with the Holy Spirit. Listen to this when I say it's a characteristic of divine love. Listen to this verse. Philippians 4:7, *"And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* Peace of God, it's yours. You can have it. **Our peace with God is a direct result of accepting Christ, a direct result of receiving Him as our Savior, because since He paid for our sin and God redeemed us by His mercy and saved us and forgave us then we have peace with God.** Our peace in the world, dealing with the world and what we're facing with this virus thing, comes from a relaxed mental attitude based on our using the Word of God in our souls to give us contentment and confidence. Two keywords for you to remember: being content and being confident in His plan and in His provisions. You can enjoy peace at all times because the Lord Jesus Christ enjoyed peace at all times. This peace I'm talking about is tranquility in your life where you're not overcome with fear, you're not overcome with doubt. However, **there are some people that cannot have any peace. Those are the ones who reject Christ as Savior. The unbeliever who fails to adjust to the grace of God has no peace. His humanistic attitude rejects God's forgiveness** because he deems himself either smarter than God or believes there is no God and his life runs out sooner or later and there is no peace. I call him the delusional daydreamer. He's mentioned in Proverbs 3:7 where he is the one who thinks he's wise in his own eyes. That sort of person who is wise in his own eyes, who will not defer to the wisdom of God, will never find completeness in his life and definitely will have no happiness in his life or in eternity. In fact, probably the only happiness he could ever discover would be inside of a divine institution called marriage. God designed one man and one woman for each other and there is happiness in a divine institution called marriage. But the evil of the scoffer, the one who scoffs at God, the one who rejects God, the one who thinks he is wiser than God, it'll come back to destroy him eventually and he will be abandoned alone in the devil's world, living by means of the devil's deceit and he will drift hopelessly in life with no harbor to pull into during the storm. That's the neat thing about you right now if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ you're anchored in the harbor of God's love, you're anchored in the harbor of God's peace, you're not living in the storm of life. However, the unbeliever has no anchor. He is fearful and running for his life right now, scared to death. Not you, because God's peace is expressed in confident expectation of God's plan for your life. This is what the Lord Jesus Christ said in **John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not be afraid."** Having fear is the expression of anxiety not peace. The mature believer who grows in the grace and the knowledge of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, if he possesses the peace of God, he never fears his time on earth or in eternity because of the confidence that he has from God Himself. We have to have patience. We have to have faith in God's provisions and protections. After all, you are a child of God. And after all, He loves you in spite of your failures and your flaws. He loves us. Just as you lay your children to bed and watch over them, check on them and make sure they're safe, God the Father is watching over you. He loves you. In 1 Thessalonians 5:23, *"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through*

and through; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.” The God of peace is your God and His peace you can reflect in your life when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. Another asset that is ours as Christians who grow in grace and allow the Holy Spirit to control our life is patience. That's a divine characteristic of God's divine love and it is given to us. God is patient with us. In 2 Thessalonians 3:5, *“And may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of the Lord Jesus Christ.”* Patience is a manifestation of peace. When you have peace you're very patient. Psalm 4:8, *“I will both lay me down in peace and sleep, for You, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.”* That is a good verse for you when you go to bed tonight. There are a lot of people who can't say that. They'll be watching the news trying to figure out what's going to happen. Are we going to die? Are we going to starve to death? Are we not going to have this or that? This sort of peace I'm talking about has no nightmares due to insecurity. **Your Father who loves you, the same way a human dad loves his children, will guard you even in the darkest moments of life. Your Father is watching over you right now. You might not feel it, you might not know it but He's there. Do you have the faith to trust Him?** Psalm 4:8, *“I will both lay me down in peace and sleep.”* You should have a great night's sleep and not worry about anything going on in this world. This peace that I'm talking about is a confidence in His provisions and a confidence in His protection. This is the basis for this relaxed mental attitude I'm talking about. Confidence in God's love. When you show that same love reflecting through your life to your children, to your friends, when you demonstrate that peace, it's magnetic to them. They don't understand where you get it. They may think you're a little strange. They may think you're hard. They may think you're goofy because you're not afraid like they're afraid, you're not taking all the precautions that they're taking, you're actually going outside and walking around. The peace of God is reflected by tranquility, being calm. It's reflected with harmony, which is blending your will and His will together. Your faith produces this kind of harmony. That's pretty attractive to the lost person. If he observes the way that you live, this sort of peace, this contentment we call faith-rest is music to his ears. He doesn't see it anywhere else. But if he sees it in you, he will be attracted to you and this is your opportunity to share the Lord Jesus Christ. Contentment is the reflected love of God in your life and is visible to those who are always watching you. Psalm 34:19 *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of all of them.”* All of them, not some of them, all of them. **Afflictions are an opportunity to exercise your faith. It's an opportunity to demonstrate your confidence in God's plan for your life.** They are going to come along, they have to come along, this is how we grow. 1 Corinthians 10:13 *“Think it not strange, these trials that you face are common to man.”* What we're going through today in this country is nothing different. There have been pandemics before, there have been things before that killed thousands, even millions of people. A doctor told me that the common cold has already killed 11,000 people in the country this year and that's not counting the flu. And here, now, many are worried about the virus. Afflictions are an opportunity to exercise your faith. Paul's attitude got a little bit out of sorts when he had an affliction that he wanted God to get rid of for him. He wanted a little

special attention from God. In 2 Corinthians 12:8, he asked God three times to take it away from him. But the Lord said to him, *“My grace provisions are sufficient for you, for My strength is brought forth and demonstrated in your weaknesses”* (2 Corinthians 12:9). In other words, you are the strongest when you're the weakest. When you have no resources to fall back on apart from God's grace provisions, when you have no place else to turn but to God, that's when you are your strongest and that's when your life can turn around. Once everything the devil offered you has been exploited and it's all empty and you realize it, maybe you might turn to the Lord and you can find the peace you're looking for. Paul adjusted his attitude about the suffering he had and his words are recorded where he said, *“Most gladly, because of this, I will take pleasure in my sufferings, so that the power of Jesus Christ may rest on me”* (2 Corinthians 12:9). And I might add, be reflected through him. He had confidence that God loved him. He had confidence that the suffering was given to strengthen his faith not make him weaker. It's the same thing with you. In this time of national testing you have an opportunity to accelerate your spiritual growth and reflect your confidence and God's love to others based on your complete relaxed mental attitude. Proverbs 3:5-6, *“Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.”* That's a great promise. Trust in the Lord with all your heart means recall all the Scripture you've learned, all the faith-rest drill rationales you know. And it means the cosmic system has none of this. Thus, the only thing the cosmic system can offer is the fear-panic-ploy. That's an action designed to turn the situation into an advantage by the devil. If he gets you afraid, he can manipulate you and the thing he wants to make you afraid of most is death. That's the thing no believer should ever be afraid of because Jesus Christ our Lord conquered death and He promised you that you would live as well. No one suggested we pray for deliverance until our President eventually came up with a national day of prayer. This crisis is an opportunity for evangelism. If there starts to be a lot of death, then people are going to start begging God to deliver them. You can see it coming can't you? “Please God deliver me.” When they have never even been interested in God, they've never even been interested in the Gospel, they've never even taken time to read the Bible and now that they're facing death, and maybe facing death alone, they panic and start calling out to God. *“When your fear comes as a desolation, and your destruction comes as a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call me, but I will not answer; they will seek me, but they won't find me, because they hated knowledge, and did not choose to fear the Lord”* (Proverbs 1:27-29). ***“But whoever listens to me shall dwell in safety, and shall be quiet from fear of the evil”*** (Proverbs 1:33). Here is the answer. I hope you're listening and paying attention. I hope you are the one who trusts in the Lord with all of your heart. You do that by learning His Word and applying it in your life through the filling of the Holy Spirit and reflecting the image of Jesus Christ to your friends. I hope it makes sense. This is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Crisis Living Through God's Ten Problem-Solving Devices - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 762 aired March 29, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stick around. I have some good news for you. The greatest news that I could ever tell you is that God loves you. *"For 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). That's great news. Holy God loves you in spite of what you may have done, in spite of what you may be facing. God loves you. He loves all members of the human race. You and me included. That's great news and you can love Him back. God loves you, that's His love for you, and you can love Him, you can reciprocate that love by growing in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That's what this show is about. Explaining how God's plan works. God said in the book of Jeremiah, "I'm looking for those who know Me and understand Me." **There's a big difference between knowing God and understanding God.** That's why we have these Bible classes on this radio show. We're trying to help you understand the God that you may indeed know well, but do you understand the protocol involved? What does it mean, a right thing must be done in a right way? Do you understand those unique problem-solving devices He provided for you? There are at least ten that we can identify and that's what we build our main line of resistance on. The FLOT line in your soul is your main line of resistance. Those ten unique problem-solving devices that God gave you. Learn them, orient and adjust to the plan and see the phenomenal things that can happen. That's why this show is geared up this way. Some have high IQ, some have low IQ but IQ is not the issue. Spiritual IQ is the issue. When you take God's Word and learn it and use it in your life, apply it in your soul, when you begin to think with the mind of Christ, you develop a spiritual IQ. 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."* How should we think? Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* Our Lord Jesus Christ operated under these problem-solving devices. He never needed to rebound any sin and He wasn't occupied with Himself and He had impersonal love for all mankind; He had personal love for His Father; He shared His happiness; He was oriented to the Word, He quoted the Word constantly; He was grace oriented; He lived by faith; He walked in the filling of the Holy Spirit. This is all amazing information for us but people don't want it until they get in a crisis. When a crisis hits, people tend to want to look to God because they have no answers. There's no doubt that the United States of America in the year 2020 is facing a crisis. People are scared to death. People are hoarding food, water, toilet paper. They're afraid they're going to die, afraid they're going to be stuck in their house forever, afraid they might not be able to eat. I don't know what they're afraid of. **If you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you never have to fear death.** Satan is the one who makes you fear death. He can intimidate you and manipulate you by your fear of death. You don't have to do that. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, *"The dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the*

clouds and so we will evermore be with the Lord.” This is at the Exit Resurrection. When that whistle blows, when the Father says that's it, it's over, the Lord Jesus Christ will come and retrieve the Church, the body of Christ and if you are a believer who is still alive then you'll just zap right on out of here. If you have passed away then you'll walk out of that grave in a resurrection body; a new body, a body you'll have forever. It's an amazing thing to understand. **Come to knowledge and it gives you great peace and great confidence in God's plan. We must all understand the spiritual life if we ever hope to glorify God. If we don't prepare then we don't have any recognition of what's going on and we don't have any confidence and trust in God.** Here's what the Bible says concerning what you're facing today. As a Christian how can you orient and adjust to that? In Psalm 55:22, *“Cast all your burdens on the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never suffer the righteous to be moved.”* We start with the word *cast* (the Hebrew verb *shalak*). I know something about casting. I'm a fisherman. When I'm fishing, I cast my rod and reel. Accurate casting is a requirement for an angler. We know how to cast without throwing it up in a tree, without hanging it up in the rocks, without bouncing it off the pier. We're accurate casters. I was fishing with a friend of mine who could skip a worm under a boat dock like you'd skip a flat rock. He could skip it under a boat dock with only an inch or two clearance between the dock and the water and maybe catch a big fish up under that dock hiding. Being able to accurately cast is important. It is important for you to cast. This is a mandate from the original languages, *“cast all your burdens on the Lord.”* In this case, it's the faith-rest drill. In this case, in order for your faith to be effective, you have to hit the target. If your faith doesn't hit the target you're not effective. In this case, the target is God's universal provision of Scripture. You cannot hit what you cannot see. We all depend on healthcare when necessary but the doctor that we trust most is our loving heavenly Father. So when you have a threat to your safety, when you have a threat to your security, *“cast all your burdens on the Lord and He shall [absolutely 100%] sustain you [He won't throw you under the bus, He won't abandon you]; He will never suffer the righteous to be moved.”* In Proverbs 8:17, *“I love those who love Me; and those who seek Me early shall find Me.”* Casting your cares on the Lord would be like you seeking Him early. You get up in the morning and you thank Him for a wonderful day and ask for His provisions and protection during that day and look for opportunities to reflect the love of Jesus Christ through your life to your neighbors, to your friends. In Job 5:22, *“At destruction and famine you shall laugh.”* Economic, health, social, even death - you can laugh at those destructions. Job was told this. And that's true. If you are a child of God, if you are growing spiritually, staying in fellowship and not under discipline from God for your sin, you can laugh at famine and destruction, economically, medically, socially, because you have as Psalm 55:22 says, *“Cast all your burdens on the Lord,”* this means it's not your responsibility. **Worry is you assuming an unassigned responsibility. It is not your responsibility to worry about your life, to worry about your kids, to worry about this. The Lord handles that. It's His responsibility to protect you if you are His child.** Cast all your burdens the Word says, *yehab* in the Hebrew, means the things that you have been placed under, the responsibilities that you

have been given. You have been placed under responsibility at this time in our country maybe because of quarantine, maybe you can't do this, you can't do that. That's the burden that you're carrying. Just cast it on Him. Relax. Take it easy. Enjoy life. He's in control. Matthew 11:28, *"Come to Me, all you that are laboring and carrying a heavy burden and I will give you rest."* The Greek word for burden is *phortizo* which refers to the demands that you've been placed under. Physically placing demands on your resources. It is used metaphorically for the demands, for example, of the law of Moses imposed by the religious leaders. People couldn't live under those laws, they couldn't exist under those laws, no one could live up to that. You have to cast every burden you have on the Lord. In Matthew 10:28, *"Fear not them who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* That's right, there will either be two births or two deaths. The first birth is when you're born into the world from your mom and pop and you come into the world as a baby. Birth two is when you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you are born again. The Lord Jesus Christ told Nicodemus he needed to be born again in John 3:3. Nicodemus didn't quite understand it, he thought that was crazy, that no one could go back into his mother's womb and be born again. The Lord corrected him and said it's not physical but spiritual. The spiritual rebirth is your human spirit being made alive as God the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you and makes you spiritually alive. You're born spiritually dead, you're born with a sin infected virus, the virus of sin and death. *"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) and *"the wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23). You're born into that. You have that virus already and there's only one solution. **There's only one thing to be inoculated with and that is "believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved" (Acts 16:31). That's the antidote to the virus of sin and death. It's yours if you want it.** Don't be afraid of anyone else. If you want to be afraid of somebody, you better take a look at what God said. Hell is not the place you want to be. Hell and the Lake of Fire are horrible. Revelation 20:14-15 says, *"Whoever's name was not found written in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire; this is the second death."* You're either going to be born twice or die twice. The first death is *"It is appointed for men once to die and after that comes judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27). The second death is being cast in the Lake of Fire. If you have had two births you will not have two deaths but if you've only had one birth then you go through two deaths. Death one, physical death and death two, cast in the Lake of Fire. **Put your trust in the Lord and don't worry about what man can do to you. Psalm 56:11, "In God I have put my trust, I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"** Regardless of what man can create, nobody is going anywhere until the Lord says it's time. **In 1 Peter 5:7, "Casting all your anxieties on Him, for He cares for you." This means your loving Father is watching over you.** I pity those that have no hope, no divine protection. You need to tell them the good news about the eradication of the sin and death virus and maybe they might believe it. If they don't have any hope, if they don't have any divine protection, then they are scared to death. Romans 8:2, *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made you free from the law of sin and death."* There is the sin and death virus

and Christ Jesus is the antidote to the sin and death. Philippians 1:9-10 talks about the love of God for you. God loves you. He's not going to throw you under the bus. He's watching over you. **Do you have the faith to trust Him? Can you trust God with your life, with the life of your children, with your finances?** If so, then it's in His court not your court. If you don't, then you're going to worry, be afraid, be intimidated. In Philippians 1:9-10, "*This is my prayer, that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best, that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.*" Knowledge produces wisdom and wisdom gives insight and discernment. "*Your love*" is the Greek word *agape*; that's the divine love that we understand to be occupation with Christ. Paul, writing to the church at Philippi but to you as well, wants your love to abound, *perisseuo*. He was praying for your spiritual growth just like your pastor would pray that you would increase in spiritual growth. *Perisseuo* means to exceed a certain number or certain measure; it's in the subjunctive mood which means maybe it will and maybe it won't. It's really up to you, how much hunger you have, whether or not you have a desire for knowledge. When "*Knowledge becomes pleasant to your soul*" (Proverbs 2:10) means that knowledge is great, like something you can't wait to get. Do you love the Word of God? Can you not wait to get into it today like you can't wait to get your favorite food? What about the Bible? What about God's Word? Do you have a hunger for the Word of God? I hope so because that's what it's going to take. "*Abound,*" I want your love to abound more and more. The Lord Jesus Christ knew all about abounding. When He fed those 5,000 they had twelve full baskets leftover. His love demonstrated His provisions and care for them. You have to do the same thing. The greatest love we've seen apart from the love of God or our love for God is a combat veteran's love. Men who faced death together have a great love and great appreciation for each other. I've had the honor of knowing men that love their combat brothers. In World War II the Japanese were willingly to die for the Emperor Hirohito but they were amazed that the American fighting man would die for one another. Love for a fellow soldier would cause them to jump on a grenade to save another's life. I want you to think about this. The Lord Jesus Christ jumped on the grenade in the foxhole for you. He died for you. He took your place. He sacrificed Himself to make you free. He did it for you. Our love for God has different levels based on maturity, on fidelity and on trust, but you must grow to appreciate that love and the only way to do it is to grow in knowledge. The word *epignosis* is the word for knowledge here. There are a couple of words for knowledge in the Bible. One of them is *gnosis* and that knowledge doesn't do you any good, it's just an accumulation of facts that you understand. But *epignosis* is knowledge that you converted from fact to faith, believed it and applied it into your life. This is what God is looking for. For you to take the information you're hearing from your pastor and to transfer that information from your mind where it assimilates over to your heart where you can make the application. When it's in your heart it's *epignosis*. When it's in your mind it's *gnosis*. Gnosticism is a worship of knowledge. Christianity is not Gnosticism. We worship the Lord Jesus Christ and our heavenly Father. We come to understand these things, it gets into our heart, we learn about it, we apply it into our life. Paul wants their love to increase. If

you consider love is much like a river, it flows directionally. When a river gets out of its banks and floods it's very destructive. It can wipe away homes and cars and kill people. Love that's not under control is destructive. If you can't control passion it's destructive. The only way you can ever control love is not to let it be an emotional thing. This is not an emotional thing. This is a different type of love. This is a love that is related to your understanding God's plan for your life. Paul wants your love to grow in knowledge and depth of insight. The word depth of insight is the Greek word *aisthesis* and it means discernment. That you would have great discernment in your soul. If you consider the banks of the river; on one side of the river is knowledge and on the other side is discernment. This is how you keep love directionally going. If you learn about God's Word, if you not only know Him but understand Him then you have *epignosis*. When you have *epignosis* you can respond to God's love by loving Him back reciprocally. When you love Him you have discernment and that's the other side of the bank of the river - discernment or *aisthesis*. This is you having the ability to see through the devil's mirage. Satan throws up a smokescreen and if you have knowledge of the Word of God, you can have discernment to see through it and not be distracted, not be knocked off course, not be defeated in your Christian life. The delusional daydreamer is not interested in discovering the love of God because he's in love with his own self. He considers himself to be equal with God. Proverbs 1:22, "*How long will you naïve ones love being simple?*" They consider themselves "*wise in their own eyes*" (Proverbs 3:7). People who are delusional daydreamers are in panic palace today because they thought they were so smart. They didn't need God. They didn't need God's Word. They didn't need the filling of the Holy Spirit. They didn't need the Lord Jesus Christ. But when they start facing a crisis like this, then they may begin to second-think or they'll just get bitter and angry and say okay there is a god but I hate him because of what he's done. Without acquiring some sort of spiritual IQ by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit (problem-solving device #2) and without you having some *epignosis* (that's taking what you heard and applying it into your life) you will never have maximum love or maximum appreciation for God. At best it'll just be a superficial emotion which is better than nothing but far from the best. The best is knowing the God you love, understanding the God you love, how you can reflect Jesus Christ through your life, how you can fulfill God's plan in your life. It's sad to wind up doing all the right things in the wrong way and thus accumulating nothing but wood, hay and stubble at the Judgment Seat of Christ. That's what it's going to be for a lot of folks that didn't understand. Oh they love God but they didn't understand the God they loved. They did the right thing but in the wrong way. It says in Philippians 1:10, "*So that you would be able to discern what is best and that you could be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.*" "*To discern*" is the Greek word *dokimazo*, there never is a time you shouldn't discern. You should always be able to discern what is God's will for your life. If you don't understand that then you don't have a place to get started. The Bible wants you to approve God's will for your life that you may be able to discern what is best, pure and blameless. You have to make choices in life. You have to distinguish between what's excellent and what's wrong. Many people waste time doing good things that are totally a waste of time in their

spiritual life. It's easy to get distracted and drift from grace by getting involved in some program that has nothing to do with your spiritual growth. Let me wrap this up by saying Paul wants you to be pure. Pure is the Greek word *eilikrines* which means not contaminated. Not contaminated morally and not contaminated with false doctrine, pure from defilement. How could you reflect the love of God if you're contaminated with prejudice, religious ritual or self-serving sin. You can't. Paul wants you to be pure and blameless - *aproskopos* means not causing others to stumble or lead them astray. "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18a) and continue to glorify Christ with your life. You know there are some pretty sleazy people running around this country and we have a mandate to love them just like Christ loves them. We might not approve of their sin but we do offer them deliverance and forgiveness and love in Christ Jesus. We have to because God loves them just as much as He loves you. Is it possible you forgot that? Is it possible you don't have that first love you had? Remember why He came - "*The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost*" (Luke 19:10) - and you're not the only one that needed it. That's your mission also, to demonstrate God's love through your life, be a reflection of Jesus Christ's love for them, give them hope in this time of crisis. People are scared. People don't know where to go. They don't know what to do. You have the answers. Some of those we gave you today. So think about it. Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

How to Live in Historical Disaster

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 763 aired on April 5, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm Rick Hughes your host inviting you to stick around for a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education and it'll all be done without any manipulation. The FLOT Line is designed to give you accurate information to help you verify and identify God's plan for your life. If you can do that, you certainly have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. God gave you two ends; one of those ends you think with and one you sit with. Success in your life is going to depend on which one of those you use; heads you win, tails you lose. We give you information coming out of the Bible called wisdom from God. It starts off as knowledge. When I teach you something it's called knowledge. In the Bible there are two different words for knowledge. One word is *gnosis* and then there's the word *epignosis* which means full knowledge. Knowledge and full-knowledge. I can give you knowledge but I can't give you full knowledge. The only way you can get that is by positive volition - believe the Word of God you hear and apply it in your life. Once it becomes *epignosis*, full knowledge, then it's converted into wisdom. Once you have wisdom in your soul you have discernment and insight. The phenomenal ability to have X-ray vision to see through the devil's lie, to see through the delusion the devil throws forth, the mirage, the stuff that's not really true. That's what wisdom gives you. The wisdom from the Word of God, from the Scripture, can save your life. Wisdom from Scripture can deliver you from financial disaster if you listen to God and pay attention to God. We give you this information hopefully to develop some sort of divine viewpoint in your life which is the viewpoint of God, having the mind of Christ, Philippians 2:5, developing the mind of Christ so you have the wisdom that is discernment and insight into what life is all about. There is no doubt as I talk to you today we are living in a crisis. I don't know that there's ever been a time in this country that's been like this. I don't know if we've ever seen anything like this. There are mixed messages going around, threats of isolation and impending death. They abound everywhere in big cities and around the country. Folks are being told not to come out of their home unless it's absolutely necessary. Fear and panic setting up in local communities and in the financial world. It seems to me like people are jockeying to get the most food they can, the most paper products they can, even the most money they can because greed and fear have gripped this country. What about you? Are you afraid? I'm recording this show in late March and it probably won't play until early April but what will happen between now and then is a big question. I'm not a prophet but here is something that I do know about the enemy, a.k.a. the devil. **The devil will use our fear to make us weak.** This includes spiritual warfare, even physical warfare and a physical enemy. America's enemies, whoever they may be across this great world, will use this national panic to gain an advantage over us but the greater problem for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ is have we allowed fear to control us? Have we let fear take us over? The more you surrender to fear, the more you fear. There has to be a better way to live according to God's Word and there is a better way to live. You don't have to live under fear. The Bible is clear about that. Let's talk about that this morning.

Believers, we who have trusted in the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ, have advantages and assets that unbelievers don't have. I've said this before, there's a train wreck coming and I can hear the whistle blowing. Well, I think the train wreck may be here. We're standing at the crossroad right now and the warning thing is down and the lights are clanging and the train is barreling in closer. As we watch our nation sink into the depths of medical uncertainty, as we watch America sink into political unrest, you and I have to ask ourselves, how in the world do I maintain a normal life in the middle of all these abnormal times? Is it possible? Yes, it is possible. I'm not qualified to give any medical or financial commentary, but I can give Biblical encouragement during these changing times. Make no mistake about it, we're going to witness a fundamental change in our daily lives if this stuff ever runs its course. But don't act surprised, because as a great nation like America most of our people have turned their focus inward and have been focusing on the gifts of prosperity and they forgot the Giver. That's really a shame. Sometimes in a crisis like this, the gifts of money and the gifts of health, you know you get scared and you start looking to the Giver and say, "Please help me." Did you forget that we are living in the middle of an angelic conflict? This worldwide event that we're going through and what we're facing is an opportunity for Satan to gain an advantage over you and over the nation. What's bad is that we're going to sail through these uncharted waters and many who are in the storm have no moral rudder, no anchor in their soul much less a port to pull into where they could ride out the storm. Because churches are forced to close, many do not have the harbor to pull into a local church. Many lost people do not see the beacon of hope shining from the lighthouse of the local church, illuminating the entrance to the port, the local church. This means that you and I must be the harbor of hope. **Wherever you are, wherever I am, we must be the light for our family and our friends.** We must have a peaceful presence to calm their fears. Is it possible for us to have this? Yes. Can I have peace in a worldwide panic? Yes, absolutely. The storm about you will rage and the battle will continue. What kind of battle? The battle to control your thinking. The battle to get you to live by your emotions and not think clearly. This is how the devil defeats you, if he can get you to live by your emotions and not think clearly. The enemy that we're talking about, a.k.a. the devil, seeks to vindicate himself. He doesn't want to go to the Lake of Fire; he wants to control his world. This is his world. The Bible says we live in the devil's world and we are sojourners, we're passing through. Heaven (the Greek word *ouranos*) is our home. The storms are going to rage, battles are going to continue. If it wasn't this, it would be something else. We could face a historical disaster in America and it could be full of personal catastrophes as we're seeing today, but as a growing believer we can shine our light in the storm and still be standing when the storm dies out. Much like a lighthouse in Michigan that I've walked out on the pier to many times up around Grand Haven or Holland, Michigan or Saugatuck, Michigan, those light houses stand out facing across the great Lake Michigan toward Chicago or Milwaukee and they are a way of signal to get back to land safely coming across Lake Michigan. You can be a light like this. You can be the port in the storm. In Matthew 5:14, "*You are the light of the world.*" This is our Lord Jesus Christ speaking to His disciples as He

gave the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-14. Our Lord stated that we should not cover our light but rather set it on a lampstand. *“Let your light so shine among men that they may see your divine good production, and glorify your Father who is in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16). That's what we have to be. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and you're full of panic and fear, if you're intimidated by the circumstances, your light is not shining. You have to stand firm and tall and confident and full of assurance and full of faith and you will be a beacon of hope to those around you that don't have those things. John said that Jesus *“was the burning and shining lamp [and he told those people that came to hear him] you were willing for a time to rejoice in His light”* (John 5:35). That's what people do. They accept Christ as their Savior and then they forget about it. That's what Revelation 2 talks about to the church at Ephesus where they forgot their first love. Jesus said, *“You have lost your first love”* (Revelation 2:4). The only way to keep that light bright is to stay in love with the Lord Jesus Christ and that is a problem-solving device that we call occupation with Christ. Remember the FLOT line of your soul, this is what's important, in these days you must have a FLOT line. All of these 15+ years I've been teaching about a FLOT line in your soul, a Forward Line of Troops, a main line of resistance to stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. Now is when you need it. We'll go through them again. Rebound (problem-solving device #1) is how you get rid of the problem of sin and failure because we all are infected with that virus - the virus of sin and death. Then the filling of the Holy Spirit is how we deal with the sin nature that we have as a way to live without letting the sin nature control our life. That's why the Bible says, *“The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh; they are contrary one to the other”* (Galatians 5:17). When we rebound or when we confess known sin we allow the Holy Spirit to control us. If we don't, then we allow the sin nature to control us. Ephesians 5:18 says, *“Be filled with the Spirit”* not the sin nature. So constantly you and I must keep a close check on sin in our life. Fear and worry are definitely sin in your life. You must remember that. By using the problem-solving devices it is possible to come to the faith-rest drill. With the faith-rest drill you're standing on God's promises, you're relaxed, you're confident. There are over 7,000 promises in the Bible that you can lean on and you can trust on. **That's part of the FLOT line of your soul. Using the faith-rest drill, claiming a promise, getting a Biblical rationale and understanding what God's doing.** These are promises you should know. *“What time I am afraid, I will trust in Him”* (Psalm 56:3). *“No weapon that is formed against you will prosper”* (Isaiah 54:17). There are many more we'll talk about. We have the rebound technique (problem-solving device #1), the filling of the Holy Spirit (problem-solving device #2), the faith-rest drill (problem-solving device #3), grace orientation (problem-solving device #4) orienting to the grace of God, how He saved us by grace, we live by grace, we die by grace and there's even surpassing grace in heaven, and Biblical orientation (problem-solving device #5) orienting our life to the mind of Christ, thinking as Christ thought, having divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint. These first five give us a personal sense of destiny so we know God has a plan for our lives. He has a plan for your life and that plan is not to throw you under the bus, that plan is not

to see you die in a pile of dust on the side of the road, that plan is for you to be a light to the world and glorify Jesus Christ as you represent Him to your friends. If you love the Lord, that's personal love for God, the greatest virtue you could have (problem-solving device #7). Then you have impersonal love for mankind, the mandate that we've been told to love our neighbor as we love ourselves (problem-solving device #8). Then sharing the happiness of God (problem-solving device #9) My joy, Christ said, I leave with you. And eventually occupation with Christ (problem-solving device #10) being occupied with the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. I hear people sometimes say "Thank you Jesus." Sometimes that kind of gets me a little hackled because He is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Sometimes we get a little bit too familiar on a first name basis here. I mean if you saw the president you wouldn't call him Donald you'd call him Mr. President. **Being occupied with the anointed Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, is an amazing problem-solving device because you know He loves you and you reciprocate that love by loving Him back and it's demonstrated by your obedience and your faith.** Jesus was the burning and shining lamp and many for a time followed His light, but many wandered off to the side. Here's a neat thing. If our Lord could calm the raging storm of John 6:18, He can calm a storm in your life that you face if you would just let Him get in your boat. Listen to John 6:18-21, *"Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles [Peter, James, John, Andrew, the fisherman] they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. [Jesus Christ scared them more than the storm scared them] But He said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they willingly received Him into the boat; and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going."* Let's get some principles on this. This is very interesting. **A relationship with Jesus Christ does not remove all the storms in your life but He gives you His assurance that He will ride out the storm in the boat with you.** He is in the boat with you today if you're occupied with Christ, if you're filled with the Holy Spirit, by rebounding sin, Christ is in the boat with you. **Accepting Christ as your Savior is you inviting Him to get into your boat.** Notice this, He took those disciples to the other side. They didn't have to row anymore. Bam, they were there. When you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, when you turn your life over to Him by faith alone in Christ alone, you're inviting Him to captain your ship. When you're staying filled with the Holy Spirit, when you're learning God's Word and applying the principles of faith to your life, when you're growing in grace, when you're developing divine viewpoint, coming to a personal sense of destiny and increasing your love for God this is what it means to be riding out the storm. This is what it means for Christ to be in the boat with you. This is amazing. There's a storm going on in this nation today and a lot of people have Christ in the boat but they're not letting Him control the boat to use that metaphor. He's not in control. To some people He is still out there on the sea, He isn't in the boat yet. **When you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you can be confident He will never leave you, He will never forsake you in any storm in life you may ever face.** God loves you. That's such an amazing statement. It's so simple - you, a small speck of sand in the sea, God knows you, God loves you. You say, "But

you don't know what I've done.” No I don’t, but you don't know what I've done either. God loves us in spite of who we are. He loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to pay for our sin. The overwhelming love of God is immutable, it’s inscrutable, you can't fathom it, you can't think of it, you can’t imagine it. It is just amazing. It is God. God is love, the Bible tells us that. He loves you today. You don't have to be afraid of anything. You don't have to fear anything. Just let Him take control of the boat. You be the light. You be the port in the storm. The Lord sits in heaven at the right hand of the Father, but you have a personal pilot. That pilot, just like any big ship that has to make its way into a big harbor or a big port, they have what's called a harbor pilot. They go out and get the harbor pilot to bring the big ship in to New York or to bring the big ship in to LA. The harbor pilot is one that guides it in through the channels and through the narrow waters. This is what the Holy Spirit does for you. The Holy Spirit is your harbor pilot. He leads you to the security of the port where the storm cannot get to you. Remember this is why we study the FLOT Line so you can have a main line of resistance, a spiritual radar that sees through the fog of the devil's deceit. That wisdom we’ve been talking about on this show, the one that gives you insight and discernment, is your radar system. It is the system, the Word of God, that illuminates the lies and the evil plans of Satan. **Listen to Psalm 119:130, “The entrance of Your Word gives light,”** there it is. Go outside tonight without a flashlight, stand in the dark, take your flashlight and pop it on and there's light. That's what the Word of God does for you. “The entrance of Your Word into my soul gives me light,” I can see now. Psalm 43:3, “*O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me,*” it's amazing. It's amazing when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, when you have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, when you've learned God's Word and applied it. The light is always with you, guiding you through the storm of life. It’s called Biblical orientation or doctrinal orientation on the very FLOT line of your soul. That's what it is. God the Holy Spirit plus Bible doctrine gives you the peace that the world does not have. The world doesn't possess it. The world doesn't understand what it is. They don't have peace like you can. You can have peace in a storm even though the waves may be raging. Do you remember Matthew 8 when the Lord Jesus Christ was asleep in the boat? This is another episode with the disciples and they woke Him up and said, “Lord save us, we’re going to die.” He was in the boat with them asleep. They actually thought for a minute that they would drown and that the Lord Jesus Christ would drown. That's not going to happen. That was not God's plan. God's plan all along was for Him to go to the cross. When He got up, He called them short-time trusters. Are you a short-time truster? Do you trust the Lord Jesus Christ and the provisions that God has for you because things are going great, the grocery store was open, you had money in your bank account, you could get fuel for your car? Or when things started getting a little tight did you quit trusting and start scrabbling around and worrying and being full of fear and being manipulated by Satan? Your peace in this storm that we’re going through is attractive to a lost person, the disadvantaged person who's alone. **The whole reason for you to have that FLOT line in your soul and have that relaxed mental attitude is to be attractive, to be a light, to be a port in the storm because there are people in this nation that need what you have. You must talk**

about it. If you're a football fan, you're going to talk about it but how many people are Christian and say, "That's a personal issue, I don't really want to talk about it." That's bull. Talk about it. Let folks see where your confidence comes from. Let folks see where your love is demonstrated for God and His Word. It is an anchor for them. It is a port for them. It's a light in the storm for them. Your confident expectation must be demonstrated. John 14:27, "*Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*" That's what Jesus said. Troubled and afraid are sins. Fear is the expression of anxiety, not peace. In 2 Timothy 1:7, "*God has not given us a lifestyle of fear, but of power and love and sound judgment.*" That's the lifestyle Paul talked about. You don't have to be afraid. Nothing to be afraid of. If the Lord Jesus Christ is in the boat and the Holy Spirit is directing it as a harbor pilot would, and the Word of God is illuminating lighting the way, what do you have to be afraid of? God was in business before you got here and He will be in business even when you're gone. You have sound judgment because that's called faith. Faith, a lifestyle of power, that's the filling of the Holy Spirit. A lifestyle of love, that's personal love for God and impersonal love for others and of sound judgment, that's wisdom with insight and discernment. That's what God's given you. People are always afraid. If they have something, they are afraid they'll lose it. If they don't have something, they are afraid they are never going to get it. That's how people live today, no matter the circumstances, they are insecure. Fear is both a sin and an emotion and you can't let emotions run your life. Why? Because fear will rob you of the ability to think under pressure. You can't think when you're afraid. Your mind will wag like a dog's tail that's excited to see you. You won't be able to focus. You won't be able to concentrate. Problem-solving device #3 on the FLOT line of your soul is called the faith-rest drill. You know what that does? When you use the faith-rest drill it robs fear of its power. The faith-rest drill robs fear of its power to control your thinking. That's what it does. It orients you to God's grace. It calms you down. You claim a promise, you go to a Biblical rationale and you form a conclusion. God is with me. God knew this was going to happen a long time ago. I have nothing to sweat. He's in charge. He sits on His throne. He knows everything that's going on. You can relax. The faith-rest is fueled by the promises of Scripture. We have a book on promises, it's free, *Bible Promises and Principles*. All kinds of promises for all kinds of situations that you're in. Feel free to order it and we'll be glad to ship it right out to you free of charge. Develop faith-rest fueled by learning the promises of the Scripture. **Your faith-rest is demonstrating your confidence in God's plan and your confidence in God's provisions.** You must have confidence. Romans 8:28, "*We know that God causes all things [all things, even things like are going on in America today] to work together for good to those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose.*" Philippians 4:7, "*And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*" Guard your heart and mind, keep you from being panicked, keep you from being afraid, keep you from falling victim to your emotions. It's amazing how the answers are right in front of us. All right here in the Bible, in the Word of God. I'm so glad I can give these radio shows to you and offer you this information. So if you need anything give us a shout. We're here. We thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Importance of Faith

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 764 aired on April 12, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please stick around, stay with me. Thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education and we do this without manipulation. You know that, you hear me say it every Sunday morning there on your local radio station. The FLOT Line is designed to teach God's unique problem-solving devices, something we desperately need in today's situation. Having a main line of resistance in your soul that stops the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. That's why we say adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. In this show we'll talk about soul renovation, changing the way you think, letting your mind change. God gave you two ends, one to sit with and one to think with. Success in life depends on which one you use. The Bible talks about acquiring the mind of Christ in Philippians 2:5. That means changing the way you think, that means beginning to think in terms of divine viewpoint not human viewpoint. It also says 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 given to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word.*" My job as a communicator of information is to be accurate, truthful, not to mislead you, not to use any gimmicks and not any games but to give you just simple, good, verifiable information that you can take and apply into your life. That's what I seek to do. So let's get going. If you want to learn some more, stick around, hang in here with me because this is a critical time in your life. **A critical time for you to orient and adjust to God's plan** and I hope that these messages will give you that insight, how to do that. This message is called "The Importance of Faith." The word faith is the word *pistis* in the original language of the Greek New Testament and the verb is *piste*. Faith and believe, same word faith and believe. Believe is the verb, faith is the noun. In Hebrews 11:6, "*But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.*" **Without faith it's impossible to please God. The one thing that God demands from you is faith.** We know that faith comes in several stages. There is saving faith, where we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and are saved; we're going to talk about that today. "*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God*" (Ephesians 2:8). But the verse that we're looking at here is "*But without faith it's impossible to please God, for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.*" "*Diligently*" is a word I want to take a look at this morning. The Greek word *ekzeteo* means to search out or investigate or even crave for. The question is, do you have a craving? **Do you have an insatiable desire to investigate the plan of God for your life?** Are you hungry for that? The Bible says in Proverbs "*when knowledge becomes pleasant to your soul.*" A lot of people don't seek out knowledge, they're not interested in knowledge of the Word of God. It's either too threatening or too boring or they just don't believe it. There are several reasons there. But what about you? Do you find the Bible relevant for your life? Are you interested in knowing God's plan for your life? Because if you

are, you are tuned into the right place, not that I have all the answers. I'm not a pastor, I'm not representing any denomination, but I'm telling you as it comes from the Word of God through my lips what the Bible says in Psalm 19:1. How can I find God? Well let me give you one way you can do it. Psalm 19:1-3, *"The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day unto day they utter speech, and night unto night they show knowledge. There is no speech and no language anywhere where their voice has not been heard."* All you have to do is look up and realize there's a God. The heavens tell the story, the sun in the day time the moon at night, the universe, the stars, the planets, they didn't just happen to appear. They were placed there by a magnificent designer. God Himself placed them there. It can be someone in Africa, in America, in Egypt, in the Arctic. All they have to do is look up and see and realize there's a God. *"The heavens declare the work of His hand. Day unto day they utter speech."* Do you want to hear what the speech is? I'm here. *"Night unto night they show knowledge."* What's the knowledge? This is not an accident, this is God's design, God's plan. Isaiah 40:26, *"Lift up your eyes look to the heavens, who created all of this it is He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name; because of His great power and mighty strength not one of them is missing."* Could you imagine if some astronomer looked through his telescope tonight and Saturn was missing, Venus was gone or some universe somewhere was not there anymore? What would he do? God holds it all together and here is what I really like, He calls one by one, calls forth each of them by name. The principle is this: if God knows the name of every star in the entire universe, and I read it to you, *"He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each one of them by name,"* if God does that, then can He not know who you are as well? Yes, He knows who you are. He knows your name. He knows where you live. He knows what you're going through. This is the omniscience of God and it's demonstrated by this thought that I just read to you. He's omniscient. **If you are His child by faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross, that means if you have believed and received Christ as your Savior, what do you have to fear? Not one thing.** If He can keep this entire universe in order so that not one star is missing, can He not keep His eye on you? Yes, absolutely. You have nothing to worry about. **Under no circumstances are you ever to let fear control your life - never. Each of us have a divine promise of security and the provision of peace in the midst of frightening circumstances.** We are in some frightening circumstances in the United States of America today. Who knows where we're going or what's going to happen. We really don't know what's going on with this coronavirus. Where we're going to go financially, physically, emotionally, spiritually - who knows? But anyone who's a short-time truster, those Christians who never really develop a FLOT line in their soul, will never enjoy the benefits of security or happiness in the devil's world. They'll never have it because there's always dread on the horizon - what's coming next? If you think this virus is bad, you haven't seen anything yet according to the Bible and what comes down in the Tribulation. What can happen in the fifth cycle of discipline is a client nation like America goes under the discipline of God because we turned our back on Him or any client nation that turned their back on Him. We're not the first

client nation in history. You can say we haven't exactly kept His name front and foremost. We've found every law we can to kick Him out of the public venue, kick Him out of schools - that is, God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything that used to be evil we now make it good and everything that used to be nasty and evil and perverse is now okay. I would say America is in trouble. The train wreck is coming and you can hear the whistle blowing. Sooner or later the storm will hit your life and here's the problem. If you've neglected God and His Word you will have no peace and no comfort in the storm. You're going to be on your own, you're going to be struggling trying to make sense out of it instead of relaxing and using God's problem-solving devices. Your prayers might not even be answered if you try to do the right thing in the wrong way. The Bible says, *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear"* (Psalm 66:18). If you are frightened to death - fear is a sin - so if you're trying to pray and you're in fear, don't expect that to be answered. You have to confess the sin first. Remember that, because fear quenches and grieves the Holy Spirit. It doesn't let Him control your life. Your sin nature thrives on fear. Your sin nature thrives on emotional revolt of the soul, letting your emotions take over. That's not the way the Holy Spirit operates. In Galatians it says if you're filled with the Holy Spirit you have love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness and meekness. You're not being filled with the Spirit when you're running around like a chicken with its head cut off in the yard. Come on, sooner or later there is going to be a storm in your life and if you're not doing the right thing in the right way, you're not going to have any peace. Proverbs 1:7, *"The respect of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."* They don't want it. They don't want anything to do with it and that's a shame but that's what's going to happen. The fool is wise in his own eyes. He thinks he's smarter than God. He thinks he doesn't need God until all the stuff hits the fan and then he wants God to be a genie and make it all go away. There are a lot of words of comfort found in the Bible, not in the daily advice columns that the cosmic system offers. The words of comfort you need are found in the Scripture. What you will find in an advice column are empty words, words that carry no weight. Ephesians 5:6, *"Let no one deceive you with empty words."* What's an empty word? That's a word that doesn't have a doctrinal application, that doesn't come out of the Word of God. *"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"* (Hebrews 4:12). *"The Word of God lives and abides forever"* (Isaiah 40:8). Empty words are words that someone comes up with in arrogant self-righteousness and tries to explain what's going on. Can't do it. Can't live with empty words. Empty words are especially religious words. Religion is the enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ. The empty words of the Pharisees and the Sadducees were taking people to hell and the Lord Jesus Christ came to rescue them and deliver them from the empty words of legalism. Do you know what that is? That's someone who says, "You can't go to heaven brother if you smoke that cigarette. You can't go to heaven brother if you drink that beer. You can't go to heaven brother if you watch that TV show." That's legalism. There is always some self-righteous Christian that would love to run your life for you. The Bible doesn't say

anything like that. As a matter fact the Bible says a lot of different things but not what I just told you. Persuasive words is another one. Empty words carry no weight. Persuasive words, Colossians 2:4, "*I say this so that no one will deceive you with arguments.*" We have deceive again, deception, deceive you with arguments that sound reasonable. There are several ways to perceive truth: mysticism, rationalism, empiricism. Rationalism is trying to rationally come up with some answer, like we're really just millions of years old, we came from a monkey and all that sort of stuff. Sounds reasonable to come up with some scientific explanation. Don't let anybody deceive you with some reasonable sounding hypothesis of rationalism or empiricism where we take scientific data and try to come to some kind of conclusion. It doesn't make any difference if the data is flawed already. The way you come to truth is *pistisism* and that's the word faith. Live by faith. We operate by faith, we live by faith, we focus on faith, we spread faith around. That's a key word for you. Those that come to God, as I started off saying, without faith it is impossible to please Him. You must have faith. Faith is not empty words, faith is not persuasive words and faith is not deceptive words. In 2 Peter 2:3, "*In their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words.*" That could be the televangelist right now, that could be what's been going on in this country for a long time. People making money off of God, exploiting people with promises that they can't fulfill, selling things that are unnecessary and basically trying the patience of God. That's exactly what's going on. Successful living in the devil's world requires accurate instructions. If you want to live in the devil's world where you are, right now, you're here, you've got to have some accurate instruction for you and for your children. We start off with Ephesians 6:1-2, "*Children, obey your parents. Honor your father and your mother.*" Those words lead to authority orientation and unless a child learns authority orientation in the home, then he's going to be maladjusted in life with some sort of flaw in his life, an incorrigible person that's going to be hard to deal with. Honor your father and your mother, obey your father and your mother. Two different words. Obey is the Greek word *hupotasso* and it's a military thing like "about-face, attention" and the soldier makes the pivot and snaps to attention. That's what this word *hupotasso* means. It's an order, a command. Children, obey your parents. When they don't obey there's always a source of discipline. Sometimes you can do the Greek word *paideia* and sometimes you can do the Greek word *nouthesia*. *Paideia* means to put something on them with a paddle and *nouthesia* means to put something in their mind. There are two ways to discipline: you discipline with instruction and you discipline with pain. It's the same thing God does to you when you disobey Him as a believer. Children have to learn authority orientation at home. You have to encourage positive volition in your children. Explain negative volition and positive volition and expose them to the Word of God. Expose them to the Biblical principles and truth of the Bible and let them see that you believe it and you live by it. If you can expose them to Scripture by nightly Bible reading and explaining what it means to them, you'll be way ahead of anyone else. Satan wants to steal their thoughts and inject fear through their mind through intimidation of death. That's exactly what he wants to do and he'll do it to you too. He will steal your thoughts, especially in this crisis we're going through, and inject fear through intimidation

of death. Where did I get that? Hebrews 2:14-15, *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself [the Lord Jesus Christ] likewise took part of the same [flesh and blood] that through death on the cross He might destroy the one that had the power of death, [Satan] that is, the devil; and deliver them who through the fear of death were all their life subject to bondage.”* This is what Satan uses to manipulate people with. This is what Satan uses to intimidate people with. Are you afraid of dying? Has this virus gotten so out of control that you're afraid you're going to catch it and you're going to die? Are you? **Where's your faith? You must trust God, you must know He's your heavenly Father and He loves you,** He's not going to hang you out to dry. If He does call you home, you'll be going to a much better place than a sin infested world where the real virus is sin and death. That's the real virus in this country and in the whole world, sin and death, and it started with Adam. *“For by one man sin came into the world, and death by sin, and so death has passed on all”* (Romans 5:12). **There is an antidote for sin and death. That antidote is faith alone in Christ alone. God's textbook for you is the Bible.** Why was the Bible written? Proverbs 1:2 says so you can learn wisdom and moral instructions and get some wise counsel. Since we're all infected with the sin and death virus we ought to learn how to avoid letting our sin nature lead us to an early death. Romans 8:2, *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made you free from the law of sin and of death.”* There's the sin and death virus. I'm free of that thing because I have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and I've learned God's problem-solving devices starting with rebound where I don't have to let my sin nature control me any longer. I don't have to live by fear or intimidation. I can stand on faith in God's Word and God's promises. Exactly what Moses told the Jews as they fled out of Egypt and got to the Red Sea and it looked like they were all going to die. He said, *“Stand still and watch what God is about to do.”* Can you do that? Can you just stand still and watch what God is about to do for you? Do you want to learn God's unique problem-solving devices, do you want to learn His unique protocol plan for your life? I hope you do. Not many people really want to. If you look across this country there are not a lot of people that are really interested in learning anything except what's on TV tonight or what their favorite sports team is doing or something like that. Jeremiah faced it in his generation, he said, *“For My people are foolish, they have not known Me; they are stupid children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge”* (Jeremiah 4:22). The exact same thing we face today. Stupid people that think they are wise in their own eyes and have ignored God's Word and God's system of divine institutions and it brings us to places like where we are today. Jeremiah 6:10, *“Behold, the Word of the Lord is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.”* They don't like it, don't want it, not interested in it. This plan that I'm talking about for you starts with God's loving grace. The grace in John 3:16 is plain, *“God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.”* That's as plain as can be. He loved you in eternity past. Before you were born He loved you and He provided for you a way out from the law of sin and death. The viruses sin and death are no longer controlling you. It all starts with God's loving grace. *“For by grace are you saved through faith”* (Ephesians 2:8). It goes from there to mercy, God's mercy. Titus

3:5-6, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Did you know that's what happens to you when you get saved? God the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you. He sets up residence in your soul, Ephesians 1:13, and He dwells in you, you are sealed with the Holy Spirit until the day that God takes you home. We have grace and we have mercy, and mercy comes before forgiveness. From grace to mercy to forgiveness. John 3:36, *“He that believes on the Son has everlasting life; he that believes not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”* That's forgiveness. If you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, your sins were paid for, judged on the cross and they are forgiven. From forgiveness comes peace. John 14:27, *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* My peace I leave with you. The Lord Jesus Christ was at peace even on the cross and you can be at peace even in a scare such as America is facing now. From peace comes contentment. Philippians 4:11-13, *“Not that I speak in respect of want; for I have learned whatever state I am in to be content. Whether I have a lot or whether I have a little, I know both how to be abased and I know how to abound and everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full or to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength.”* That needs to be your verse today. You need to understand that. You can do all things through Christ because of God's grace and mercy and forgiveness and the peace that comes with it and the contentment that's the result of it. From contentment comes confident expectations. Philippians 4:19, *“But my God shall supply all of your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”* Do you have that peace that comes from trusting Christ? Do you experience contentment in your life? Do you have a relaxed mental attitude based on your confident expectations of what God can do and will do? You should and you can. Learning God's plan for your life takes a little bit more time than just reading a short daily devotional. Nothing wrong with that, but consider a devotional just an appetizer, not the full meal. The real chef for your soul is a well-qualified pastor who can expound the Scriptures and teach them to you. The Bible says in Ephesians 4:11-14, *“He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to become mature men, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. So that we are no longer children, carried to and fro, tossed around by waves and the wind and trickery of men.”* That's why you have a pastor. That's why God gave you somebody with that gift so you can grow. Do you have one? Do you sit under the authority of a qualified pastor? Do you learn on a consistent basis? If not, you're never going to grow up. If you don't understand this, get a hold of me. I'll tell you where you can get under a great fantastic qualified pastor and you can study even in the confinements of your own home. Until next week, this is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Crisis Personality

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Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes hang around, listen up, stay with me. Thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a lot of education and no manipulation, no con games, not trying to solicit money, not trying to sell you anything, just give you some information that will help you orient and adjust to the plan of God for your life. If I could verify and identify the plan, hopefully that's what you'll do, orient and adjust to the plan. Today I'd like to do something a little bit different. We've been broadcasting this show for fifteen years now across the United States and because I want to get this to you as soon as possible this show will be heard by podcast listeners before it airs on the radio. Podcast listeners come on places like Anchor, Spotify, iTunes (all of these are free podcast apps) and you can hear our current FLOT Line show and past FLOT Line shows on these apps. So we're going to put this one out there first. By the way, each one of these shows has a transcript linked to it so be sure to look for that too if you want to review what you've heard. This week on podcast we also started adding lessons from the past to give you principles from the Word of God to apply during the time of crisis that we face. Let me remind you that all of the 2019 shows that we did, 52 of them, are now available in print transcriptions in three volumes and those are absolutely free. If you'd like to have them just contact us through the website rickhughesministries.org. Let me remind you that our book called *Life's Toughest Years* for teenagers and those that might be dealing with children in homeschooling and the application can be for adults as well dealing with layoffs, health, financial hardships, these may be the toughest years ahead. Let me just say this so you'll understand, I have a team that works with me. No man is an island to himself. I have some wonderful people, mature believers, that help me as I put this material together so please think about them and pray for them. Let me remind you that we have a book *Bible Promises and Principles* available and it's free also dealing with promises found from the Word of God in the event you need them in your life. Okay? Now, here's where we stand. America and the world are in the middle of a health scare, as you well know, and it's not fake news, it's real, it's a pandemic. We want to study how a crisis personality comes to the top during these times. Many questions are coming up about how to deal with the virus or how to prevent contracting the disease. No one really knows what the end result is going to be with this. The real question is not necessarily the virus but the question is you and me. How do we handle this? What should our attitude be? No man is an island to himself - not me, not you. It's very true of me because that team of mature believers that help me in so many areas. Actually they put together something called a COVID-19 Kit which we'll post on our website and have linked to the podcasts. This is simply a group of promises that you can use to calm down during this time and deal with this adversity by claiming the promises in the faith-rest drill. These promises are backed up by God's immutable Word and of course His loving compassion for you and me. If you live by those ten problem-solving devices and you exercise the faith-rest drill, which is one of those ten, then you will be a believer that has a crisis personality and you, my friend, will have

a national impact as well as an impact in the future during these times of trouble. But remember this, adverse circumstances can cause us to completely lose self-control. If that happens people start to question why God even allowed it to happen to our country or to the world to start with. Losing self-control is letting your emotions take over and it can happen at the death of a loved one or the loss of employment or anything that causes shock and dismay in your life personally or nationally. You cannot afford to lose self-control and be afraid. God's problem-solving devices were supplied for you to solve problems in any situation in your life. If you fail to use these promises it can cause you to completely shut down. Let me remind you of some of those principles that I've taught before. Here's one. **Adverse circumstances can cause you to fear death. The promised solution is given in Job where it says that you will have nothing to fear from a violent death. You and I can claim these Old Testament verses and relax in this situation.** Job 5:19-27, *"From six disasters God will deliver you, furthermore, in seven no evil will touch you. In depression [economic disaster] He will preserve you from death, in battle from the stroke of the sword. You will be hidden from the lash of the tongue [social disaster from sins of the tongue] and you will not be afraid of death when it comes. You will laugh at death and famine [you'll be relaxed]. You will have a covenant with the stones of the field [the weapons and ammunition used]; and wild animals will be at peace with you. You will know that your human body is in peace, for you will visit your home in heaven and you will not forfeit blessing or reward. You will know that your seed will be numerous and your descendants like the grass of the earth [that means perpetuation of a client nation like the United States of America; we are a client nation and, hopefully, we will remain a client nation]. You will come to the grave in a full age, like a shock of corn in its season. Behold this doctrine, we have researched it, this is the gist of it; so hear it and apply it to yourself."* In six disasters, God will deliver you furthermore in seven no evil will touch you. This is a wonderful promise that Job got and it's a promise that you must learn to believe as well. Nothing can hurt you. Nothing can get to you. Nothing can separate you from the love of God, not height or depth or anything can separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. So we have to learn not to fear death because if you do, Satan will use it to weaken your faith. There is no excuse for any believer ever having to be afraid of dying. We should never let the enemy scare us about death. Regardless of how we die, if we use these spiritual skills we have, then it would be a wonderful promotion to be face-to-face with our loving heavenly Father. Just remember fear is an emotional sin that originates when we fail to use these three spiritual skills I'm about to give you. Three of the most important things in your life that you should be able to do. Number one, you should know how to be filled with the Holy Spirit, that's problem-solving devices number one and two. Number one is rebound, when we sin, we confess our sin. When we confess our sin, we are immediately filled with the Holy Spirit. 1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* The Bible tells us, *"The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh; they are contrary one to the other, so we really can't do the things we like to do"* (Galatians 5:17). We have a battle. The battle goes on between the

genetically formed sin nature that we got from Adam and the Holy Spirit who indwells us and seals us until the day of redemption. When you sin, you quench the Holy Spirit and you grieve the Holy Spirit and when you confess that sin then you're able to get back in fellowship and not have to worry about coming under divine discipline from the Lord. So the filling of the Holy Spirit is the first problem-solving device you need to know. You need to make sure that you are filled with the Holy Spirit all the time - 24x7. When you sin admit it immediately - don't wait until you go to bed at night - do it then. Operation Z is another thing you need to know about. How you learn God's Word, that's doctrinal orientation, sitting under a well-qualified pastor, learning the information and applying the information. We developed a little short term (one of my friends used it a lot) called LAG - Learn, Apply, Glorify. The only way you can do that is, *"So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"* (Romans 10:17). At this time in your life there has never been a more important time to focus on the ministry of a well-qualified pastor who can teach you God's Word so you can develop security and comfort and confidence in God's plan. Lastly those 10 problem-solving devices, beginning with rebound, going to the filling of the Holy Spirit, moving to the faith-rest drill, from there to grace orientation, from there to doctrinal orientation, from there to developing a personal sense of destiny, then developing personal love for God, using impersonal love for all mankind, sharing the happiness of God and eventually occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ. These are the spiritual skills you must learn and use: the filling of the Holy Spirit; sitting under a well-qualified pastor and applying what you learn; and developing these 10 problem-solving devices in your life. These spiritual skills produce thought. **The application of thought is what you have to do. Thinking is what changes us. Courage is us thinking under pressure.** I know and you know, our heavenly Father is keenly aware of what we are facing since He allowed it to be manifested. He didn't create it, He didn't cause it to harm us but He allowed it to happen. The question for us is why? Is the justice of God at work here? That's one of the questions you have to ask. What is God doing in this country? Is He dealing with some of us, all of us? For what reason? It could be national discipline, it could be individual discipline, it could be many various things, that's between you and the Lord. You have to handle that yourself. But you know that He is aware of it. He allowed it to be manifested. He didn't create it to harm us but He's using it for some reason in your life and in our nation and in the world. Our deliverance in these adverse circumstances can bring honor to God because, this is what's neat, our Father does the possible when things look impossible. But any one of us, any believer who panics in adverse circumstances can alter the way we think, the way we come to conclusions. We can alter our thinking process completely because we get into emotions. And if we let our emotions control us we operate on how we feel not on how we think. We react and we don't respond. It's very easy to let your emotions take over. You may wake up in the middle of the night and be thinking about something and find yourself scared. If that's the case, confess the sin, rebound, immediately. It's a sin to be afraid, the Bible tells you that. You just have to learn to control the way you think because if you panic in adverse circumstances your process of thinking is changed and your security turns to doubt, your

peace turns to anger, and such things as the faith-rest drill turns to you being agitated and angry with God. If you cannot control your thinking in normal times, when things are normal, then you can bank on it, you're going to be an emotional hostage when a crisis hits like it has today. Many people are held up in their nation today frightened out of their mind, scared to death. It's definitely something to be scared of, I know that, but not to let it control your life. **If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, your focus in these days must be on Him and not on the pandemic. Your focus must be on His promises, not on the news and the constant never ending scare tactics perpetuated by the devil himself.** Why? For the express purpose of distracting you from developing your spiritual life. You have to ask yourself a simple question. Are you prepared to die? Do you have complete assurance of eternal life? Do you know, in other words, if you were to contract this virus and die, do you know that you would go to heaven? People die every day, not from the virus, but from many other things as well, but the virus seems to be the one thing that is frightening people to death. If you face death are you prepared and do you have the assurance that you would have eternal life? You should. The Bible says you can. The Bible says, *"This is the record, that God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life"* (1 John 5:11-12). That's the truth. That's from the Bible. Jesus Christ said, *"I will never leave you. I will never forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5). *"I give to them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of My Father's hand"* (John 10:28). That's a promise from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. So if I die, if you die, and we are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we know, we are guaranteed, we are confident that we will be resurrected, we will have a resurrection body and we will live with our Lord forever. That's something you must understand. If you don't then you'll be intimidated by the enemy and be afraid all of your life. Is your soul more important than your body? Remember, you are made up of three things: a body, a soul and a spirit. The body goes back into the ground, the soul and the spirit live forever in a new body, in a resurrection body. That's what we're taught in the Scriptures. So, is your soul more important than your body? Listen to what the apostle Paul said about that very question. He said, *"But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of everything, and count all of the things I had but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and that I may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Christ, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed even to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ. Brethren, 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 toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:7-14). Whatever things

were gain, count it as loss. In other words, the most important thing to him was his relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. ***“That I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which comes from the Law, but that which comes through faith that I may know Him, that I may know the power of His resurrection.”*** That's the most important thing in your life - your soul. **The strength of your soul is much more important than the strength of your body.** If you're one of these people that has a crisis personality that I'm talking about, I welcome you, I'd like to know you, I'd like to spend time around you because that's very important. It's one of the most important things you could ever do. A person with a crisis personality can think under pressure. I always tell football players, winners execute and losers emote. They can't think under pressure. **If you're going to be a winner you have to think and execute. Secondly, you have to understand that the crisis personality demonstrates leadership in a crisis. How? They have a relaxed mental attitude, they have confident expectations, they have an infectious confidence and security in the middle of the storm.** They attract people to them because they're like a light at night. That crisis personality is an attractive person that you want to be around. This type of person has a personal sense of destiny (problem-solving device #6), it means they have all the right priorities and this allows good decisions, not only in normal times but in times of crisis as well. Daniel did this in captivity with Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah did it in his ministry. Moses was a crisis personality at the Red Sea. Joshua at Jericho. And you during the COVID-19 panic in this country. In 1 Thessalonians 3:3 Paul writes to the believers in Thessalonica and he commends them for their steadfastness in face of the persecution they were facing and things that he received. While he was in their city he was opposed by hired troublemakers whose objective was to get rid of him, they didn't want him in town stirring up trouble in the synagogue. He had to find a place to stay so he stayed with a man named Jason who was later arrested and so Paul moved on but later sent Timothy back to check on his converts because they also were being persecuted. His main concern was that they would lose their spiritual balance, that they would lose their spiritual stability as a result of the trials they were facing there in Thessalonica. Here's what he wrote, *“No man should be moved by these afflictions; for you yourself know that we are appointed unto them.”* The Greek word for moved is *saino* and it means to wag the tail of a dog, one way, but it's a metaphor for meaning to be disturbed or be rearranged or be unnerved, much like the topography of the earth after an earthquake. If you ever go through an earthquake, the earth can be totally rearranged and what used to be a lake may not be a lake anymore, what used to be a road may not be a road anymore. It may all be rearranged, it may all be gone. We need to understand it's easy to get emotional under extreme adversity since we go into this self-survival mode. But the issue for us is, can we handle this crisis or will we seek the advice of others which is only going to give you human viewpoint thinking. I mean, you can't believe all the videos going around on social media now. What does this doctor say, what does that doctor say, what is this, how should you care for your food, how should you care for your mail, how should you care for yourself, how should you care for your spouse? The issue to be healthy, yes, nothing wrong with that, but the real issue is how

are we going to handle this? How will we handle it? Seeking advice from others or going to the Word of God for our comfort? That's the question. Can you focus on God's grace provisions for your life? Can you do that? Because your faith is your invisible muscle and your faith is built on conviction. If you don't have any conviction, you don't have trust and you don't have confidence and you certainly don't have any spiritual stamina. That's what you have to have. You have to have faith, invisible muscle built on conviction, demonstrating your trust and your confidence and spiritual stamina in God's plan for your life. **The Bible tells us that faith is the power that we need to overcome the distractions in the cosmic system.** Faith, that's what we need. In 1 John 5:4-5, *"Whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world - our faith."* Who is it that overcomes? He who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. Your faith is the victory to overcome any crisis in your life and the very first crisis you ever face is this, *"He who believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life; but he who believes not, the wrath of God abides on him"* (John 3:16, 36). **The wrath of God is your first crisis. If you reject the free gift of eternal life that God gives you through Jesus Christ you will face eternity in the Lake of Fire.** That's a crisis. You have to decide, do I want to make that decision to trust in Christ - faith alone in Christ alone? Do I believe He's the Son of God? Do I believe He died for me? Do I put my faith and confidence in His finished work on the cross? Or, like Paul warned against, do I try to manufacture my own righteousness? The Bible tells us, *"There are none that are righteous, no, not even one"* (Romans 3:10) and *"all of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag"* in God's eyes (Isaiah 64:6). You don't even want me to tell you what that word is in the Hebrew, it's nasty. You cannot conjure up anything in your life that's going to make God deal out a good deal for you because you were a nice guy. It doesn't happen that way. Only through Jesus Christ can the righteousness of God be satisfied. That's why it says, *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us, so we could be made the righteousness of God through Christ"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). That's your first crisis. What do you think of Christ? We're talking about believers that have a crisis personality in this time of the storm in our country. You demonstrate how to overcome the fears of the cosmic system, your use of the faith-rest drill. You stand tall, you stay firm. God will deliver you, I promise He will. While you're homebound, let me make one other suggestion to you, I normally wouldn't do this but I want to do this. I want to suggest you get to your computer and you type in the search engine, berachah.org. That's a local church in Houston Texas, my local church. Once you're there, go to the updates and watch my pastor, Bobby Thieme, teach God's Word to an empty congregation. His messages are encouraging, they're informative, they're in detail and I listen every day. If you will go there, if you will click on that update and click on those messages, there you will find many other studies that are available on DVD free of charge if you wish to study. That's my first recommendation for you to build a crisis personality, get under a well-qualified pastor who can teach you God's Word. My pastor is now teaching Psalm 7, it's encouraging and you will see how the justice of God is dealing with us today. All right? Thank you for listening to The FLOT Line. This is Rick Hughes. See you next week, same time, same place.

Prayer in Crisis

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 766 aired on April 26, 2020

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stick around. It's going to be a very critical time for you to listen to the information that I'm going to bring you today. My job is always to give you accurate information, not some kind of useless speculation. You have the opportunity to orient and adjust to the information that I give you. This is always about good information, changing the way you think, learning the mind of Christ, beginning to think in divine viewpoint. That's why God gave you two ends; one you can sit with, one you can think with. Success in your life will depend on which one of those ends you use. So let's learn to think accurately. Today we want to talk about prayer in a crisis. Around the world there are crises - the COVID-19 crisis, healthcare restrictions, financial and economic crises, loss of jobs, education and the global supply network in chaos, readiness of our defense forces questionable, and the way of life as we know it or as we have known it may in fact never return to the same. So in time of crises like this many people will go to prayer and pray. What they don't realize is that many prayers never make it to the throne room of God. But before we talk about that let's remember one key concept here and that is that prayer is never a problem-solving device. The problem-solving devices that we mentioned: rebound, the filling of the Spirit, the faith-rest drill, grace orientation, doctrinal orientation, personal sense of destiny, personal love for God, impersonal love for all mankind, sharing the happiness of God and occupation with Christ - these are the ten unique problem-solving devices not prayer. Prayer is never designed to solve problems. **Prayer is only effective if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Someone who is not a Christian has no access to prayer.** If you're not a Christian, you're like a man stranded on an island by himself with no way to get off and you face whatever storm is coming into your life. But as a Christian, we have prayer. We can go to our heavenly Father and ask for His wisdom, for His guidance, for His support, for His strength in the time of the crises. But prayer doesn't solve the problem, prayer gives us the means to solve the problem. Solving the problem is the doctrine in our soul that keeps us from worrying, keeps us from being afraid, it shows us the opportunity that we have to share the Word of God with those who need it and to give the Gospel to those who have never heard it. Prayer is only effective if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. How does that happen? The Bible says, *"Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Romans 10:13). It's a free gift of God. *"For by grace are you saved through faith; it is a gift from God; not of works, lest anyone should brag about it"* (Ephesians 2:8-9). If you're not a Christian, you can pray all you want to but your prayers aren't going to get past the ceiling. If you'd like to become a Christian, you can pray one simple prayer, "Lord, I believe that Jesus Christ is Your anointed Son and I'm willing to accept Him as my Savior." It's just a simple act of faith. The Bible says, *"Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* Don't look for any earthmoving shaking events when you pray. You simply pray and tell the Father you're a sinner, you want to accept Christ as your Savior and it happens. You won't hear a harp, you won't

see an angel, but the grace of God will intervene and you will be saved based on what the Bible says. *“This is the record, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life”* (1 John 5:11). Another thing about prayer, if you have a FLOT line in your soul, the ten problem-solving devices, then you can have an effective prayer life because you have oriented and adjusted to the plan of God. Let's look at a couple of verses and see what I'm talking about. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, *“If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land.”* I was talking to a friend the other day on the phone and they quoted that verse and said this is the answer. This verse was written by Solomon the son of David. Solomon was the king after David passed away. Solomon was born to David and Bathsheba. Solomon was one of the wisest men in the Bible. He asked God for wisdom and God gave it to him. He was the king of Israel and he built the temple (2 Chronicles 6:6-11) so that people could come to worship God at the temple. When he built the temple he had a public dedication and he knelt down in public and he vowed for the nation and for him to serve only the Lord God of Israel. Solomon asked that God hear their prayers when they had need in their life in 2 Chronicles 6:24-40, *“in time of war and defeat hear our prayers; when people turn away from their God listen to our prayers; in time of famine and time of drought forgive us and teach us not to forsake You; in time of sin and captivity forgive us and restore us,”* here is a prayer Solomon is asking the Lord. After all the celebrations, all the dedications - it was a tremendous thing that went on for days - then God appeared to Solomon at night in a dream (2 Chronicles 7:12) and the Father assured him that He had accepted the temple structure as a legitimate place of worship and the institution of the Ark of the Covenant. Then God gave instructions on how to recover from divine discipline that may come on a nation should it come due to disobedience by the people and the leaders. This is what God said to Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:13-14, *“If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people [that's all divine discipline, national discipline on the people of Israel] and My people who are called by My name [those are the Jews] humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”* That's in response to the discipline. So there you have it, **the requirement for deliverance demanded three simple things. The people needed to become humble.** The greatest enemy that you and I have is our own arrogance. Our own arrogance does not want to submit to the authority of the Word of God. This is why when a child is born, the first thing a parent has to teach him in Ephesians 6:1-2 is to *“obey his parents and to honor his father and his mother.”* His parents have to teach him that because we are born anti-authority. The United States of America, where this show originates, has a lot of anti-authority issues today. For example, Proverbs 3:7 says, *“Do not think you are wise in your own eyes.”* Many people have doubted the Word of God. Many people have doubted that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Many people fail to adhere to the prohibitions that the Bible puts on morality and issues like this and they think

they're wise in their own eyes. That's arrogance. The arrogance to think that you are smarter than God. The arrogance to reject what the Word of God lays out to how you could have a wonderful, meaningful, full life and then you reject it because you don't believe it and you think you're smarter than God. That's just pitiful. If this thing is to be changed in this country, our country, let alone the rest of the countries of the world, then we need to become humble. The Bible says in Philippians 2:6-8, the Lord Jesus Christ humbled Himself and "*made Himself of no reputation, took upon Himself the form of a man.*" Humility is orientation to authority, that's where it starts. Then it is sacrifice and service, the way to go. The people needed to become humble and **secondly they needed to pray and seek His face. For us, this prayer is rebound.** The Bible says, "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to purify us from all of our wrongdoing*" (1 John 1:9). When we pray, we can rebound, that's our first thing. Before you do anything in prayer, always look first at yourself and say, "Is there sin in my life that will hinder this prayer?" These folks are being told to pray and seek the Lord's face, to turn to Him, to look only to the Lord, not to look to anything else. The Bible says, "*Cursed is the man who puts his trust in man*" (Jeremiah 17:5). As we go through this world crisis that we're facing today there is no scientist that's going to solve the problem unless God gives him the solution. There's no politician that's going to deliver us from death unless God equips him to do so. The answer is always from God, that's where it comes from. If you want to get the answer, go to the Lord. "*Seek My face and turn away from your wicked ways.*" What is that? Turn away from the wicked ways means to **get back to the first love you used to have, the third requirement for deliverance, which was your love for the Lord Jesus Christ.** Go back to where you started. Turning away from your wicked ways is beginning to obey. See we have justified sin today. We've said now, in this generation, in this country, everything that used to be evil is now okay, it's all good and everything that used to be good and wonderful, now that's all evil. I could give you many illustrations of this. In the United States and in the world today we've turned things around because we don't believe the Bible, we don't believe God's Word, we don't trust it anymore. There are a lot of believers listening to me today that are solid, sound, fundamental Christians. If you want to request that God deliver this nation, as a believer you've got to be filled with the Holy Spirit because your prayer is not going to be effective if you don't do that. If you are occupied with the Lord Jesus Christ and growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ then you have a great opportunity, a great chance to go to the throne room of God, to make your request and perhaps get it answered. But failure to do this, this is what Solomon was warned, if they don't do this, they will lose their client nation status, national discipline will come upon them and it eventually did. The whole nation was exiled to Babylon in captivity, the temple was destroyed. You can read about it in 2 Chronicles 36:17-22. All of this was God's warning to Israel. We can relate to the same thing today since we are now a client nation. The United States of America is that voice of God and reason in the world today. We allow extensive evangelism within the country and throughout the world without government interference - the government doesn't stop us from doing that. From this evangelism we can build a pivot, a core group of

mature believers (like Gideon's core group of men, just a few, that's all God needed, just a few that would trust Him and they defeated the entire Midianite Army). So God is just looking for a few, it doesn't have to be millions, mature believers - believers that make up the pivot. We have a civil government based on laws of establishment like Romans 13:1-10, along with accurate Bible teaching, missionary activity, as well as recognition and protection of the nation Israel. That's what a client nation is: a nation that has evangelism, a nation that builds a pivot, a nation that has a good civil government based on the establishment laws of God, a nation that has open and accurate Bible teaching and missionary activity and protection of the Jews. That's us. So here's the question. Answer this question to yourself. Are your prayers for these times going to be heard by God the Father and the Supreme Court of heaven? Are your prayers going to get through to the throne room of God? 2 Chronicles 7:14 says *"My people"* - that was God's chosen race - Israel. Today, in the New Testament, it's the Body of Christ or the Church. So the dilemma, when a non-Christian who is scared of financial ruin or loss of health begins to pray for help is he heard? Listen to the Bible, in Proverbs 1:24-33, *"Because I called, and you will not listen; I stretched out my hand, and you did not pay attention; and you neglected all my counsel, and did not want my reproof; I will laugh at your calamity; I will mock you when it comes, when your dread comes like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me, because they hated knowledge [this is one thing that will destroy a nation, being wise in your own eyes and hating the knowledge of the Word of God] and did not choose to respect the Lord. They would not accept my counsel, they spurned all my reproof. So they will eat the fruit of their own way, and be satisfied with their own devices. For the waywardness of the naïve will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them. But he who listens to me shall live securely, and shall be at ease from the dread of evil."* In Isaiah 59:2, *"Your iniquities have separated you from your God, your sins have hidden His face from you and He will not hear you."* In John 9:31, *"We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him."* What's the will of God? *"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent"* Jesus said (John 6:29). Quoting Evangelist Billy Graham, *"The Bible teaches us that prayer is the privilege of those who have become children of God (John 1:12). The Psalm writer tells us: 'The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry; the face of the Lord is against those who do evil...'* (Psalm 34:15). Jesus once said, *'Whoever comes to me I will never drive away'* (John 6:37b). However, one who has never trusted in Jesus as his personal Savior should be reminded that if his only point in prayer is to relieve his mind of problems and secure benefits, it is extremely doubtful that such praying would gain the desired objective." The single most important prayer you could ever pray is found in Luke 18:13-14, *"But the tax-collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat on his breast, saying, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner!'* [and Jesus said] *I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."* Is there anything

wrong with praying for God to have mercy on you? No. If you have never believed in Jesus Christ, that's a legitimate prayer. Ask God for mercy because it has been extended. *"He who knew no sin became sin for us"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). *"God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son"* (John 3:16). That's mercy. What about the Christian who prays for deliverance? Can you pray for deliverance through the crisis? I think **you can legitimately ask God to deliver you through the crisis, yes.** Are your prayers for deliverance being heard or will they be answered? Well, it depends, because you cannot expect God to answer any prayer that's offered while you're out of fellowship. This means **if you have unconfessed sin in your life your prayer will not get any higher than the ceiling.** Psalm 66:18, *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear."* The reason for this disclaimer is because the Holy Spirit, the one who does the interceding for us in prayer, is quenched and grieved. In Romans 8:26-27, *"In the same way the Spirit helps our weaknesses; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."* So we have been warned. We were warned in Ephesians 4:30 *"do not grieve the Spirit"* and in 1 Thessalonians 5:19 *"Do not quench the Spirit."* When you put sin in your life, you shut off the power of the Holy Spirit and then you are operating in the energy of the flesh and no prayer given in the energy of the flesh will ever get to heaven regardless of how scared you are or regardless of how sincere you are. Any believer who offers prayer to God's throne must do so in the filling of the Holy Spirit. There are a lot of promises that you can claim, a lot of promises you can stand on, promises that are yours to learn and use. If you like money in the bank, that's what they're like, promises are like a checking account. There are over 7,000 promises in the Bible for you. The question is, what bank are they in? How can you use them if you don't know them? Verses like Psalm 4:8, *"In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for You alone, O Lord, do make me dwell in safety."* In Psalm 56:3, *"What time I am afraid, I will put my trust in You."* In Jeremiah 29:11, *"I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'"* These are all promises from God for you. We even put them into what we call the COVID-19 crisis kit; that's a short list of God's promises for mature believers to use in these trying times. We also have the book *Bible Promises & Principles* that we'd be glad to send you free of charge. You can read the promises of God and claim them for deliverance in your life if you are filled with the Holy Spirit and if you are a child of God. **Remember, prayer doesn't solve problems. It gives you access to the throne room of God. What solves problems is divine viewpoint thinking in your life as you learn God's Word and advance and apply the Biblical principles and promises that become the shield in your soul that protects you.** It protects you from being afraid, it protects you from being overrun with fear, it protects you from having anxiety, it protects you from reacting rather than responding. You have to act on faith claiming God's promises because if you don't, *"without faith it's impossible to please God"* (Hebrews 11:6). For you, that's the faith-rest drill (problem-solving device #3). One final thought here before we wrap it up today and that's a very

misunderstood concept about prayer today. There has to be protocol in prayer because our Father is a God of protocol. That simply means that a right thing must be done in a right way. If you want your prayers heard, if you want your prayers answered by your Father, you have to follow protocol. You can be sincere but that doesn't carry power. Emotion has no reasoning power in prayer. Divine viewpoint from knowing and understanding the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5) helps us to understand how we can accurately pray and approach God's throne and expect results. God the Father is the recipient of all of our prayers. Hebrews 4:16, *"Let us be approaching the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and acquire grace with reference to seasonable help."* We don't offer prayers to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew 6:9, *"After this manner, pray you: 'Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.'"* In Ephesians 3:14, Paul wrote, *"For this cause, I bow my knees before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."* In 1 Peter 1:17, *"If you call on the Father who without respect of persons judges according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in peace."* All prayer must be to the heavenly Father, not to Jesus Christ. When you hear somebody praying to Jesus, it's not going to be answered. All prayers are offered in the name of Christ, yes. John 14:13, *"Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified."* **We pray to the Father, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.** The Lord said, *"Before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear"* (Isaiah 65:24). Your prayer is an invisible power directed toward an invisible God and it's your relationship with Him, one of your invisible assets, and is most effective when used by invisible heroes - people that have obtained spiritual maturity. There are prayers of thanksgiving, prayers for others and for yourself. In prayer the most important thing is concentrate on what is the will of God. You can effectively pray for other people too. In this time in America we need to be praying for our leaders, we need to be praying for our military, we need to be praying for a lot of things. You need to pray before you eat, always sanctify your food. We need to pray for those in authority that they would have wisdom, for the president, for the cabinet, for the military, for the firemen, for the policemen, for your pastor. The Bible says in Matthew 7:7, *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened."* You need to keep asking. Come to Him on a daily basis. Keep asking and it will be given to you. Keep seeking His will and you will find it. You can be that invisible hero that delivers the nation in time of crisis. Keep knocking and the door will be opened to you. Jesus Christ said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father, but through Me"* (John 14:6). *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and dine with him"* (Revelation 3:20) - that's fellowship - not salvation - with you through rebound in your life. There's so much to learn about prayer because it can be used in the wrong way at the wrong time. If you learn the issues in prayer and execute an effective legitimate prayer, you can tap into the invisible power of the throne room of God. It's yours. I hope you're listening, I hope you're paying attention and I hope you're learning. Until next week, thank you for listening.

Rally

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 767 aired on May 3, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes please stick around, thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education. No manipulation, no con games, we're not trying to solicit money, we're not trying to sell you anything. We're just offering free Biblical information. Information that pertains to the plan of God for your life - if you're interested. If I can verify and identify that plan then you can orient and adjust to it - it's up to you. My job is to give you accurate information and to help you develop a way of thinking that's different than the world thinks. The world thinks in terms of human viewpoint. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ think in terms of divine viewpoint, that's thinking in terms of what the Scripture says. We do everything we can to verify everything we tell you with scriptural documentation. God gave you two ends; one you sit with, one you think with. Success in your life depends on which one of those ends you use; heads you'll win and tails you'll lose. God has given you the ability to have some phenomenal insight. It's called discernment and it comes from wisdom which comes from the Bible. Wisdom is built on the knowledge that you learn and you understand. The FLOT Line stands for Forward Line Of Troops. What we're trying to do here on this show is teach ten unique problem-solving devices. When you learn and use them then you can stop the outside source of adversity before it becomes the inside source of stress. That's why we say, adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. Adversity is what circumstances will do to you but stress is what you do to yourself. Today we'd like to talk about the rally cry for believers. As our nation moves through these days of crisis, it's good to call Christians to rally together. Dictionary.com defines rally as: "*verb (used with object), to bring into order again or inspire anew; verb (used without object), to come together for common action or effort; noun, a recovery from disorder or recovery of strength.*" You've heard it used in such ways as Christian students who rally around the flag pole before school to pray for the school. You've heard it used in organized political rallies, such as the President or some presidential candidate may have a rally. Sometimes it's used to describe a person who is near death and rallies to get better. What I'd like to say today is it's time for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ to rally, to recover, to regain your spiritual health. If we use the word **RALLY** as a type of acrostic (by the way this was given to me by a close associate) it would go like this. **The R stands for a time of reflection.** As we pull through to the other side of this pandemic we've been facing, it becomes a time of reflection, both personal and national, which means we have to think deeply about what we've been going through. A believer has a sin nature and thus often our individual sins bring discipline upon us. Hebrews 12:6-9, "*Those whom the Lord loves He chastens, and He scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with a son; for what son is there whom the father does not chasten? But if you are without chastisement, of which all are partakers, then you are not a son at all, but a bastard. Furthermore, we had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence; shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits, and live?*" We

know that God disciplines believers who get out of line and we know that discipline comes in three stages: a warning stage, an intense stage and it can come in a dying stage. So if you are without chastisement, you're not a son. "*Those whom the Lord loves He chastens*" [that's the warning stage] "*and He scourges*" [that's the intense stage] and then the last verse says "*shall we not be much more reverent to Him and live*" [that's the dying stage]. Discipline is tough. As we go through this national crisis, the question I have to ask is, has God used it to discipline you? Has your heavenly Father gotten your attention and forced you to look to Him and only Him for your deliverance? If so, then it was motivated by divine love for you and me and intended to rescue us from ourselves. Sometimes we have a tendency to drift off course and we have a tendency to discount the importance of God's Word in our life. There are two ways that we can learn how to live the life God gave us: through the school of hard knocks, where you learn the hard way because you're stupid and you're arrogant and you won't listen and through the grace provisions that God gives you. You can learn either way you want to go. You can learn the hard way or you can learn the easy way. The easy way is God the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "*When I leave I will send the Holy Spirit and He will be your tutor, your mentor. He will teach you*" (John 14:16, 26). Then you have the Bible, the canon of Scripture, "*The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword*" (Hebrews 4:12). And you have a well-qualified pastor. So you have three things: the Holy Spirit, the canon of Scripture and a pastor. All of these are linked to your positive volition (if, in fact, you even have any). That is why the Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:15, "*Study* [that doesn't mean read the Bible once a day, study is more] *to show yourself approved to God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" If you can rightly divide it, you obviously can wrongly divide it. In 2 Peter 3:18, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" So two mandates: study and grow. These two mandates are for our own benefit so when disaster hits at least we know what to do and we know who to look to. Personal discipline is tough. If you've been going through personal discipline I pray that God has gotten your attention. He hasn't thrown you under the bus, He hasn't forsaken you but may have brought you low to the place where you have nowhere else to look but to Him. That's a good thing because He said in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "*My grace is sufficient.*" But there's another form of discipline called national discipline. J. C. Ryle (an English evangelist back in the 1800s) said, "We know that believers are judged in the future, according to Romans 14:12, because there is a judgment day yet to come. For nations there can be no future judgment day. The sins of nations are reckoned for in time." So the question we have to ask is, has God allowed a judgment in time on client nation USA? Have we become so liberal and so covetous that we've lost our virtue and our self-evaluation? I wish you'd think about that. Have we surrendered to the lord of luxury rather than to the Lord Jesus Christ? Has your lake-house become more important than the church house? In 2 Timothy 3:4, "*lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.*" That's a bad thing. The Rev. Billy Graham said as far back as 1949, "Now today in America, we find that people are more concerned with things than they are with the things of God! They are more concerned with pleasure, more concerned with money,

more concerned with the things of life than they are the things of Almighty God!” Have we lost our moral direction and converted what is evil into what we now describe as good? Is anything immoral anymore? Do we now justify all sin as not really a choice but rather something that God made me do because He made me that way? As a nation have we become wise in our own eyes? Proverbs 3:7 warns, *“Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and avoid evil.”* Wise in your own eyes is an arrogant concept. It’s figuring that you’re smarter than God, that you really don’t need any information from the Bible, you’ve got it all figured out. When you have a nation with that sort of attitude then you have a nation ready to be destroyed. I think there’s an application for us today in Hosea 4:6-11, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will forget your children. The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me; and I will change their glory into shame. They feed on the sin of My people, and direct their desire toward their iniquity. And it will be, like people, like priest; so I will punish them for their ways, and repay them for their deeds. And they will eat, but not have enough; and they will play the harlot, but not increase. Because they have stopped giving heed to the Lord.”* Wise in their own eyes. Has knowledge become pleasant to your soul? Without knowledge, spiritual information, there’s no discernment and there’s no insight. When you hear the Word of God taught and believe it and transfer it into your soul, it becomes wisdom and that wisdom gives you discernment and insight. But without Biblical doctrinal information, without that wisdom, there’s no divine viewpoint. You’ll have wrong priorities and a wrong way of thinking. That’s what’s happening in this country today. I’m afraid to say we’ve ignored God’s Word as a whole - not everybody but as a whole. It’s hard to find somebody who really believes what the Bible says, especially in the educational field. Have we become so rich and so powerful that we think we can buy our way out of some sort of national disaster? Do we actually think no one can defeat our military might? There was a time in this country when we used to call on God. In World War II, on June 6, 1944, as American troops headed towards Omaha Beach, the President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, read a prayer to all Americans from the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House at 9:57 PM. That text was released in advance so all Americans could pray it with him and it was displayed throughout the remainder of the war. We need men of leadership that will pray for our country and encourage us to pray for one another if that prayer is offered in the right way. We’ve talked about that before, a right thing done in a wrong way is still wrong. You can pray till you’re blue in the face but if you’re not a child of God that prayer is not going to be answered until you pray the one important prayer - “Father, save me.” Secondly, if you are a child of God and you have unconfessed sin in your life that prayer cannot be answered because the Bible says, *“If I regard sin in my heart, the Lord will not hear me”* (Psalm 66:18). We have to deal with our sin first. If we deal with our sin, we have a legitimate opportunity to go before our heavenly Father and plead for deliverance. If these questions that I propose are true then what can we do to rally? What can we do to recover and reorient as a nation or just as an individual Christian? So the R in Rally is what we’ve been

dealing with - a time of reflection. Now we're going to move to the A in rally. **A stands for a time of affection.** From reflection to affection. Affection means to get back to divine appreciation of who and what God is. It's my opinion and mine alone, I guess, but I believe America as a whole no longer has a personal love for God. I think we fell in love with all the gifts that He bestowed on us more than the giver Himself. I offer as proof this verse in 1 John 5:3, *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His mandates; and His mandates are not a burden."* Christians come in all shapes and sizes and there are different levels in spiritual maturity. It's kind of like football teams, you know, I mean there's a lot of universities that play football but they don't all have the same coach and they don't all have the same record and they have different schemes and different defenses and different offenses. There are a lot of Christians that are on the team but they play by a different playbook. But God said in Jeremiah 9:24 He's looking for those who *"know Him and understand Him."* He wants them to know what? That He exercises *"kindness, justice and righteousness on the earth."* God is looking for those who know Him and understand Him. So the question is, how can you love the God you don't understand? For example, do you know the essence of God? If I gave you a blank piece of paper and I said write down the essence of God, what would you put? Could you say God is sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, immutability, omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence? He even has a sense of humor, He made us didn't He? How can you love God when you don't even know Him? Do you understand what the righteousness of God rejects the justice of God must judge? This is why the Bible says, *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we might be made the righteousness of God through Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). The only way you can have any relationship with God the Father is to come through God the Son because that's where your righteousness comes from not on your own. That's why the Bible says, *"Not by works have we been saved but by grace, it is the gift of God"* (Ephesians 2:8-9). Can you explain the difference to me between spirituality and maturity in the Christian life? Do you understand the difference in those two things, spirituality and maturity? Any believer who's filled with the Holy Spirit is spiritual. Billy Graham cannot be any more spiritual than you, your pastor cannot be any more spiritual than you but any Christian who is not filled with the spirit is carnal the Bible says, he's fleshly. Without the use of rebound you are carnal, you're out of fellowship with God and you're not spiritual. If you confess your sin to God and allow the Holy Spirit to regain control of your life, you are spiritual. That doesn't mean you're mature. Maturity is a concept based upon the content of doctrine in your soul, how much of the Word of God you've learned, applied and used in your life. Do you understand the difference between these things? Do you understand the difference between sin and evil? Do you? Do you know that all sin is evil but all evil might not be sin? Evil is a system, it's a plan, Satan's game. God's plan is based on grace. *"For by grace are you saved through faith"* (Ephesians 2:8a). Satan's plan is based on evil and it is taking grace and twisting it a little bit. It is Satan saying, "If you're a good boy and you don't fornicate and you don't cheat on your taxes then when God judges you He'll cut you a break and you'll be allowed to come to heaven." That's evil. That's organized religion. Organized religion

will tell you if you're nice and sweet and give money to your church and don't do anything really bad you'll go to heaven. And that's not true. Have we substituted emotion for knowledge in our worship? Is that going on in America today? Have we become so emotional that we don't want to be taught anymore? Do we just want to do praise and worship and sing and raise our hands and sway back and forth and have a little message from some celebrity that might motivate us a little bit? Have we made God's name and His Son the object of financial profit like selling books, selling records, selling movies, selling Christian blogs all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ? That's all designed to do one thing, don't be mistaken about it, to make money. If they didn't make money they wouldn't sell it. Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness? Matthew 5:6 says you should. Our heavenly Father loves us, we know that. The question for you to answer is, do you love Him? If you say, "Yes, I love God," do you hunger and thirst for righteousness? Do you hunger for truth? Do you have an insatiable desire to get knowledge? Has knowledge become pleasant to your soul as Proverbs 2:10 talks about? Without knowledge there's no wisdom and without wisdom there's no insight and discernment. Proverbs 1:7 says, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*" Which one are you? Do you have a hunger for God's Word? Do you pray that God would send someone that would teach you? Are you listening to this show because you're learning something and you're not getting it locally where you live? Fools despise wisdom. Fools despise instruction. It's awful bad when you see it in your family or when you see it in your friends that have no interest in God's Word or they think they're smarter than God and they've justified why they can sin and get away with it and they don't think there's anything wrong with what they're doing. Loving God means you obey God. Loving God means you "*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). Loving God means you're occupied with His Son, our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Unless we begin to focus on the Giver and we quit focusing on the gifts that He gave us then we're never going to be truthful in our relationship with our Father. Loving Him means that we turn from the lure of the cosmic system and put our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ, occupation with Christ (problem-solving device #10), Who is our hope, our confidence, our security in this devil's world. The first **L in rally stands for leaving the world behind and returning to our first love**. When you demonstrate your love to God the Father by trusting Him in all situations using the faith-rest drill (problem-solving device #3), then your Father will reciprocate that back to you. He's guaranteed you eternal life. He's guaranteed you provision and protections in the storm of life. Read Matthew 8 about the disciples in the boat. The Lord Jesus Christ called them short-time trusters because they thought they were going to die in the storm. Our love for the Lord Jesus Christ is reflected in our confidence and in the peace we have in our souls in spite of whatever may be going on in the land. In spite of any crisis or any adversity or any difficulty, we are relaxed. We have great confidence in the Father. We know He's in control. In Psalm 56:11, "*In God I put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?*" Faith does not feed on emotions. Faith feeds on facts. But if you don't have any facts then you're not going to have any basis for strong faith. Romans 10:17 says, "*Faith comes by hearing and*

hearing by the Word of God.” Which do you hear the most, local and national news or do you hear a well-qualified pastor teaching you God's Word? There must be room in your daily life for being fed Scripture and not just the human viewpoint of the cosmic system that is on the television 24x7. The second **L in rally stands for learn, apply, and glorify**. When you apply God's Word to your circumstances then you will wind up reflecting Jesus Christ through your life. You have assimilated the mind of Christ, you have quit letting fear control you and you arrive at spiritual autonomy which means you can stand on your own two feet in the devil's world alone based on your spiritual growth. Spiritual growth is mandated in the Scripture. Hebrews 5:11-14, *“We have a lot of things to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to come back and teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a baby. But solid food belongs to those who are full of age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised and can discern the difference between good and evil.”* There's a big difference between church attendance and spiritual growth. It's the difference between getting *gnosis* or knowledge and converting that knowledge to *epignosis* or full knowledge and then making that become wisdom in your soul. When your pastor teaches you, if he does, then you learn something and if you learn something you have to do something with it. You can put it in a notebook and forget about it or you can apply it in your life on a daily basis. If you make the application, learn, apply, you will glorify. Learn, apply, and glorify. In this world wide crisis we're having right now if it has shown you anything, did it show you the need for you to develop patience, trust, confidence in God's timing and in His appointed leadership? Has it shown you that? In Romans 13:1, *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”* There it is in plain black and white. You might not like the President, you might not care for him at this point in time, but he's there because God allowed it. So what do you want to do about it, spew hatred and venom? Or can you handle authority and do what they tell you to do? The **Y in rally stands for yielding yourself to God's plan**. Having a personal sense of destiny. Knowing the difference between His directive will and His permissive will. That's very important for you to understand that and to know that because there are about seven things in the Bible declared to be the general will of God. I'll try to come back maybe next week and we'll pick this up and go through these things. In the meantime you have to remember this, God allows authority to be in place for a certain time, for a certain reason. Where we are in history didn't catch God by surprise. He knows what's going on. Not only does He know what's going on nationally, He knows what's going on personally in your life. How are you handling it? What has it taught you? Where are you now? What do you intend to do when this thing is over, if it is indeed ever over, if we ever do return to normal? Is it going to affect your life? Will it affect your momentum spiritually? I pray it will. I pray this has been a challenge and hope you've enjoyed it. Until next week. This is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Tracks of History - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 768 aired on May 10, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like to ask you to stick around. Thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education and all done with no manipulation. The only thing we ever try to do on this radio show is give you accurate information that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life, if you're interested. In case you are, you can always orient and adjust to the plan, that's up to you. My job is to give you accurate information. I would like to remind you that three volumes of FLOT Line transcripts from the year 2019 as well as other material are available free of charge through the ministry. You can go to rickhughesministries.org and see the books that we've written. They're all free, we don't charge for anything because we've always believed that if God's in it He will pay for. If I have to run around and hustle up money and beg for support, then God's not in it. That's me trying to raise the money. I don't know where you are listening but thank you for your time. Thank you for tuning in. Remember God gave you two ends; one you can think with and one you can sit on. Success in your life is going to depend on which one of those you use; heads you will win and tails you will lose. Remember bad decisions limit future options. If you make enough bad decisions, you're going to wind up with no options left. Today we want to talk about the tracks of history. It doesn't take a genius to read trends of history. If you look at the trends going on in the history of the United States of America, not the world, just our country. If you try to read the trends of history, it doesn't take a genius or require any sort of smarts to understand where we've been, where we're going. You can see it unfolding before your eyes. Over 200 years ago we began to be a great nation with the War for Independence. You remember, 13 North American colonies of Great Britain declared themselves independent, called themselves the United States of America. These United States did not seek to overthrow the government of Great Britain, they simply just wanted to be separated and be a free nation out from underneath their control. So they refused to pay taxes imposed by the British Parliament which these United States claimed was a taxation without any representation and that resulted in the War for Independence. So, in 1793 the Treaty of Paris ended the war and recognized the sovereignty of the United States of America. It's a well-known fact, this won't catch you by surprise, that many of our founding fathers were believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and found much encouragement from the Scripture. In fact, the Bible has always been the basis for cultural and moral direction for many of America's trusted leaders, including the current president. This is what President Trump said at the National Prayer Breakfast, "In America, we don't punish prayer. We don't tear down crosses. We don't ban symbols of faith. We don't muzzle pastors. In America, we celebrate faith, we cherish religion, we lift our voices in prayer, and we raise our sights to the glory of God." Other men have said great things like Robert E. Lee once said, "I can only say that I am nothing but a poor sinner, trusting in Christ alone for salvation." He also said, "I prefer the Bible to any other book. There is enough in that to satisfy the most ardent thirst for knowledge, to open the way to true wisdom, and to teach the only road to salvation and eternal

happiness. It is not above human comprehension, and is sufficient to satisfy all its desires.” John Quincy Adams, president of the United States (1825) said, “The first and almost the only book deserving of universal attention is the Bible. I speak as a man of the world...and I say to you, ‘Search the Scriptures.’” Ulysses S. Grant, president of the United States, in 1869, as he was dying of cancer, wrote in his memoirs, not for prestige but so as not to leave his family in debt, so he wrote his memoirs to sell himself so his family wouldn’t be in debt and he finished it in time and the royalty saved his family from financial ruin. This is what Ulysses S. Grant wrote, “Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties, write its precepts in your hearts, and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.” After the Civil War (1861-1865) God raised up some mighty evangelists. Men you may have never heard of like D. L. Moody who was converted in 1855 at the age of seventeen. Moody preached all across America, all across England, all across Scotland. In America he would often have crowds that numbered in the thousands. His last sermon was given in Kansas City, Missouri (1899). The Moody Bible Institute and the church remain in Chicago even today in honor of him and his great ministry. After Moody came another famous evangelist in the United States named Billy Sunday. Billy Sunday lived and preached from 1862 to 1935. He was an ex-professional baseball player who converted to Christ and entered into the ministry. He held campaigns in America’s largest cities and had the largest crowds of any evangelist before the advent of electronic sound systems (that means no PA system). Over the course of his ministry it’s estimated he preached to more than a hundred million people face-to-face and most without electronic sound systems. He was a conservative evangelist who believed in the inerrancy of the Scriptures. He believed in the virgin birth. He believed in the substitutionary atonement and bodily resurrection as well as the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ. After him, in 1918, William ‘Billy’ Franklin Graham, a southern Baptist evangelist, became known internationally proclaiming the work of Christ on the cross for the remission of sin. According to his staff, more than three million people responded to his invitation, more than 400 crusades in 185 countries, the first one being in Grand Rapids, Michigan, attended by thousands when he was only 29 years old. In South Korea he attracted more than one million listeners to a single preaching service. He also appeared in China in 1988 and in North Korea in 1992. Then a revival began to sweep through America’s youth from the early 1960s through the 1970s in organizations like Campus Crusade, Young Life, Youth for Christ and The Navigators. All had amazing results. The reason I bring all this up to you is to show that these events demonstrated the unprecedented period of Christian revival from the 1860s to the mid-1980s. But there was a big change in the American culture. A shift in American culture. Primarily the worship of gifts and not the Giver. After the conflicts of WWI, WWII, then Korea, eventually Vietnam many of the young people in America began to reject authority figures and sought a culture of free love with no responsibility. By the way, rejection of authority is an indicator of personal and national destruction. So if you have a son or daughter or a grandchild that can’t handle authority, you’ve got trouble brewing. The question I have to ask you

is, do they react or respond when you discipline them? How do they handle unfair decisions at school or at work? Because the secret to living a long wonderful life is authority orientation as taught in Ephesians 6:1-4, “*Children, obey your parents...honor your father and mother...that it may be well with you, and that you may live a long time.*” When this attitude began to change in America Satan took advantage of the shift and raised up his own cosmic evangelists. Of all things, a woman named Madalyn Murray O'Hair, founder of American Atheists and publisher of *American Atheist* magazine, best known for her lawsuit which led to the Supreme Court decision prohibiting officially sponsored prayer in public schools. In 1964 *Life* magazine referred to her as “The most hated woman in America.” Her demise was not very pretty. She was kidnapped and murdered by three men who sought money she had hidden. Along with her son John, along with her granddaughter Robin they were kidnapped and killed, dismembered, stuffed into 55-gallon drums and buried at Camp Woods, TX. Eventually Texas authorities discovered human bones and discovered that it was indeed her. She was robbed and murdered and that's how her life ended. This was just the beginning of Satan's initiative. By attacking the family and then beginning to promote a culture of no responsibility and forcing all Bible readings and all prayers out of public schools we were well on our way to a different nation than our forefathers had known. In the early days of my ministry (1971-1975) I spoke in hundreds of public schools and there was never a problem. We led many young people to Christ. That was a wonderful opportunity and wonderful time to do that. No longer can you do that. Yes, I still get to speak in schools but they're private schools, not Christian schools, but private academies. I pray that after the coronavirus effect has died down the private schools will be able to get back to business because they still will allow you to come in and talk to their students about the plan of God. So this was another of Satan's initiatives. The question that we face now is, are we going to change course after all this is over and recover or will we continue down the road to who knows where? The road to moral and spiritual collapse. You know, people turn to God in times of fear and times of worry like we're having today. “What's going to happen? I don't want to get the virus. I don't want to die. Oh God, please help me.” But when all of that goes away it doesn't take long for people to settle back into their old routines of enjoying the gifts and forgetting the Giver. Every day we hear another piece of information that sounds like the establishment concepts this country was founded upon are unraveling bit by bit. I'm not a politician, I don't pretend to be a politician but I don't think we can endure the gutting of our military, the ignoring of immigration laws and borders or American politics that pursue a course of progressive idealism and redistribution of wealth by means of entitlement programs. All you have to do is watch a simple late-night show, watch the man on the street interviewed about American politics and discover that many young people, many college-age kids, students that should know better, are in the clear majority and they are uninformed, unintelligent and easily swayed by the public lie. I like to say so many of them are drinking the Kool-Aid. This is an old saying, drinking the Kool-Aid. Are we going to survive it? A friend of mine, my pastor as a matter fact, wrote a book in 1993 called *In Whom Do You Trust? The True Hope of a Nation*. This book was published about the time when the average

American was hoping that the newly elected president named Bill Clinton would bring a better future and happiness by providing security and prosperity that would eventually lead to personal happiness. That book includes the “cycles of civilization” written by Clarence Manion, the Dean of the Notre Dame law school from 1941-1952. That cycle is from bondage to bondage. You can order that book from R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries on the internet at rbthieme.org. The only hope to break this cycle of bondage to bondage comes from the spiritual life of mature believers who live in client nation USA. If you're a believer, your job is to handle matters wisely. In Proverbs 16:20, *“He that handles a matter wisely shall find good and whosoever trusts in the Lord will be happy.”* Whoever handles a matter the word *dabar*, the Hebrew word *dabar*. You say why do I need to know about that? It means something that you think, something that you say or something that you do that requires a volitional decision. God gave you a volition and every decision you make, every critical decision you make, you are responsible for those decisions. So when it talks about *whoever handles a matter wisely* it means that when you think, say, or do something that requires a volitional decision. Now, let me give you principles about this. The question is this, what is your frame of reference? **What is your anchor point in life? Is it human viewpoint or is it divine viewpoint?** If you eliminate divine viewpoint from the public arena then all you simply have is the blind leading the blind. That's what's going on in politics today - a lot of the blind leading the blind because no divine viewpoint is being observed or even considered. **All decisions that we make in life must be governed by Scripture.** That's what we call Bible doctrine. So if you make a decision you're either going to make it based on what you know or what you feel. Either based on the content of your soul or based on the drive of your emotions. One of the two. All decisions you make in life must be governed by the Scriptures. Human viewpoint, human thinking is not Bible doctrine. This is why the Bible tells us we have to renovate the way we think, 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 a standard of thinking from His word.”* That's what the Father wants for you - a different way of thinking, that you renovate your thinking, that you don't think like the world thinks. The Bible is clear about that. When you react to unfair situations rather than responding, notice the difference, react or respond, if you react to unfair situations rather than responding then you obviously are not using the Bible or Bible doctrine. For example, do you complain to others about the way you're being treated? Are you looking for some sympathy, do you want to have a little pity party because somebody rained on your parade, or whatever happened to you? You're tired of it, you don't like it, so you're going to complain about it. You are reacting to an unfair situation. It doesn't have to be fair, it could be unfair. But if you get angry and bitter and react you are not thinking Bible doctrine. You see, it takes a humility profile to forgive and forget. The Bible says, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus...who humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation”* (Philippians 2:5-8). There is a humility profile. It takes that if you're going to forgive people and forget what they did. That's the function of impersonal love as you can read about it in Ephesians 4:32, *“And be kind to one another;*

tenderhearted, forgiving one another.” That's a mandate found in the Bible. If you have this supernatural asset of impersonal love (a problem-solving device) then you can handle any exigencies that come into your life, any exigencies that come your way. Let me go back to Proverbs 16:20 again, “*He that handles the matter wisely shall find good.*” *Wisely* is the Hebrew word *sakal* and it means to be very prudent, to give attention to, to have comprehension. The word prudent means to be practical, to exercise good judgment, to use caution or to be wise or judicious. Here are some principles on being prudent. That means you must have some wisdom. The first principle, you have to remember is we are not born wise, we have to acquire wisdom. We must. If you don't acquire wisdom you'll never understand divine viewpoint. You may wind up knowing God but you'll never understand the God you know without some wisdom. Proverbs 2:10-11 tells you this, “*When wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul; then discretion will preserve you and understanding will keep you.*” We call that the fantastic four: wisdom, knowledge, discretion and understanding. All wisdom starts with knowledge and this verse says when knowledge is pleasant to your soul. Do you enjoy learning God's Word? Do you enjoy it? A lot of people enjoy certain sweets. I remember watching a politician recently who was home during the coronavirus and she showed her refrigerator and all the chocolate she had in there. She loves chocolate. Well, a lot of us love chocolate, caramel and coconut all these things. But do you love the Word of God? Do you go after the Word of God? Do you seek the Word of God in your life? That's the key here. *When wisdom enters your heart and knowledge becomes pleasant.* Do you want it? Do you want more of it? You see, when you get knowledge that's information and when you cycle the information into your heart it becomes wisdom. Wisdom is knowledge acted upon. Wisdom is knowledge that's been learned and stored in the framework of your soul. *When wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul.* There are two things the Bible talks about: your mind and your heart. It's one thing to go to church and to listen to the pastor and to learn what he's saying and to have knowledge of it. It goes into your mind where it's called in the Bible *gnosis* or knowledge but it doesn't do you any good until you apply it or you cycle it over to your heart which then it's called *epignosis* (*epi* being full + knowledge being *gnosis*). There's a difference between hearing it and keeping it. That's when the Lord Jesus Christ said, “*Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it*” (Luke 11:28). Hearing it is not keeping it but hearing and keeping produces wisdom. Once you have wisdom in your heart that comes from knowledge of Bible doctrine, then you have discretion and the Bible says *discretion will preserve you* and then you have understanding and *understanding will keep you*. This is what I call spiritual x-ray vision. We all have it if we're believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a wonderful thing. It doesn't have anything to do with your high IQ, it doesn't mean that. **This is the invisible ministry of the Holy Spirit taking the power of the living Word of God that begins to be wisdom in your soul and the Holy Spirit through the Word of God gives you phenomenal discernment and insight through the eyes of Scripture.** Thus, you have what I call spiritual x-ray vision and that can save you a lot of mistakes. *When wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to*

your soul then discretion will preserve you and understanding will keep you. Preserve you, the Hebrew word *shamar* means to guard you. Guard you from what? From yourself obviously. Keep you, the Hebrew word *natsar* meaning to protect or maintain your position. You are your own worst enemy, that's the problem. So the first bit of wisdom we all have to understand is like this, there is a distinct difference between knowing God and understanding God. That's why the Bible says in Jeremiah 9:24, *“Let him who glorifies glory in this, that he understands Me and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for these are the things that I delight in,” says the Lord.*” The Christian life we talk about on this radio show is a supernatural lifestyle and it can only be executed by means of God the Holy Spirit using Bible doctrine of the Word of God. Listen, superman doesn't have anything on you. You've got all these supernatural assets. As a believer you have a Bible, as a believer you have the indwelling and the filling of the Holy Spirit, as a believer you have a right pastor to teach the Word of God to you. This is the supernatural life. It's possible that you could know God through Jesus Christ His appointed Son but it's also possible that you would not understand the God you know. That's possible. So every decision you make has to be based on either human wisdom (what dear Ann says or dear Abby) or it's based on Biblical insight. Every decision. The difference amounts to this. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, 1 Corinthians 3:11-16, your decisions will be evaluated and you'll be rewarded based on those divine good productions. The difference between the mature believer and the less than mature believer is obvious when it comes to making decisions. The immature believer simply guesses. He's guessing what is God's will and he has those famous last words, “Well I prayed about it.” It's just a guess. The immature believer winds up being impetuous, anxious, judgmental, and minus impersonal love assets. **But the mature believer, the one we are talking about, the one with wisdom, discernment, knowledge, insight and understanding, he's going to be deliberate, relaxed and using those problem-solving devices.** That's what he's going to be. This must be you. As we go through the tracks of history and continue on this study you've got to stay on track. You've got to stick with the course. There's a train wreck coming and I can hear the whistle blowing. Now if you look down the tracks, that's what's happening in America today. Not only our country but obviously other countries as well but I'm concerned about us. How is this affecting us? How is this crisis affecting you? What will be the America that comes out of it? Are you going to stick with the tracks of righteousness? Are you going to follow the tracks laid down by the Lord Jesus Christ? Or are you going to go off on your own My Way Highway? I don't know. But if you're a mature believer, your decisions will be deliberate, they will be relaxed and you will use those problem-solving devices God's given to you. There's a lot more to say about this and I'll come back to it next week. Please join me. Write to me if you need to - rickhughesministries.org is our website and you can always correspond with us there. Until next week, this is Rick saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Tracks of History - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 769 aired on May 17, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes please stick around just a short time of motivation, some inspiration, some education all without any manipulation. No asking for money. Not trying to get you to join up, fess up, give it up. Just listen to the words that come out of the Bible as I show you how you can maintain a FLOT line in your soul, a forward line of troops, a main line of resistance. That's the spiritual life. Learning and using those ten unique problem-solving devices God made available to us, beginning with rebound, which is confessing your known sin to God. You can't operate in the spiritual life if you have unconfessed sin in your life because you quench and grieve the Holy Spirit. Once you confess your known sins to God then you're able to operate under the filling of the Holy Spirit and you can use the faith-rest drill - standing on the promises of God. When you learn the Word of God you orient to grace and you orient to doctrine, the Bible, doctrinal orientation or Biblical orientation. That gives you a personal sense of destiny and it's all devoted to your personal love for God. That's your motivation. *"If you love God you will obey Him"* (John 14:15) and *"His mandates are not grievous"* (1 John 5:3). Once you develop personal love for God you develop impersonal love for others, *"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted..."* (Ephesians 4:32). Then you can begin sharing the happiness of God, the joy that the Lord Jesus Christ gives you and you can move into occupation with Christ. Ten unique problem-solving devices taught by my pastor many years ago and re-taught by me to you to remind you of the unique opportunity you have as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. One of the things that's discouraging is many believers don't understand the God they know. They're saved, they have eternal life but they don't understand the mechanics of the Christian life. Sometimes it's more of an emotional thing; they move along from emotion to emotion. That's not the Christian life. The Christian life is set up to do two things. *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15) and *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). Study and grow are imperatives in the Bible for us as Christians to grow in our Christian life, not to remain Christian babies. In Hebrews 5 it says "you've been saved a long time and you ought to be mature but you're still a baby and you need a bottle." Until you learn the difference between knowing God and understanding God, until you understand the God you know, you're never going to be able to completely glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. If you think you can figure this out by getting a Bible and reading it, you're not going to do it. You will get some divine information, you will make some human application but to have a well-qualified pastor teach you God's Word is how it was set up to be. That sort of person is not everywhere. Fortunately, there are a few men I know that are well-qualified and teach accurate Bible doctrine. If you want to know how I do it, get in touch with me, rick@rickhughesministries.org. I'll share with you where you can listen to these people online with a Bible and a notebook and start studying, growing, learning, and begin to see your Christian life multiply and be fruitful. In Proverbs 16:20, *"He who handles a matter wisely*

shall find good, and he who trusts in the Lord will be happy.” We started last week talking about the tracks of history. We saw how America has gone off the tracks. We saw the changes that have come in this country in the last few years and we can see what's coming ahead of us - a train wreck. The question is, are we going to go back to being like we were, occupied with the gifts and forgetting the Giver when the coronavirus is over or will we begin to make a change in our thinking, a change in our country? I'm not sure. *“He who handles a matter wisely,” wisdom is critical in your life. You only get wisdom when you learn Bible doctrine. When you learn the Word of God it becomes knowledge. Knowledge is critical because without knowledge there is no wisdom and without wisdom there's no discernment and no insight. “He who handles a matter with wisdom will find good [be profitable, rewardable] and he who trusts in the Lord [the faith-rest drill] will have happiness.*” That's your choice. You can trust in the Lord and turn over the logistics of your life to your heavenly Father or you can leave the nest (as the prodigal son did) and try to find yourself through the devil's world and (like the prodigal son) you'll wind up knee-deep in pig poop. Psalm 2:12, *“Blessed are all who put their trust in Him.”* What makes you think you could do a better job than God did? Are you wise in your own eyes? Proverbs 3:7 warns, *“Don't be wise in your own eyes.”* This is where the believer can easily get defeated if we get impatient and fail to wait on God's timing in our life. This requires some humility. The Bible tells us to *“humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time”* (1 Peter 5:6). This means **we have to be in synchronization with God's plan. We can't run ahead of God. We can't get behind God. If we're going to make some different tracks in this country in the future it's going to take some different thinking by people who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. It's going to require you mastering and understanding and perceiving the Word of God and metabolizing what you learn into wisdom. If your timing is off you're going to have a problem. Without the Word of God it's inevitable you will have a life of bad timing.** You may call it bad luck, you may be filled with self-pity, you may resent other people, but you stepped out of the will of God. If you have any complaints about your parents, about your birth, about your home, your timing is way off. Don't say you were born too late or too early. God started everyone in the world off at exactly the right time and He gave you a perfect start. When you complain about anything related to your birth or your environment or your parents or your home then you are blaspheming God, thinking He didn't do a very good job. You're saying God's timing was off. God's timing is never off. When 1 Peter 5:6 says, *“humble ourselves”* that's an imperative mood in the Greek, it's a mandate, but there's no instant switch that you can throw and all of a sudden you're humble. This is a volitional decision day by day. You must submit to the authority of the Word of God and to the authority that God puts in place over you if you are going to obey these mandates. This is not a request, *“humble yourselves”* it's a mandate. The morphology of that verb says the subject (me and you) are the recipients of the action. We receive the humility that we need by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit and by means of the application of the knowledge of the Word of God we've learned and applied in our life. The aorist passive imperative mood of that verse is a direct

command from God through the apostle Peter. There must be humility in the coming crisis. It's critical because without it you will never be objective. You'll think in terms of subjectivity and you will lack grace orientation. If you've been around somebody that's completely subjective, it's a mess. Your humility will not be inherited, it has to be acquired. Your spiritual life has to be acquired. Our Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated humility in Philippians 2:5-10, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus...who took the form of a servant [in obedience to His Father; humility and obedience are two sides of the same coin] being found in fashion as a man. He humbled Himself and became obedient [humility and obedience] to the point of death, even death of a cross. God exalted Him above all others so that His name is above every name, that everyone should bow, both in heaven and on earth.*" **Don't ever worry about God promoting you, just do your job. Be on track. Don't get off track. A disoriented believer is off-track and there's no way that he can change the destiny of a country or change the destiny of his own family or the destiny of his own life if he's not oriented to the plan of God, if he's trying to rush things and get ahead of the plan of God.** In Matthew 20 there's information about James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who sought to have elevated positions in the kingdom by means of their mother's request of Jesus. She came to Jesus and requested that when He came into the kingdom would He permit James and John to be elevated. They didn't understand there was not going to be a kingdom in their lifetime. They didn't believe it but finally learned the hard way. Following a revolt among the disciples when they heard about these two men jockeying for position the Lord had to have a little conference and set the record straight. What the Lord taught them is greatness is not inherited it's earned. Matthew 20:25-26, "*But Jesus called them aside and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them [arrogance] and those who are great exercise authority over them. It shall not be that way among you because whoever desires to become great must be your servant.'*" That's the word *diakonos* (not a *doulos*, that's the Greek word for slave) which means a minister; it could be used for a deacon but in this case it's a nonspecific term and it's used for one among social equals who takes a lower position or steps back or doesn't try to get to the front every time. You can read about a woman like this in Romans 16:1 who was "*a servant of the church.*" The Lord says in Matthew 23:12, "*For whoever exalts himself will be humbled; and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*" Greatness is measured in terms of service to others among the royal family of God. That's a question you have to ask yourself. Do you require attention or do you give attention? **The greatest service you could render is to become a mature believer, to have an invisible impact in your home, in your nation, in your church and to change the tracks of history in this country as we go forward. This has been a time for you to reorient and adjust, for you to get your feet back on the ground, for you to calm down from the hustle and bustle of life and focus on your spiritual life. Don't go back to the way you were living. Continue to put the Lord first like you did through the crisis. Continue to seek His will and to ask Him to deliver you and show you and guide you like you did in the crisis.** Prayer is a wonderful way to worship our Lord but it's also a wonderful way to serve other people. It's like holding a shield

over a wounded warrior. Giving is another way to serve the Lord and serve others by being a volunteer at your church, helping teach Sunday school or prep school or volunteer on the staff. David said in Psalm 23:5, *“My cup runs over”* that's blessing by association. Whenever you're around mature believers you get blessing by association. You don't want to be around any reversionistic believers, backsliders, that's cursing by association. Some of the greatest churches I know will have a local and international impact because believers in those churches are a blessing to others and glorify God to the max. Matthew 20:27 *“Whoever wants to be first [protos, first in honor, first in rank, first in attention] let him be your servant.”* The Greek word for servant is *doulos* and it means an owned slave. A debt slave is one working off a debt but an owned slave has been purchased. The word saint denotes the purpose of God. Slave denotes the will of God. *“Whoever desires to be first, let him be your servant.”* That's the will of God. As slaves, we're accountable to our Master, we're dedicated custodians to His interest. Colossians 3:17 says, *“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”* Colossians 3:23 *“Whatever you do, do it from your soul, as to the Lord and not to men.”* You're not to be a man pleaser. You are to please God. You are to be dedicated to His interest. You are to be accountable to your Master. Colossians 3:25 says, *“He who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and God is not partial.”* As slaves we've been marked, Ephesians 1:13, with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and were sealed until the day of redemption which means the Master will return to claim His purchased possession eventually. As Americans we are pretty casual. We don't like to assume a position of defeat or service. However, we have no need to be on a first name basis with the King of kings and the Lord of lords. His name is Jesus the Christ, our Master, our God. The New Testament writers did not assume a first name relationship with Him either but through Christian marketing we've made the name of Jesus common. Even demons are smart enough to tremble at His name. We seek to humanize Him by ascribing familiarity and emotion. That's very dangerous thinking. Don't do that. We must not be indifferent in our service and we must be diligent even in the absence of our Lord. We must keep His house well lit and well maintained. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is our Master. We are His servants. He is the anointed Son of God. If we're going to talk about a decline in the future, decline always begins spiritually before it manifests itself nationally. **I think we were in national decline spiritually when the coronavirus hit and it's been an opportunity to get back on the tracks of righteousness, to get back in the right direction. But spirituality must manifest itself in a nation. It has to be manifested nationally. You're going to run into problems with this because there's a real strong foothold of demonism in this country. There's a real market for everything that is evil turned into good and everything good has now been turned into evil. This is one of the ways that Satan loves to divide and conquer. To get you to break ranks, to step aside or move ahead or fall behind, not stand shoulder to shoulder with other believers.** In 2 Timothy 2 the apostle Paul warned Timothy of this because there were two men in his congregation who were teaching a lie and divided the flock. It's one of the things that's going to happen. You're

going to hear all sorts of stupid stuff after this coronavirus is over. Paul warned Timothy that the message of Hymenaeus and Philetus will spread like cancer. They strayed or broke ranks concerning the truth, and they said the resurrection was already past but it had not passed and has not passed yet. There has not been a resurrection of the dead yet as 1 Thessalonians 4 talks about the Exit Resurrection. So they overthrew the faith of some, Paul said. This means they subverted or they flipped them, they captured them, they discouraged them, they caused them to abandon ship. Paul is encouraging Timothy to show himself approved unto God. 2 Timothy 2:15, "*Study to show yourself approved unto God a workman who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.*" Bottom line is this, if you can be approved by God, then obviously you can be disapproved. If you presume to speak for God that's very dangerous. It's required of men who have the spiritual gift of evangelism or the gift of pastor-teacher but if you don't have that spiritual gift, let men with the gift do the teaching. You love folks, you help folks, you pray for folks. Do not condemn people and don't disrespect people. Give them the Gospel but let the teaching be done by the people that have the gift. Teaching false doctrine is grounds for disapproval. In 2 Timothy 2:16, "*Avoid profane and idle babbling for they lead to further ungodliness.*" *Avoid* is a present middle imperative meaning stay away, don't get involved with profane babbling (*bebelous*). This is conversation that lacks any affinity to God. Stay away from that. "*Avoid profane and idle babbling for they will lead to further ungodliness and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who went astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place.*" This is what's going on in America today, people teaching things that are not true - profane, lies, lacking any affinity to God, idle babbling, empty sounds, useless subjects. It is a mandate to stay out of useless conversations that have no divine perspective and this includes politics. If politics are the center of your conversation you're wasting your time. Your conversation needs to be about the Lord Jesus Christ and about the Word of God. Weak-minded people are easily influenced by something spectacular. We're warned about idle babbling, empty sounds, useless conversations. When you get into spirituality and start talking about the Bible, people who don't know what they're talking about start talking about miracles and people are fascinated by all this stuff. They are weak-minded people. They have no autonomy. They are suckers looking for attention from the false teacher. Paul said there's no room to be weak-minded if you're going to be a pastor. You must be able to study and teach your congregation and show yourself approved unto God. That's what has to happen if this country is going to turn around. God must raise up well-qualified men who can teach His Word, well-qualified men who know the Scripture. Let me issue a challenge. If you are that sort of person, what's keeping you back? Why are you not willing to commit your life to the study and the teaching of the Word of God? If you think you may have a communication gift, why have you not looked into getting into some training like seminary or college? Why do you think you can just get up in the pulpit and preach without understanding what you're talking about? There's no room for weak-minded believers and Paul warned Timothy about this. A weak-minded believer can be captured just as easily as a weak-minded pastor. We have to study

to show myself approved unto God. When I'm teaching on these radio shows sometimes I spend days preparing for one message. When I'm speaking in a church sometimes it's months preparing one message. Don't think for one minute that we are smarter than the enemy. He knows our weaknesses and he knows our vein of arrogance. Therefore if you or I find ourselves lonely, you can bet he'll provide a cosmic friend or a weak-minded spiritual mentor who will be more than happy to guide you into the maze of spiritual fantasy with exciting narrative and false mechanics. They're out there, they're selling books, they're spectacular preachers that have huge crowds but they don't teach any doctrine. In Jude 16, *"They mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain an advantage."* In Jude 19, *"These are sensual people who cause divisions...not having the Spirit."* In 2 Timothy 2:19, *"Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity"* and recover from destruction. Depart is an aorist active imperative *aphistemi* meaning to move away from, remove from, get away from. **When you hear false teaching you do not need to bend or blend, just run away, get away from it. We have declined nationally. Our tracks are going in the wrong direction. We are bending the rules and blending in with the false teachers.** That's why Paul said in 2 Corinthians 6:17, *"Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord."* The principle is if you're swimming with sharks, when you party with the lost, you will have no common grounds of thought. Don't swim with the sharks. Don't party with the lost. Don't hang out with inaccurate people. Stay away from them. Depart from iniquity, *adikias*, same word used in 1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and purify us from all of our wrongdoing [iniquity]."* We can *"turn the grace of God into lewdness"* and Jude 4 talks about it. We have to use our own volition to reject temptation to follow the wrong people, to be lazy and not take in God's Word consistently. In 2 John 8, *"Look to yourselves, so you do not lose those things we work for, that you may receive a full reward."* That's what God wants for you. **God wants you to live your life in such a way that you set the tracks of righteousness down in the future, that your life is a testimony to God's grace and to your submission to your Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God.** How do you handle the bait? When Satan baits you, do you bite or do you say no, I'm not going to take that? In 2 Timothy 2:19, *"The Lord knows those who are His."* There's an accounting system in heaven and it includes recognition and approval and promotion in due time. In 1 Peter 5:6, *"He may exalt you in due time."* This is critical for you to understand. The tracks of righteousness must go on and you must lay down the tracks. You must hammer down the railroad ties. You must lay the steel beams on top of the cross ties. You must lead the way in the future by being accurate and submitting to your Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, learning God's Word, demonstrating to others the importance of that in your life. I hope you have a hunger that will never go away to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I hope if I can help, you'll contact me for our material that will point you to a well-qualified pastor where you can grow spiritually and become the person God designed for you to be. Until next week, this is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Looking for a Champion

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 770 aired on May 24, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stick around. This is called The FLOT Line. We're using that military metaphor to explain how you can establish a FLOT Line, forward line of troops, a main line of resistance in your soul by learning God's unique problem-solving devices. We have listed ten of them on our radio show, we've written a book about these ten Christian problem-solving devices that I learned years ago from my pastor and we're passing that information on to you. Hopefully you will take time to learn, understand and use the rebound technique, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the faith-rest drill, grace orientation, Biblical orientation, a personal sense of destiny, personal love for God, impersonal love for all mankind, sharing the happiness of God and occupation with Christ - the ten problem-solving devices. They are for you. They will sustain you and carry you in times of adversity in your life. The outside sources of adversity are always inevitable but the inside source of stress is always optional. By learning and using the Word of God you can actually live a life free from worry, free from bitterness and free from jealousy. It's simply called the Christian life. It's the wonderful life that the Lord Jesus Christ lived and passed on to us, demonstrated to us in His humanity, and how we can live also. On The FLOT Line we teach the Lord Jesus Christ's lifestyle. The Bible says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). If you're going to replicate how He lived you have to replicate how He thought. You have to know what He intended, His motives, His initiatives, His desires - always to glorify the Father. Hopefully that's the same with you. These FLOT Line shows are available every Sunday and we also provide transcripts of the shows, as well as transcripts for the 2019 shows. If you're interested in getting those transcripts, contact us through the website at rickhughesministries.org. You can order the transcripts and the various books that we've got available, including *Christian Problem Solving*. We offer all of this printed material free of charge. Thank you for listening. Thank you for giving me your time. If you learn the Word of God you're going to have some spiritual x-ray vision. It's called in the Bible, wisdom. That wisdom gives you two unique qualities: insight and discernment. When you have those two things you're able to forge ahead in the devil's world and be used by God to replicate the life of Christ. Hopefully that's what's happening with you. Today we're going to study a subject that I think is interesting. We're going to be looking at the search for a champion, looking for a champion. The way we're going to go about it is to look at 1 Samuel 17:4, "*There went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines whose name was Goliath from the city of Gath who stood 9'6" tall.*" There's no doubt you've heard the story of David and Goliath but maybe you have never understood all the details of it. Goliath was a champion, the people's champion. The Hebrew word for champion in that passage is the Hebrew word *iysh*. This is the same word used in Genesis 2 where God created *iysh* or Adam and then God created Eve who is *iyshshah*, the man and the woman. In the case of the giant named Goliath it referred to a true celebrity, a person who is very well known. This champion from the town of Gath was a well-known

celebrity. In these times here in the USA, a lot of people are looking for a hero, someone they can identify with, someone who motivates them to do better. It could be a political hero or sports hero. But the Bible cautions us about that. It says, *“Cursed is the one who trusts in man”* (Jeremiah 17:5). Don’t take your motivation from another man. Take your motivation from the Lord Jesus Christ and assuming the mind of Christ. That’s why the Bible says, *“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”* (Romans 12:3). Goliath was the people’s champion. He was unstoppable and iconic but on the human side he was rather overconfident and lacked any humility at all since he had a perfect track record, he killed everybody he fought. On the outside he looked unbeatable but on the inside he had one major flaw and that was his massive arrogance. That arrogance caused him to suspect that a small shepherd boy named David would be no contest for him. I’m sure Goliath was well-paid. I’m sure he had anything he wanted. He was, after all, the people’s champion. You know sports have MVPs also be it football, baseball, basketball, tennis, swimming, track and field, boxing, automobile racing. They all have their famous celebrities who rack up millions of dollars for their outstanding performances. We just recently had the NFL draft (quite different than it’s ever been before because it was a virtual draft) and a lot of these top guys signed for millions of dollars over a four-year deal and they also have the guaranteed money as well, a signing bonus. Well, in this same vein, God has His own champions. You very possibly could be one of these champions but don’t expect to be well-paid or highly appreciated. In Ezekiel we find an interesting verse, this is what it says, Ezekiel 22:30, *“And I sought for a man among them, one that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.”* Did you hear that? “I [God] was looking for a man among them, one that could make up the hedge, stand in the gap and I found none that I should not destroy it.” In other words, national discipline. God said, “If I could just find one person of righteousness then I would pass over this land and not destroy it, but I could not find one.” When the Jews fled Egypt after 400 years of slavery, they were led by Moses and his brother Aaron. Once across the Red Sea they turned towards the promised land but once on the journey and seeing the seemingly unsurmountable odds they broke weak and requested to go back to Egypt, back to slavery where at least they had some sort of security. In Exodus 32 Moses prays for God to forgive the apostasy of Israel when they built and worshiped the golden calf during Moses’ absence while he was on Mount Sinai. Listen to the words of God and the pronouncement of judgment on the children of Israel who quickly turned away from God while Moses was gone for forty days. What was Moses doing? He was receiving the Ten Commandments. He was on Mount Sinai for forty days and Joshua was at the foot of the mountain waiting on him, probably wondering what’s taking so long and the people didn’t take but forty days without a champion like Moses and off they went crazy. In Exodus 24:12-18, *“The Lord said to Moses, ‘Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandments which I have written for their instruction.’ So Moses arose with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to*

the mountain of God. But to the elders he said, 'Wait here for us until we return to you. You have Aaron and Hur there with you. If you have a legal matter, let him go to them.' Then Moses went up to the mountain and the cloud covered the mountain. And the glory of God rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called out to Moses from the midst of the cloud. And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on that mountain top. And Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights." In the meantime, trouble in paradise since the people had no patience and they were possessed with fear of the unknown going to the promised land. In Exodus 32:1-6, *"Now when the people saw that Moses was delayed to come down from the mountain, they assembled about Aaron and said to him, 'Come make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what happened to him.'* And Aaron said to them, *'Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring the gold to me.'* [they got this gold from Egypt when they left the land, Exodus 12:35 tells about that] *Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. And he took this from their hands and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.'* Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar to it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, *'Tomorrow we will feast to the Lord.'* So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." So what's going on on the mountain? Well, God's champion is up there. In Exodus 32:7-10, *"Then the Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it and have sacrificed to it and said, This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!'* And the Lord said to Moses, *'I have seen these people and they are an obstinate people. Now let Me alone so that My anger may burn against them and I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation.'*" This is the greatest test Moses ever faced. God offered to wipe out everybody and start again with Moses. Moses could have been the lead dog, the hero. He was a champion and he had a lot of humility. Listen to what Moses told the Lord. Exodus 32:11-14, *"Then Moses entreated the Lord his God, and said, 'O Lord, why does Your anger burn against Your people whom You have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, 'With evil intent He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and destroy them from the face of the earth?'* Turn from Your burning anger and change Your mind about doing harm to your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself and You said to them, *I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'* So the Lord changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people." God never changes His

mind. God is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, immutable, veracity. This is an illustration of how the Lord is influenced when people confess sin and people intercede for other people. Moses was interceding for the entire nation, a couple of million people. He was asking God not to place discipline on them and the Lord honored his prayer. In Psalm 106:21-23 it's mentioned again, *"They forgot God their Savior, the One who had done great things in Egypt, wonders in the land of Ham and awesome things by the Red Sea. Therefore He [God] said that He would destroy them had not Moses, His chosen one, stood in the breach before Him to turn away His wrath from destroying them."* Was this not the verse that we were looking at awhile ago? *"I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before Me for the land that I should not destroy it."* Could it be possible that you could be that person? Is it possible that you could be the one that intercedes for our country and turns away the wrath of God? There is no doubt we are under discipline. We are in serious trouble as a nation. Moses had been God's champion in those times of national discipline and now with the national discipline coming in the form of the Babylonians and their king Nebuchadnezzar, no one can be counted on by God to make up that hedge. This is the coming disaster with Nebuchadnezzar. God said He was looking for one person He could count on, one person but there was no one. No one could be counted on by God to make up the hedge. No one could stand in the breach in the wall of national protection and national discipline was coming. Was there no one who would in righteousness intercede on behalf of the city and seek God's mercy? God searched for it. He looked for that defender but He could not find even one. It seems to me that if someone had been willing to stand in the gap, the destruction of Jerusalem could have been avoided. But since no one was available or willing to defend the breach and rebuild the wall, judgment fell. In Ecclesiastes 9:15 Solomon's wisdom teaches it only takes one. It only takes one champion to deliver a nation. In Ecclesiastes 9:15, *"But there was found in that city a poor wise man and he delivered the city with his wisdom. Yet no one remembered the poor man."* The wisdom of God is unbelievable. When you have discernment and insight that springs forth from wisdom, you can be the deliverer that God is looking for. Abraham pleaded for God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah if there were just ten righteous people but there were not even ten in that town. The real champion for us is the Lord Jesus Christ who stood in the gap and said, *"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing"* (Luke 23:34). Can you be the champion that delivers a nation such as ours? Why does God allow a client nation like America to be disciplined? Is it because of our immorality? Is it because of robbery and murder? If you look at Hosea 4 (I know it's written to a certain group of people but it applies to us) God had a controversy with Israel. In Hosea 4:1-6, *"Listen to the word of the Lord, O sons of Israel, for the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land because there is no faithfulness, no kindness and no knowledge of God in the land. There is swearing and deception and murder and stealing and adultery. They employ violence so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns [this is the same thing in America; great cities in America mourn over crime and murder committed nightly] and everyone who lives in it languishes along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky; and*

the fish of the sea disappear. Yet let no man find fault and let no one offer reproof; for your people are like those who contend with the priest. You will stumble by day and the prophet will stumble along with you by night; and I will destroy your mother [that's your land]. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge [knowledge; when knowledge becomes pleasant to your soul and you develop wisdom, insight and discernment] because you have rejected knowledge [didn't want to know God's Word] I will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten your God [and the laws of your God] I will forget your children." Are you worried about your children today and what's going on in this country? Then you better be a champion and stand in the gap because when a nation loses its champions of God's Word then apostasy and sin cause it to crumble from within. The first champion that you and I have to appreciate is a well-qualified pastor who can effectively disseminate Scripture because when a client nation like us loses the herald of God, the pastor-teacher, then apostasy can dominate religion. There must be prepared men in pulpits of this nation if we wish to survive. Their job is simply to study and teach the Word of God, not to be cruiseship directors (make sure everybody has a good time), not to sell books or do TV shows. Study and teach their local flock so that a pivot of mature believers can be established and come forth. What have I noticed in this country? Two things. First, many people don't want to spend time in church. They don't want to listen to a pastor-teacher. I hear it every day, "I just don't have time to study. I'm too busy." So they don't want to study, they don't want to listen to a pastor-teacher, much less metabolize what that pastor says. It's much more fun to worship the gifts than the Giver. Sadly there is very little hunger for the knowledge of God's Word in client nation USA. It's in God's Word where all wisdom originates. And another thing I've noticed is many pastors who do have the gift don't stay the course. They tend to drift off course and deviate from sound doctrine. I don't know what lures them but when they go they take their entire flock with them. Sometimes it may take a generation or two, but in the end those people are scattered. When a nation like the USA loses its pivot and there are no more invisible heroes or champions, then believers who are mature and possess insight and discernment must live by principles. We must live by principles, not by counter principles. Truth, not what's in the angelic system, not the cosmic vortex, but the truth of the Word of God, not the lure of the cosmic system. **You can be an invisible champion if you want to be. That's up to you. Let me tell you how. (1) The purpose of God's protocol plan in this day and time called the Church is to manufacture champions, invisible heroes, champions in the angelic conflict. (2) These champions are defined as believers who attain spiritual maturity through the consistent function of LAG (learn, apply, and glorify). As the Lord Jesus Christ said, "Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it" (Luke 11:28). Learn it and apply it and it glorifies God. (3) This means that you must perceive, metabolize and apply the Word of God on a consistent basis in your life because it can take you to spiritual maturity and when you get there you will be a champion and you will bring God maximum glory with your testimony, with your lifestyle, with the way you think and the way you live. That's when you have an invisible impact.** Not high-profile visibility, an invisible impact. The high

profile is in heaven. God knows exactly what's going on. High visibility in the devil's world is not part of God's plan most of the time, not for most people. There are a few exceptions where mature Christians know enough doctrine to avoid the pitfalls of the lure of the world. If you give somebody a high profile, you give them a maximum amount of visibility and exposure and a lot of times they sellout for the money, for the profit in printing and publishing and doing this and doing that instead of just studying and teaching. **The national impact of God's invisible champion sustains the client nation because it forms what we call a pivot, that core group of believers that holds us together. But remember, God does not use unprepared people. If you're God's champion, you'd better be prepared to answer the call.** Isaiah 6:8, *"I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"* The prophet Isaiah was cleansed by God for the service because he was to proclaim God's judgment on the nation. He reminded the nation of their sinful condition in which they were living and the consequences that were going to come. He preached to the Southern Kingdom of Judah during the reign of Hezekiah. But he was not used until he was cleansed by God. Isaiah 6:6-8 talks about his cleansing. His message was not well received. The people did not listen before and they did not listen to him now. It was a small remnant that survived but the message of discipline coming went largely ignored. So how about you? Are you cleansed by rebound and filled with the Holy Spirit? Are you prepared to serve God and be a champion by possessing Biblical wisdom in your soul? Can you hold up even though you may be ignored by your friends and your family? The great tragedy is that your children who trusted you to protect them and care for them in their youth, those same children of yours now ignore your words as if all of a sudden you became dumb and you don't really know what you're speaking about anymore. Their own arrogance lured them away from your wisdom to their own demise. Like David, you don't need to be a grown adult to be God's champion but you must be filled with the Holy Spirit and you must use the faith-rest drill. These days in our country maybe what God is doing is preparing you to be a champion. Can He depend on you to stand in the hedge? Can He depend on you to go forth representing Him by lifting up your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and sharing the good news with your family and friends? Remember Gideon only had 300 but he changed the course of history. Those 300 names are not mentioned but they were all invisible champions used by God in the national crisis and God can use you just as well. **You can be God's MVP if you have momentum, virtue and poise. Momentum - hearing and keeping the Word of God on a consistent basis. Virtue - built on discernment and insight from the wisdom of the Word of God. Poise - the ability to think under pressure. That's what it takes to be a champion.** Will you be that person that we're talking about? Will you stand in the hedge and make up the gap for this country? Will you be the pivot member who sustains this nation? Please, pay attention to this message. Listen to what I say. We are in critical times today. Until next week, I'm your host Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

How to Honor God

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 771 aired on May 31, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please stick around. Some time of motivation, some inspiration, some education always done without any type of manipulation. We don't try to con people here. We're not soliciting money. We're not trying to sell memberships. Just give you accurate information. Information that may help you verify and identify God's plan for your life. If I can do that, you have the freedom, the privilege, the opportunity to orient and adjust to the plan. So always remember that God gave you two ends. One of those ends you think with, one of those ends you sit with. Success in your life is going to depend on which one you use the most. Heads you win, tails you lose. The FLOT Line is about giving you accurate information. What I want to talk to you about this morning is kind of a serious subject, something that's been weighing on my heart quite heavily. I want to talk to you about how to honor God. Have you ever thought about that? How can you honor God? Have you ever wondered why God left you here after your salvation? I don't know when you accepted Christ as your Savior. I hope you've done it. It's the most important decision you could ever make in your entire lifetime. The Bible says, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved*" (Acts 16:31). Once you make that decision, why does God leave you here? Why doesn't He just bring you straight on to heaven and cut out all the middle stuff? Well, that answer is rather simple, it's not too complicated. But it needs to be understood so you know why you have to face things like a pandemic or a disease like cancer or why there has to be suffering in the world. Maybe we'll be able to answer some of those things for you. What do you and the angels have in common? That's another question. So why did God leave you here and what do you and angels have in common? You and angels certainly don't look alike, that's for sure. I have never seen an angel. I don't expect to ever see an angel until I go to heaven. I meet people that say they've seen angels and I tell them they need to see a doctor because angels are not visible in this dispensation. However, angels have volition. Volition is part of the format of your soul. You and angels both have volition. Individual volition was given to you by God and your use of your volition will help resolve the angelic conflict. You see, the devil (a.k.a. Satan or Lucifer) had volition and he chose to go against God in eternity past and arise to the mount of God and proclaim himself God. That didn't quite work out for him. Individual volition...it's critical we understand this because our soul is the battleground for the historic extension of this prehistoric conflict, the conflict from eternity past. The decision that you and I make will either vindicate God's judgment on Satan or go the way Satan wants it to go which is to prove himself not really guilty of going to the Lake of Fire. It's up to you. God's judgment on Satan and the fallen angels has been pronounced. They've been tried but there appears to be some sort of appeal trial and that's why we're here. Satan doesn't want to go to the Lake of Fire but he's been sentenced to go there. Listen to Revelation 20:7-10, "*When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison, and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; the number of them is like the sand of the*

seashore. And they marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people and the city that He loves, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been already thrown; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” In Matthew 25:41, *“Then He [the Lord Jesus Christ] will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’”* So it was not prepared for you. It was never God's intention to send you to the Lake of Fire. It was prepared for Satan and the fallen angels who used their volition to go negative to God's will in eternity past. They were tried, judged, found guilty and sentenced. These are words that I just read to you that Satan doesn't like to hear. He's been found guilty. He's been tried. He's been sentenced. But as I said earlier, it appears there was an appeal because I can see Satan saying, “How could a loving God do such a thing?” That's always been his argument. How could a loving God do something like this to send His creatures to the Lake of Fire? It is possible or it may be probable that man was put here to resolve the conflict and demonstrate that God is indeed fair and is indeed loving and that He was not unjust in condemning Satan to the Lake of Fire. I mean, you can see throughout the history of the Word of God that Satan tried to thwart God's plan forever, tried to thwart His plan in the garden by deceiving Eve, tried to thwart His plans in the days before the flood by breeding a race of half-angel half-man called Nephilim (Genesis 6:4-7), or even after the flood when he tried to kill all the Jews recorded in the book of Esther. Satan was even bold enough to tempt the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Matthew 4:1-11). I want you to understand he has not given up on defeating you. He has not given up on using your failure to vindicate himself and impugn God's character trying to prove that God is unfair and trying to demand that his sentence be removed so he doesn't have to go to the Lake of Fire. So where do you fit into the grand scheme of things, and how can you bring maximum glory to God? Are you on your own? Did God just leave you here and say, “Hope you make it kid, good luck” or did He provide resources for you while you're in the devil's fallen world? The Bible says in John 16:7-11, *“But I tell you the truth [the Lord Jesus Christ says] it's to your advantage that I go away; because if I do not go away, the Helper [the Holy Spirit] will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world of sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has already been judged.”* Satan has already been tried, judged and sentenced. In John 14:26, *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”* So we see that God did not leave you alone. While you're in the devil's world, after you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the resources that God provided for you are simply amazing. Beginning with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit lives in you (Ephesians 1:13) and seals you until the day of redemption. His power is available to you, as the Lord Jesus Christ said “because He will lead you and teach you all things and bring to remembrance the things I taught you.”

He's like a tutor. He's there inside of you. **You are not alone because you have divine resources. But we must understand what these resources are and how to use our resources if we wish to actually bring glory to God to the maximum.** After all, is that not our reasonable service to bring glory to God? In Romans 4:20, *“Yet with respect to the promise of God, he [Abraham] did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God.”* Giving glory to God is what we have to do. In 1 Peter 4:10-11, *“As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs all the glory and dominion forever and ever.”* **Our job is to glorify the Father by replicating the life of Christ and re-presenting Him.** Do you have a skill set? Because if you're going to glorify God, you must have a certain skill set. What are your spiritual skills? What's your skill set? That's the whole reason why we study those ten problem-solving devices frequently so that all of us can be on the same page and all of us have the same skills. Listen to what Ephesians 4:11-14 says, *“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastor-teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, and by craftiness in deceitful scheming.”* We're all to be on the same page, the full measure of Christ. But Satan's first line of defense toward us is to misrepresent God. That's what we're told in 2 Timothy 2:15. We must understand this verse, listen carefully. If Satan's going to try to misrepresent God you better know what God stands for, you better know what God says or you will be deceived and tricked. In 2 Timothy 2:15, *“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* Study is a mandate. Approved, God wants to approve you. Okay, you know what you're doing, you have a good skill set and you are His workman and you don't have to be ashamed. There's nothing worse than showing up at the Judgment Seat of Christ and being ashamed because you did all the right things in the wrong way, you didn't follow the protocol plan of God. And this verse goes on to say *“rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* Here's the point. If you can rightly divide it, you can wrongly divide it. It's been wrongly divided many times with people who have a hidden agenda, especially by Satan who can take a small twist like when the Bible says, *“For by grace are you saved through faith; and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9) and Satan may put a little twist on it and say, for by grace are you saved through faith and baptism or and giving up Coca-Colas and giving up beer and never drinking another shot of whiskey or something like that and then you will be saved. Satan adds works to it, but the Bible says, *“For by grace are you saved through faith; not by works of righteousness which we have done.”* Satan will always, in evil, try to add works to it. What does

that do? It cancels out the grace. Paul ran into this problem in Galatia where the Judaizers followed him into town and told the converts they needed to be circumcised. If they were real Christians they needed to be circumcised. That's not what the Bible says. And yet Paul had to contend with that. This is Satan taking advantage of the naïve and twisting the Word around so that people don't understand it. Would those guys have been saved? Absolutely, they had put faith alone in Christ alone. The problem was the next generation, the generation that followed. That generation would have been told in order to be saved you must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be circumcised. Then you have grace canceled out by works. It's grace and nothing but grace. Nothing but grace. Why? Because *"There are none that are righteous, no, not even one"* (Romans 3:10). None of us can do good so there's no way you can appease God. **The only thing that appeases God is the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross** where it says *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). That's how you appease God. That's how you get on the same page with God. You go through the cross through the Lord Jesus Christ. This is where the necessity of the ministry of the Holy Spirit comes in. He will lead you to truth, not deceive you. **Therefore your first priority has to be this, you have to learn how to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.** In Ephesians 5:18 we are mandated by Paul the apostle to be filled with the Holy Spirit. But how does that happen? How do you get filled with the Holy Spirit? We're also told by Paul not to grieve the Spirit in Ephesians 4:30 and not to quench the Spirit in 2 Thessalonians 5:19. **These mandates are essential for you and me to understand because if we don't have the filling of the Holy Spirit then nothing works for the believer. We're trapped in carnality and perpetually out of fellowship with God.** So the first thing that you and I need to recognize is the difference between being a spiritual Christian and being a mature Christian. What is a spiritual Christian and what is a carnal Christian? In 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, Paul wrote, *"And I, brethren, cannot speak to you as to spiritual people, but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk, not with solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. And even now, you are not able because you are still carnal. For where there is envy [sin], strife [sin], division [sin] among you, are you not carnal, and behaving like mere men?"* In 2 Corinthians 10:4, *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal weapons but mighty weapons of God for the pulling down of strongholds."* That word carnal, translated from the original Greek manuscripts, is the word *sarkikos* and it means fleshly, following the desires of the flesh. So every time we sin we are carnal or under the control of the flesh. That means, when we do that, we are not under the control of the Holy Spirit. We've shut Him off by using our own volition to choose to sin. Now we know how to recover from sin with problem-solving device #1 or the rebound procedure. This act of rebound puts us back under the control of the Holy Spirit and in a state of spirituality not carnality. Every good deed you do will eventually be evaluated at the Judgment Seat of Christ according to 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. Some of it will be gold, silver and precious stones and some of it will be wood, hay and stubble. The wood, hay and stubble is going to be burned up and those are your fleshly good deeds. The good deeds you did while you were out of fellowship

with God because you quenched the Holy Spirit. You still went to church, you still sang in the choir, you still gave some money but you had unconfessed sin in your life and it was in the flesh when you did it. It is human good and it does not vindicate nor does it glorify God. That's what it is. If you do things for God while you're fleshly it's nothing but human good. It's worthless production. It's called wood, hay and stubble. But being spiritual means you're filled with the Holy Spirit. Being carnal means you're controlled by your flesh. Another word we have to look at is mature. That's something else because you cannot be a mature believer unless you are a spiritual believer. Maturity is related to the content of the doctrine in your soul plus the filling of the Holy Spirit. That's why your pastor cannot be more spiritual than you but obviously he must be more mature than you because no man is qualified to be a pastor-teacher who is not a mature believer. Listen to what it says in Hebrews about these believers that are not very mature. In Hebrews 5:11-16, *"Of whom we have much to say and it is hard to explain, since you are dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be a teacher, you need someone to come back and teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, he is just a baby. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age [mature], those who by use of reason have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."* They have some discernment and insight and understanding from the wisdom in there. That's what the Bible wants you to do. God wants you to grow up and have discernment and insight, to be a mature believer. But being a spiritual believer is a different thing. Anybody who's filled with the Holy Spirit is spiritual but that doesn't mean that he's mature. **Spirituality is based on the filling of the Holy Spirit and maturity is based on the filling of the Holy Spirit plus the resident doctrine in your soul.** You cannot be a mature believer until you get some resident doctrine in your soul called wisdom, insight, discernment, and knowledge. That's where it comes from. **We're all mandated in the Bible to be mature believers. That's what God wants you to do. He wants you not just to be filled with the Holy Spirit or spiritual but He wants you to be a spiritually mature believer, a believer filled with the Holy Spirit plus having a maximum amount of doctrine in your soul.** Listen to 2 Peter 3:18, *"But grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and forever. Amen."* Grow is a verb and it's a mandate, it's not a request. **We are told as Christians we are to grow, we are not to remain baby Christians all our lives. If you're going to advance in the spiritual life and become a mature believer you're going to have to grow.** How do you do that? 2 Timothy 2:15, *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."* Rightly dividing. Grow and rightly divide the Word of truth. Be diligent about it. The Lord Jesus Christ echoed this in Matthew 11:28-30 when He said, *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* It's always been God's plan for you to learn, for you to grow to reach spiritual maturity in your life. This is where the breakdown takes

place today. There are many believers that I'm talking to right now, you're wonderful people, wonderful Americans, you may even be conservative patriots, you've accepted Christ as your Savior but you're not a mature believer. You've never really stopped to think about that. You've never really gotten into the groove or the routine where you study and grow on a daily basis in your life. Yeah, you go to church, you give money to missionaries, but there's more to it. There's more to it to be a mature believer. You may have heard me quote the verses I just gave you many times, but remember this clearly, I'm not your pastor, I'm not. I can direct you to a very well-qualified pastor but it's not me. You are not your own pastor either. Meaning you cannot take yourself to spiritual maturity by getting a Bible and reading the Bible. I'm sure you will get some good things out of it but that's not how you become a mature believer. You say "Why not?" Because God gave men the gift of pastor-teacher for a reason. That reason is to study and teach His Word and break it down from the original languages into categorical doctrines for you so you can become wise and have wisdom, knowledge, insight and discernment. **Spiritual maturity is a process. Spirituality is a position.** Listen again. Spiritual maturity is a process. Spirituality is a position. You're spiritual if you're filled with the Holy Spirit. You're mature if you're filled with the Holy Spirit plus have a maximum amount of resident doctrine in your soul. **If you want to glorify God to the maximum, if you wish to be the believer who brings ultimate glory to God, then you must reach spiritual maturity.** This process will take you through spiritual self-esteem into spiritual autonomy and all the way to spiritual maturity. That's where you will be called to the witness stand and face what we call evidence testing. Satan will be able to cross-examine you. This is a matter of you loving God. Do you love God? You say "I love God." If you really love Him, you will obey Him and you will put your own priorities aside and make His will your passion. Please don't deviate from sound doctrine. Please don't drift away from grace. Please don't get discouraged when God brings discipline into your life. I implore you, lay your own personal will aside and line yourself up with a well-qualified pastor. I ask you to start a sincere consistent course of study and for you to do it every day. Applying what you learn and it will become spiritual wisdom. Once it becomes spiritual wisdom it will give you fantastic insight and understanding. Are you ready to do that? Are you ready to take that next step and move toward spiritual maturity? If you are, I hope you'll contact me because I will point you in the right direction, where you can get under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor and you can start growing every day. It's the very same thing I do every day. I sit down and listen to my pastor teach the Word of God. What I'm teaching you, I've learned from my pastors over the years. That's what you must do also. Are you a mature believer? I know you may be filled with the Holy Spirit and you are spiritual but are you mature? Think about it. Listen to what I said. I pray it makes a difference in your life. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Pressure from Circumstances

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 772 aired on June 7, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm Rick Hughes, the host of The FLOT Line heard every Sunday morning here on this local radio station. Thank you for listening. We always have about thirty minutes of motivation, inspiration, education and we never have any manipulation because we don't solicit money, we're not trying to sell anything, we're not trying to hustle funds. We simply want to give you accurate information. Hopefully that information will verify and identify the plan of God for your life and if I can do that, well you have the privilege to orient and adjust to the plan. The FLOT Line has been airing on radio stations across the United States for fifteen years now. Thank you if you've listened. It's been my honor to bring them to you and I pray that God the Holy Spirit has used them to encourage you, to give you information, to point you towards a well-qualified pastor where you can begin to grow consistently and learn God's Word every day of your life. I want to talk to you today about pressures we come under from circumstances, sometimes beyond our control. You know a lot of the suffering we go through is self-induced misery. That's very common where we mismanage our money and we mismanage our health or we mismanage our relationships and it produces a lot of suffering in our life as a result of our mismanagement. But sometimes there are pressures that come into our life from circumstances completely beyond our control. There's no doubt that we Americans have been under tremendous adverse circumstances the past few months. I'm aware the entire world has faced the same tests that we're facing but I'm only speaking to you that are here in client nation USA. It's true, some may hear this message via the podcasts that we offer. We do offer this radio show on various podcast platforms such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Anchor, Breaker, those different podcast venues and sometimes people in other countries will hear them. So anyone in their respective countries if they hear this they can apply the same principles to their circumstances that I'm talking about us applying to our lives. Because God's Word is indeed for the entire planet. And the principles that I want to point out to you today, I want to point out are true wherever you may be. So let's start off first with a verse of Scripture. It may shock you to hear this. Here it goes. In Psalm 119:71 the psalmist wrote, "*It was good for me that I have been afflicted so that I may learn Your statutes.*" I beg your pardon? It's good for me that I've been afflicted? Good? You're saying this is good? Yes. Why? *So that I may learn Your statutes*, the Hebrew word for afflicted is the Hebrew verb *anah* and it means to be brought down or to be made low or to be humbled. Maybe that's been the case in your life in the last few months, you've been humbled, you've been made low, you've been brought down. Why? *So that*, that's a purpose clause in the Bible, anytime you see that word "that" it's a purpose clause. *So that*, the Hebrew verb *lamad*, it means so that I may learn. There's the word *lamad* and it means to learn, to learn through these adverse circumstances. So what am I doing? I'm learning through the circumstances. Why? Because my focus is different. All of a sudden it's not about the gifts it's more now about me and the Giver. So I'm put in a situation through affliction or suffering or humility where now I can learn something that I didn't know before. I may learn something about

myself, I may learn something about God but the affliction is going to cause me to learn something. So let's get some principles. **God allows unforeseen circumstances that often bring frustration so we would search His Word for the answers.** That's what we should do. We should search the Word of God for the answers. **Only God can remove the worldwide pandemic we face today and only His divine provisions can protect you or me during such times as we are in now.** My pastor recently taught Psalm 91, a tremendous verse. The first four verses are the deliverance and the divine provisions that God can provide for you. Psalm 91:1-4, *"He who dwells in the secret places of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge, He is my fortress and my God, and in Him I will trust!' Surely He will deliver me from the snare of the trapper and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover me with His feathers and under His wings shall I trust; His truth shall be my shield and my buckler."* Shield, truth, shield. The shield of faith. Ephesians 6:11 talks about picking up the shield of faith so that you can withstand the enemy's attacks in your life. The shield of faith, you know it on The FLOT Line as the faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God. That's why we printed that book *Bible Promises & Principles*. It's a beautiful book about the size of a telephone book, a small one, not a thick one but it deals with many of God's promises for your life and many principles delivered from those promises. So His truth, His Word Bible doctrine is our shield as we stand under His wings. The verse went on to say, let me remind you again, *"it's good for me that I've been afflicted so that I may learn Your statutes."* Statutes is a noun *choq*, that's the Hebrew word *choq* and it decrees Your ordinances or God's laws in general. So one of the reasons we often go through affliction is to learn something, to learn something. You've heard me say where the Lord Jesus Christ said, *"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light"* (Matthew 11:29-30). You may think what you're going through right now is a heavy burden but it's really not. And you've heard me say where the Bible says, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). Now is the time for you to learn. This is a time you can focus because you're not looking at other things, you're looking at one thing, the affliction that came into your life. So I have a couple of questions to ask you. (1) What have you learned about God during your time of testing? Yeah, that's right. What have you learned about God during your time of testing? You should've learned He's faithful, He's protected you, He's watched over you, He's provided for you. But have you used this time to concentrate your studies? Have you used this time to find a well-qualified pastor that you could study under and grow under? (2) What did you learn about yourself as well as what did you learn about God? What did you learn? (3) Did God point out a weakness in your own soul through His Word or through the Scriptures? Or did He point out maybe your lack of application where you got emotional and scared and frustrated and angry and bitter because of some laws that have been passed that you don't like? What did you learn about yourself by God's Word? (4) Afflictions are what separate the winners from the losers. The losers are those believers that don't stay filled with the Holy Spirit, those believers that don't take time to learn God's Word and

develop wisdom in their life where they have discernment and insight. Thus, they are losers in life because they compound their bad decisions, and wind up self-destructing. (5) How do you handle unfair circumstances in your life? Do you complain? Are you full of self-pity? Or do you have complete confidence based on trusting your heavenly Father not just some self-determination? You know, "Hang in there, we'll make it. This too will pass." I've heard all those things. "Yeah, we'll be okay. Let's just hang in there." This is not the place that we trust self-determination. We put our trust in Psalm 91. We dwell in the secret place of the Most High under His wings. He's our refuge. He is our God. He protects us. He's our shield, our buckler. The Lord Jesus Christ made an amazing statement about afflictions in His lifetime. When He was here on this earth in hypostatic union walking around as God and man, He made this statement to the disciples in John 16:33, "*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you might have peace [remember, problem-solving device #10 is occupation with Christ]. In the world you will have tribulation [there we are, afflictions, adversities] but be of good cheer [whoah, wait a minute, no, doesn't say complain and gripe and moan, no, it says be of good cheer] I overcame the world.*" And you also can overcome the world in Christ Jesus if you have a FLOT line in your soul. You can have the same mentality Christ had. How do I know that? Because the Bible says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). You can have that same mentality. The Bible says 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 each of us a standard of thinking from His Word.*" The good cheer is yours and mine. The world has been overcome. The Father knew about this in eternity past, what we're facing today across the world in this pandemic. It's nothing for us to be afraid of. In the book of James, James wrote about our mindset or our attitude when adverse circumstances hit our life. You won't believe what James said about it. He said, "*Consider it all joy [kind of sounds like the Lord Jesus Christ saying be of good cheer, doesn't it] my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance*" (James 1:2). Well, maybe this is not a bad thing. Maybe this is a good thing. Maybe God is trying to teach me something. The testing of my faith produces endurance. Endurance is the Greek word *hupomone*, the noun, translated patience or perseverance. So through our adversity, if we are in fact in fellowship with God, that means we're filled with the Holy Spirit, God can teach us something through His Word. If we will just be still and trust Him and control our thoughts (don't be afraid, don't be frustrated, don't be angry) by using the faith-rest drill. You see, in the Bible, your life and my life are equated to a race. We are said to be in a race. If you are going to run the race you must run it patiently. Listen to 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, "*Do you not know that those who run in the race all run, but only one will receive the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable wreath.*" Now that's an athletic metaphor written by the apostle Paul using the Olympic Games as an illustration. You can apply these things into your life. We're in a race but only one is going to receive the prize. There are the winners and there are the losers. We are to

run in such a way that we can be winners. We must exercise self-control in all things. Self-control, that's in your mind, that's what you think. So there's two ways you can deal with things: you can react to pressure with frustration and bitterness or you can respond to pressure with faith and trust. How will you do it? How will you deal with it? If you study the Jews when they came out of Egypt you'll see they didn't deal with pressure very well at all. As a matter fact at one time, God offered to kill all of them and start over with Moses. But Moses said, "Don't do that Lord please." You see, Moses had gone on the mountain to get the Law, had been up there forty days and they hadn't heard anything from him and so they decided to make a golden calf and worship that. That didn't go over too well. There was no self-control. Your life and my life we must exercise self-control in all things, the Bible says. Why? To get an imperishable wreath at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Hebrews 12:1 talks about that race again, "*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us* [that's the invisible angelic host that's watching every day; when you are going through these sorts of tests that we're going through in our nation we're being observed by invisible angels] *let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles us.*" What sin is it in your life? What one sin do you keep going back to? What one sin keeps capturing you and you have to rebound that sin over and over and over again? It encumbers you, that one sin overcomes you so easily, it entangles you. There's only one way to break that yoke and that's to stay filled with the Holy Spirit, to use the rebound technique when you do fail and commit that specific sin and keep growing in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You will get victory over it. Maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow but you will get victory over it, I promise you. So, we have a great cloud of witnesses watching, surrounding, cheering. When you make a good decision you can hear the angelic host of heaven applauding you. "*Lay aside the encumbrance and the sin that easily entangles you and run with patience* [endurance] *the race that is set before you.*" This demands you have self-control, you can't get squirrely. You can't get thinking in terms of reactionary sins like fear and anger and bitterness. Listen to Isaiah 40:31, "*Those who wait for the Lord* [those who are patient] *will gain new strength* [that means they'll be strong, they'll have spiritual confidence in their life]; *they will mount up with wings like an eagle.*" That's an illustration, a metaphor for flying; eagles fly, eagles soar high above circumstances, this gives them a different perspective on life; an eagle can see a rat in the field from a thousand feet up in the air. When you have spiritual wisdom, when you have divine discernment and insight you have vision like an eagle. You can mount up with wings of an eagle, you can fly above the circumstances in your life, and you can have a new divine perspective on what's going on, a perspective that the world doesn't have. You know, they'll bring people on different talkshows, radio shows, TV shows and ask them their perspective on what's going on and where we're headed. It's never the same perspective that I have because my perspective is based on the Word of God and yours should be too. If they interviewed you, could you at least talk well enough, do you know enough about the Word of God to be able to define your perspective, to tell these people what motivates you and what you see coming? "*They will mount up with wings like eagles* [that means they'll be above

circumstances with a different divine perspective] *they will run and not get tired.*” That’s another metaphor of a racer or a runner. You know, we live a fast-paced life. The spiritual life is fast-paced. Here today gone tomorrow. And when you are into the Word of God with a FLOT line in your soul you will never get tired. You will be advancing quickly in the plan of God in your life. *“And they will walk and not be weary.”* Walk is the long walk, it’s a long walk. So we have several metaphors there. Flying high above the earth, running fast, walking slow but deliberately. That means all of these things relate to your life as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. This new strength that you get, those who wait for the Lord, those who patiently wait for the Lord will have strength, fly like an eagle, run like a racer, walk like a hiker, never get tired, never get run over, never get left behind. **Here's the principle: your afflictions are designed to test you and create within you a new confidence and a new joy through spiritual growth.** Your afflictions, your testings, your adversities, the ones that you don't create yourself, the ones that are unforeseen that come into your life like what we're facing today in this pandemic, pressure from those circumstances, those pressures are designed to test you and to create within you a new confidence and a joy through spiritual growth. We say joy. How do you get joy? *Be of good cheer* Jesus said. There’s joy. What did James say? *Count it all joy when you encounter various trials.* There it is again. This test, this fire that you're going through is refining you. It's purging out the unnecessary emotions that grip you like panic and insecurity in your life. Listen to Romans 5:3 Paul wrote it this way, *“And not only this, but we also glory in our tribulation because we know that tribulation brings about perseverance.”* We relish it. We love it. Why? Because it's teaching me patience. It's teaching me to be steadfast, *hupomone*, perseverance. I gave you this word earlier. Patience, *hupomone*. That's what this conflict is doing in your life if you are a mature believer and you’re taking in the Word of God. You are growing and you are learning and you are developing patience in your life. You're becoming a different person. And that's a wonderful thing. So, are you? Is that happening in your life? Are you developing that perseverance, that *hupomone*? Because adversity that you face in your life, that adversity is defined as a state of adverse circumstances or a condition of suffering. There are basically a couple of types of suffering. One of them is suffering for blessing which we are talking about here now and that's what we're talking about. And then there's also suffering for discipline and we are not talking about that one. Suffering for discipline is suffering we create. Suffering for blessing is suffering that we receive. So one of them we receive it in order to grow. The other we receive it in order to be tested or disciplined or taught something. So what suffering are you going through? Are you being disciplined by God for your failure to execute the Christian life? Or are you suffering for blessing? Are you suffering so that you can grow, you can have patience, you can persevere through this. This is what the world needs. This is what your family and your friends need. They need someone like you who can replicate the thinking of Christ in these adverse circumstances and not like everyone else who is living in panic palace, frustrated and ready to jump out the window because they can't do what they want to do. Many believers just like yourself, I mean people just like us, they experience stress due to the inability to function

under these adverse circumstances. You know, they turn to music, they turn to exercise, they turn to some sort of meditation to try to calm their frayed nerves. But you can avoid this sort of stress by having a FLOT line in your soul. Here's a principle I want you to remember. Remember I said it. Don't forget it. Please write it down somewhere. **A shallow soul produces a shallow faith.** A shallow soul produces a shallow faith. Your soul must have depth to it and that depth is built on the Word of God in your soul. The more of the Word of God you know, the more along you are toward spiritual maturity in your life. Remember, I've told you there's a difference between being a spiritual Christian and a mature Christian. A spiritual Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit, he's spiritual. A mature Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit and a maximum amount of Bible doctrine in his soul. The shallow faith believer is a believer who operates on emotions, the believer who doesn't have any doctrine in his soul, the believer who operates on his feelings. That's a shallow soul. They won't sustain you. So where does all the faith come from that I'm talking about? Well, Romans 10:17, *"So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."* Who do you hear? Who do you study under? Who is your pastor? Who do you listen to on a daily basis? You know, there's saving faith and there's living faith. Where does faith come from? Saving faith is salvation. *"For by grace are you saved through faith"* (Ephesians 2:8). Living faith is the shield of faith, the faith-rest drill. The essence of faith consists of believing and receiving what God's revealed through His Word and to the ones who teach it to us. Adversity has the power to create enough stress, enough stress-related sins to destroy us but faith has enough power to create trust and patience. We can overcome those sins. So the greatest way God can teach you or me patience is to allow adversity to come into our life. To allow adversity to come into your life, something we have no control over so that we cannot push a button and make it go away and He's done it, hasn't He? There are four key stress-related sins you've got to defeat: worry, fear, anger and guilt. Worry, fear, anger and guilt. Matthew 6:25 tells you not to worry. Matthew 14:28 talks about fear. James 1:6 talks about anger. And guilt, well Satan can use your guilt to disillusion you with yourself through some unrealistic self-image and unrealistic expectations - that's your own arrogance. Let me ask you a question. Have you ever been disgusted with yourself? Maybe? I know I have from time to time. Satan will use it. Well, I hope you've learned something today about pressure from circumstances. What God has allowed us to go through and what we're seeing is all a divine design to learn, so we can learn and grow, so that we can replicate Christ and re-present Him to our friends. Until next week, this is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Mental Attitude Sins

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 773 aired on June 14, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please stick around. It will be a short time of motivation, some inspiration, some education, all without any manipulation. We don't try to con people, we're not hustling money, we're not soliciting membership, we're just trying to have a show where we teach you some concepts about the Word of God hopefully to verify and identify the plan of God for your life so that you can orient and adjust to the plan. **It all starts with the greatest news the world has ever known, the news that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, has redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. Our debt to God has been paid by Him and we are now free from the penalty of death and the power of sin in our life. By receiving Christ as Savior, we, in effect, accept the offering that He made on our behalf. It's a free gift compliments of the grace of God.** That's why the Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9, *"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 boast."* And 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, whom He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord that being justified by His grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* It is grace. The grace gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. That's the best news I can tell you today but there's more news to talk about. You have a completed soul. You have mentality, you have volition, you have a conscience and you have a self-consciousness and you have emotions hanging around in the background somewhere and that's where the dangerous thing comes in. So the good news is that everyone that is listening to me has the opportunity to develop a spiritual IQ. In God's wonderful plan, human IQ is not the issue, it's spiritual IQ and it's learned by getting God's Word and developing some wisdom in your life. As you develop wisdom you have insight and discernment and you're able to have what we call spiritual X-ray vision. In other words, you can keep yourself out of a lot of trouble and save yourself a lot of mistakes when you have the wisdom of God in your life. Read Proverbs chapter 1 and you'll see it all right there. So what we're talking about today is the wisdom of God from the Scripture, hopefully to encourage you, to challenge you, to motivate you to be the man or the woman that God created you to be. Today what I want to talk about is a little different. Today I want to teach you about mental attitude sins that often occur when we're under stress. Mental attitude sins begin with words expressed in your mind to start with. You think in terms of words. God wrote pure words in the Bible. The pure words of God's Scripture, *"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 the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12). That's the Word of God. You have words in your soul, when you learn Scripture you learn words. Your mental attitude sins are actually words that you've learned, expressed in your thoughts and then manifested in the actions that you do. But everything starts with a thought. *"As a man thinks in*

his heart so he is" (Proverbs 23:7). These sins that I want to talk to you about are sins you can commit while driving your automobile, while sitting in your favorite chair or just relaxing under the shade of a tree in your yard. You can do these sins without ever lifting a finger. They're committed in your head, committed in your thoughts, in the mentality of your mind and as you think words, they become real actions as a result. They are just as real as any sins you may be committing outside of your body such as drunkenness or adultery or any other overt sin. The bad thing about these mental attitude sins is sometimes you might not even be aware that you're sinning since you didn't violate one of your personal taboos. People have personal taboos like don't drink, don't dance, don't smoke, don't wear makeup. You know, stuff like that. Goofy stuff that's not in the Bible. These are personal taboos and many self-righteous people think they're a good Christian because they didn't violate one of their own personal taboos. Well, these are actual sins, not taboos. **The number one mental attitude sin that anyone can commit is the sin of arrogance because so much springs forth out of arrogance.** Arrogance is the number one mental attitude sin because it produces an unrealistic self-image in your soul and gives you unrealistic expectations about how you should be treated. If you have an unrealistic self-image and you think you're worthy of something you're not worthy of, you're going to expect to be treated in a way you're not ready to be treated. Arrogance is very dangerous. The most dangerous person in the world is a religious, self-righteous, arrogant person. This person is often filled with all sorts of arrogance, especially the arrogance of ignorance. He's ignorant of the Word of God. He lives by his taboos. The ignorant religious person is very judgmental, very self-serving. They believe that they are the only one that God is impressed with because they observe a certain set of taboos. They don't drink, they don't cuss, they don't go to any movies except G-rated movies and they would never dare walk in a 7-Eleven that sells any kind of alcohol. You know what I'm talking about. But they would look down their nose at you and say you're not a very good Christian because you chew gum and drink Pepsi. You know I'm being ridiculous but you know what I'm talking about. Judgmental, self-righteous, religious people that judge others. God's not impressed with judging anyone. *"Judge not lest you be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure it will be measured back to you"* (Matthew 7:1-2). This religious arrogant one is under some sort of strong delusion leading to numerous bad decisions from the area of weakness in their life and they're often controlled by their sin nature and even demonic influence. Yes, demons work in the area of religion. Organized religion is the devil's ace trump. There are many people that will wind up in the Lake of Fire thinking they're going to heaven because they're good people, they don't do bad things. However, the Bible says, *"There are none that are good, no not one"* (Romans 3:10) and *"all of our righteousness is like a filthy rag"* (Isaiah 64:6) in God's eyes. Usually the religious arrogant person is self-righteous, trying to impose their standards on other people and they can even be emotional and irrational and mistaking some sort of religious service for what they may call Christian growth. It's not true. One of the really weird forms of arrogance is lust. Lust is a form of arrogance and a form of preoccupation with self to the exclusion of others. For example, David with Bathsheba. We'll get

more on lust later on but Bathsheba was married, had a husband and David lusted after her and murdered her husband and took her for his wife. Another form of blind arrogance is prejudice. Prejudice is a form of blind arrogance. Proverbs 13:10, "*Arrogance only breeds quarrels but wisdom is found in those who take advice.*" Proverbs 13:10, "*Through arrogance comes strife, but wisdom is with those who receive instruction.*" That's the same verse in two different translations. Again, prejudice is a form of blind arrogance. Proverbs 13:10, "*Through arrogance comes strife [prejudice] but wisdom is with those who receive instruction.*" **One of the most crippling mental attitude sins is the sin of anger where you express antagonism and hatred and resentment towards a person or system or philosophy or something that you disagree with, politics or rules that you work under, whatever.** The Greek word for anger in the Bible is the word *orge*. There are actually two words for anger used (it helps to have a qualified pastor who can tell you the difference) but *orge* refers to mental anger which always produces bitterness. The Bible distinguishes between emotional anger called *thumos* and mental anger called *orge*. One is like the thunder in one's emotional outbursts and the other is seething anger in the mind. The problem with believers who get angry is that it kicks us out of fellowship with God as well as producing jealousy and cruelty in our lives. Anger can turn a smart person into a very stupid person very quickly. Ecclesiastes 7:9, "*Do not be hasty to be angry in your right lobe [your mind] for anger resides in the bosom of a fool.*" God does not authorize any of us to run around angry. This is why many stupid and embarrassing things are said when we're angry because we can't think, we're just emoting. The Bible says, "*An angry person stirs up strife but a hot tempered person abounds in transgression*" (Proverbs 29:22). Anger is even associated with grieving the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30-31, "*Stop grieving the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be removed from you, along with all evil.*" Any of these sins that I mention (arrogance, anger) will take you out of fellowship with God quickly. When you are maltreated don't ever let reaction to maltreatment become a sin in your life. If you retaliate, then your reaction becomes a form of anger and you can rest assured you will violate the royal family honor code when that happens. So don't let reacting to some unfair circumstance become a sin in your life. You can't build your happiness on someone else's unhappiness. That's exactly what retaliatory action tries to do. You can't get happy by trying to get revenge on someone else and get even with them. I used to have a friend who said, "If I write your name in my little black book, I'm going to get you." You can't get happiness that way. Your anger actually can destroy a marriage since anger motivates other sins and even produces a loss of self-esteem, if you had any of it to begin with. **Remember anger is only one letter away from danger.** These mental attitude sins I'm talking about are where the verbal sins originate such as sins of the tongue. How do I control mental attitude sins? We want to talk about that here in a minute because there is a way to do it. **Another crippling mental attitude sin is worry.** Worry is a sin. Matthew 6:25-34 is the passage about not worrying, the Lord said, "*For this reason I say to you, stop worrying about your life as to what you shall eat or what you will drink; don't worry about your body as to what you shall*

wear. *Is not life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow, they do not reap, they do not gather into barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Now which of you by worrying can grow eighteen inches? And why are you worried about your clothes? Look how the lilies in the field grow; they do not work and they do not spin, in fact, I say to you that even Solomon in all of his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. And if God keeps clothing the common grass of the field [and He does] that is alive today and then tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not do very much more for you, believer of little faith? Therefore, do not worry [stop thinking in terms of worrying] about what you are going to eat or what you are going to drink or with what you will clothe yourself. All of these are things that unbelievers eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you have need of them. So, if you will seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness then all of these things will be provided for you. So do not worry about tomorrow because tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough evil of its own.*" Matthew 6:25-34, you can read it for yourself. Get your Bible and read it. There are four mandates not to worry in this passage. The more things you worry about, the more things you are going to be worried over. Don't let worry take power over your life. It's self-torment, it's anxiety regarding something in the past or something in the present or something that's going to come from the future. People get addicted to drugs or alcohol because of worry. Philippians 4:6, *"Stop worrying about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."* Just bring it before the Supreme Court of Heaven. He will take care of it. He will provide. **Another mental attitude sin is fear.** Fear is a bad sin. Exodus 14:13, *"Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid! Stand still and watch the deliverance of the Lord which He will accomplish for you this day; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again, ever.'"* The Hebrew word for fear is *yare*, it means to be afraid. In 2 Timothy 1:7, *"God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and sound mind."* The Greek word for fear is *deilia* and it means to be a coward, to be timid. Remember fear is an emotional overrun of the soul, emotions out of control. Your spiritual life cannot function under emotions and it cannot function under fear. Fear is like a virus and that's something we face in this country. The media have created mass hysteria talking about the coronavirus. They've got people afraid they're going to die. The fear virus represents emotional arrogance in the soul as a total distraction to your own spiritual life because fear sees the problem and falls apart. But there's a solution to fear. It's what we call faith. Faith sees the problem and through wisdom in the soul, spiritual X-ray vision, insight and understanding, when you have that then you see the solution. **Faith focuses on the solution. Fear focuses on the problem.** The more things you surrender to fear, the more things you're going to be afraid of. Today you might be worried about only one little thing and tomorrow you might add something to it so you have two things. And soon you'll become so emotionally involved with fear that you will have no identity. You begin to be irrational. You lose your identity which means you have so much fear that you're afraid of even living. Fear is something that if you don't control it, if it continues to develop in your life,

you will have no capacity to live and no capacity to love. Let me give you a fear acrostic. **F.E.A.R.** **F means failure to trust God.** Looking at the problem not looking at the solution. Failure to trust God. **E means emotionally unstable.** When your emotions take over, you get afraid, you quit thinking and your mind starts wagging like a dog's tail that's happy to see you. Your thoughts can't focus. You can't center on the faith-rest drill. You can't claim a promise because you're emotionally unstable. **A stands for arrogant rejection of the promises of God.** There are over 7000 promises in the Bible on how God can provide for you. We have a book called *Bible Promises & Principles*. It's free, if you want one, just write to us, we'll send it to you. It's full of promises for you to claim under pressure situations in your life and stay out of the trap of arrogance of coming up with your own concepts about the problem and not getting the Biblical solution. F: failure to trust God. E: emotional instability. A: arrogant rejection of God's promises. **R means you react to the crisis rather than respond to the crisis.** You can do one of two things. You can react with emotions or you can respond with faith. It's up to you. Fear is a mental attitude sin. You can sit in your car and be afraid. You can sit at home with the door shut and be afraid. Or you can live your life and trust the Lord, Psalm 91, let God handle your difficulties. He will protect you under the shadow of His wings. **Another mental attitude sin is guilt.** That's a horrible emotional sin. It gets bottled up in the mind. Living with guilt is terrible. Living with a guilt complex is terrible. Sometimes it's caused by a dominant person in your periphery who is very self-righteous and putting you down or trying to make you line up with what they think is right. Your guilt can be a feeling of responsibility or remorse for something real or imagined. If it's not controlled, it can become a morbid self-reproach to life and it can destroy the person who harbors it. Guilt is a sin and it has to be confessed, and then move on. People feel guilty about sins all the time. They feel guilty because they made mistakes. You may feel guilty about what you did that maybe you think your wife doesn't know about it or your husband doesn't know about it. Remember, the Bible says, "*The eyes of the Lord move to and fro over the whole earth*" (2 Chronicles 16:9). Failure to do God's plan, people feel guilty about that. People feel guilty about improprieties instead of naming those things that they did and confessing them as sin and forgetting about them and moving on. They'd rather sit around and feel guilty about it. This is exactly what Satan wants you to do. He wants you to go sit in the corner and he wants you to hang your head and say, "God can't use me. Look what I did." That's baloney. Satan can use your guilt to get you disillusioned with God or with yourself. That's because of your own arrogant, unrealistic self-image thinking, "I don't know why I did that. I would have never done that. But I did what I thought I'd never do." Yes, you did because you have a sin nature. You have to learn to control that sin nature through the filling of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, "*The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; for they are contrary one to the other, so that you may not do the things you want to do*" (Galatians 5:17). It is a constant battle. But if you look down on yourself, if you let guilt take over and you sit in the corner and cry about your failure, if you get disgusted with yourself then you're going to be defeated and become an emotional basket case. When you fail, get up. When I played football I

got knocked down but I didn't lay there. I got up, got back in the huddle and did better the next time. God knows when you fail and if you will confess your sins to Him, He said He would be faithful and just to forgive you. Paul put it this way in Philippians 3:13-14 concerning guilt, *"Brethren, I don't count myself to have apprehended it yet, but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I keep pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* The worst thing you can do is look back and say, "Look what I did." Yes, you did it. Yes, God knew about it. Did the dust clear? Are you still alive? Then God still has a plan for your life. If He was through with you, He would have brought you home. He hasn't brought you home yet so get back with it. Confess your sin to God. The wonderful thing about getting saved, I remember this clearly because I would lay in my bed at night guilty and the spotlight would be on in my head before I became a Christian and I would think about the stupid things I'd done and I was ashamed. But the Bible says, in Isaiah 59:2, when we get saved the guilt is removed. Isaiah 59:2, *"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."* That's before you get saved. But by means of the substitutionary death on the cross, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself paid for our sins and bridged the gap between God and man. 2 Corinthians 5:19, *"God through Christ reconciled the world to Himself not imputing their transgressions to them and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."* So my sins were paid for. I had nothing more to feel guilty about. They were gone. Paid for on the cross - past, present and future. And then when I sin in time, when I break fellowship with God, rebound removes the guilt of that. 1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all of our wrongdoing."* So there's no place for shame or guilt in the plan of God. When you find that you have some shame or guilt, your spiritual life has been set back unless you rebound, unless you get up, unless you move on. But you must be filled with the Holy Spirit to live the spiritual life. No one is ever filled with the Holy Spirit if they're in a state of guilt or shame. It's grieving the Holy Spirit when you harbor those things. **Finally we'll mention lust, a devastating mental attitude sin.** The Hebrew word *chamadh* means to desire, to covet. The Greek word *epithumia* means craving or longing or desire for that which is forbidden. The lust pattern reinforces the trends of the sin nature whether they're good or bad. Some people have legalism. Some people have antinomianism. Some people go crazy. Some people go self-righteous. The categories of lust in the Bible include power lust, approbation lust, sex lust, pleasure lust, chemical lust, monetary lust, criminal lust, crusader lust, inordinate ambition lust, etc. People without virtue lust for wealth, for success, for promotion, for approbation, for love, and for marriage without any happiness at all. In our current political season it's a perfect example of those who have inordinate ambition and lust for power. Prayer is not designed to fulfill our desires and our lust. **Use rebound to get back in fellowship and maintain the filling of the Holy Spirit and you can defeat the flesh and the desires of the sin nature.** I hope you've been listening. I've got a lot more to say about it but not much more time now. Until next week, this is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

David and Saul - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 774 aired on June 21, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stick around. It's about 30 minutes of motivation, inspiration, education and done without any type of manipulation. We don't appeal to people for money. We don't ask to sell you anything. We're not trying to get you to join anything. We just want to give you some accurate information. Hopefully that information will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life and, if you want to, you can orient and adjust to the plan, that's up to you. God gave you volition. He gave you a chooser and your life will be what you choose it to be. *"As a man thinks in his heart so he is"* (Proverbs 23:7). That's the real you. As we go through these FLOT Line radio shows, introducing the principles of the FLOT Line (Forward Line of Troops) which is ten unique problem-solving devices that you learn and deploy on the forward compartment of your soul, so that you will think about these things when you come into adversity and you'll use these problem-solving devices to stop the outside sources of adversity before they become the inside sources of stress. That's why we teach them. That's why we go into the Bible. That's why we get out these Biblical principles and hopefully things that will encourage you and challenge you in the way that you think in your life. Today we want to do an Old Testament survey to draw some conclusions and come up with some Biblical principles that are applicable for us today in our life. We're going to look at David who became the eventual king of Israel and how he allowed his fear to capture him and make a series of bad decisions. We know that none of us are perfect. We're not picking on David but we are using that to look at these principles and apply them to our own life. No one is perfect except the Lord Jesus Christ. We're going to take a look at a lot of political intrigue by King Saul who became jealous of David the future king of Israel. You may remember how David, as a teenager, was able to defeat the Philistine named Goliath from the city of Gath. Remember what hometown he is from because it's going to be coming up in a minute. Goliath was from Gath. David killed him on the battlefield when the Philistines sent out their champion to challenge anyone from Saul's army to come out and fight him. No one would until David showed up and you know the story how David defeated him in the dried up riverbed with a slingshot. In 1 Samuel 17:57-58 David is introduced to King Saul who really didn't know who he was. He just thought he had a sucker that would go down and distract the giant while he could maneuver his men to get behind him and maybe attack him from the rear. In 1 Samuel 17:57, *"So when David returned from killing the Philistine [Goliath], Abner took him and brought him before Saul with David still holding the Philistine's head in his hand."* You can picture this. Here's this young teenage boy, maybe eighteen or nineteen, and he has the head of the decapitated giant in his hand and Abner says, *The king has got to see this, come with me son.* So blood dripping everywhere up they go to see King Saul. In verse 58, *"And Saul said to him, 'Whose son are you, young man?' And David answered, 'I am the son of your servant Jesse from the city of Bethlehem.'" It didn't take much for Saul to recruit him on the spot and assign him a place in the army. As a matter fact, David never went back home from that day. In 1*

Samuel 18:2, *“From that day, Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family.”* He was drafted immediately into Saul's army when all he did was go down and take some cheese and bread to his brothers who were fighting the Philistines. Nothing had been heard for forty days so Jesse said, *“You need to go down there and find out if your brothers are still alive and bring a report to me.”* He had no idea he's going to wind up being the champion of the battle and defeating the champion of the Philistines. That's what God does sometimes. God raises up invisible heroes out of nowhere. So he never went back home, and it's here that Saul's son named Jonathan became best friends with young David. In 1 Samuel 18:3-4, *“Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. And Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David along with his tunic even his sword, his bow and his belt.”* Keep this in mind. David was a shepherd. He didn't have a military uniform and he just got recruited into the army. Rather than going to somewhere where there would be handed out some kind of weapon or clothes, Jonathan took off his military robe, took his bow and arrow, and his belt and his sword and gave it all to David. David had never fought with any of these things before. Saul, being impressed with David, gave him a leadership position in his army. In 1 Samuel 18:5, whatever mission Saul sent David on David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. The Bible says this pleased all the troops and Saul's officers as well. You can tell David wasn't arrogant. He was in a position that he didn't earn, other than killing the giant. He hadn't been to military training school but he's tremendously successful. He must have a lot of humility, he must not be arrogant because everybody liked him. At first King Saul admired him also for his heroics but eventually the king became jealous of David's recognition. In 1 Samuel 18:5-7, *“Whatever mission Saul sent him on David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army and this pleased all the troops. When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, that the women came out from all over the towns of Israel, to meet King Saul, singing and dancing with joyful songs and tambourines and lyres. And the women sang as they played, and said, ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.’”* Saul did not appreciate that. Saul was very angry about that. This is the sin of jealousy. In 1 Samuel 18:8-9, *“Saul became very angry [got out of fellowship and he had been out of fellowship for a long time] for this refrain displeased him greatly; and he said, ‘They have credited David with ten thousands but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?’ And from that time on Saul kept a very close eye on David.”* He didn't like what they sang and he was so arrogant that he didn't get the attention. In 1 Samuel 18:10, *“The next day an evil spirit came upon Saul and he was proud when he was prophesying in his house while David was playing the lyre as he usually did [to calm Saul down; Saul would want somebody to come play some soft sweet music and calm him down; he was all upset and so they called for David and David is there and Saul's got all these mental attitude sins] and Saul had a spear in his hand.”* In verse 11, *“Saul hurled it toward David, thinking, ‘I will pin David to the wall.’ But David eluded him twice.”* In 1 Samuel 18:12-14, *“Now Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with David, but had departed from Saul. So he sent David away from him*

and gave him command over a thousand men and David led the troops in their campaigns. In everything he did he had great success because the Lord was with him.” Saul's jealousy was attributed to God replacing him with a new king, that was going to be eventually David. This is political intrigue. You can see this sort of stuff going on in our politics today. Notice the reason that God had selected a new king to begin with. In 1 Samuel 15:23-26 Samuel told Saul, “‘Because you rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you.’ Then Saul said to Samuel, ‘I have sinned; I violated the Lord's command and what you told me to do I did not do because I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to their demands. So please, I beg you forget my sin and come back with me so I can worship the Lord.’ But Samuel said to Saul, ‘I will not go back with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being the king of Israel.’” In 1 Samuel 16:14, “Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an evil spirit tormented him.” So Saul now instructs his son Jonathan to go out and kill his best friend. In 1 Samuel 19:1, “Saul told Jonathan and all of his servants to kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David.” He wasn't going to go for that. Since he wouldn't try to kill David and Saul wanted him dead, Saul tried to kill his own son. In 1 Samuel 20:20-33, “Saul's anger” [mental attitude sins again; living by his emotions]. **If you let your anger get away from you, you're under emotional control of the soul and as long as you let your emotions run you, you're going to make bad decisions. Your mind is designed to think not emote. Whenever something happens in your life that you don't understand you can react to it with anger and bitterness and frustration or you can respond to it with faith and trust in the Lord.** “Saul's anger burned against Jonathan and he said to him, ‘You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! [Saul blamed Jonathan's mother for his attitude] Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse [that's David] to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you will not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me and he will die.’ But Jonathan answered Saul his father and said, ‘Why should he be killed? What has he done?’ Then Saul cast his spear at his son Jonathan to kill him; so Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father he was going to kill David” (1 Samuel 20:30-33). Here are some principles you can learn from this. **Fear makes bad decisions. God's justice will eventually handle the issue always.** There are political things in our country I don't like, things that I see happening, people that I know who are behind the scenes causing waves but it's not up to me or up to you to malign them and criticize them. **It's up to the justice of God to handle the issue and He will. He will expose, He will discipline and He will handle things.** Professional jealousy in politics as seen today is sort of like power struggles. Power corrupts. Total power totally corrupts. Powerful people in politics, then and now, are willing to kill so they can remain in power. That's exactly what was going on with Saul. He knew David was the future king and he was willing to kill him so he could remain in power. It just wasn't as discrete as it is today in politics. Today it's more discrete, more behind-the-scenes, more manipulation. So Jonathan goes to tell David of his father's plan to kill him and lets him leave and flee. In 1 Samuel 20:42, “And Jonathan said to David, ‘Go in

peace because we have both sworn in the name of the Lord, saying, *May the Lord be between you and me and between your descendants and my descendants forever.*' So he rose [that's David] and departed and Jonathan went back into the city." This was a mistake on Jonathan's part that would later cost him his life. He should have gone with David instead of going back to where his father was. Here's David's first bad decision. He's on the run from Saul and he goes to a town called Nob. David flees from Saul and goes to Nob. He goes into the survival mode. Fear turns to flight. He goes to Nob where the temple is located. In 1 Samuel 21:1, "*David went to Nob to Ahimelech the priest; and Ahimelech trembled when he met him and said, 'Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?'*" Now David is going to hide and lie so he can secure provisions for himself. He lies to the priest. This is another bad decision. **God never authorizes lying. If you're having to lie to maintain your position or lie to gain power you are totally out of line and totally wrong.** Here's the lie. "*David said to Ahimelech the priest, 'The king ordered me on some business and said to me, 'Don't let anyone know anything about what I'm sending you to do or what I commanded you to do and I have directed the young men to a certain place.' Therefore, now what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread or whatever can be found.'* And the priest answered David and said, '*There is no common bread on hand but there is the holy bread; if the young men have kept themselves from women.'* And David answered the priest and said to him, '*Truly women have been kept from us for about three days since I came out and the vessels of the young men are holy and the bread is in effect common, even though it was consecrated on the vessel this day.'* So the priest gave him holy bread, for there was no other bread, nothing but the shewbread which had been taken from him before the Lord in order to put hot bread in its place on the day when it was taken away" (1 Samuel 21:2-6). Let me explain what that is. Every day they had shewbread sitting on the table in front of the Ark of the Covenant. Each loaf weighed about four pounds. There were probably ten or twelve loaves of shewbread and they changed it every seven days. So this bread that he's getting is seven days old but it's enough to feed himself and the men that were with him. Here's a problem, a certain man of the servants of Saul happened to be there that day and his name was Doeg the Edomite. This is a real rat here. He's the chief of the herdsmen who belong to Saul. "*And David said to Ahimelech, 'Is there not here on hand a weapon like a spear or sword? For I did not bring mine and I do not have any weapons, because the king's matter was urgent.'* Then the priest said, '*The sword of Goliath the Philistine that you killed is there wrapped in the cloth behind the ephod; you can take that if you want. There is nothing else here.'* And David said, '*There is none like it; give it to me.'*" (1 Samuel 21:8-9). So he got bread and he got Goliath's sword. That shewbread, there was at least ten to twelve cakes of bread each weighing about four pounds and Doeg the rat is there and sees all of this. In 1 Samuel 22:9-10, "*Then Doeg the Edomite, who was standing with Saul's official, answered and said to him, 'I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. And he inquired of the Lord for him, gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine.'*" So he goes back and reports to Saul what he saw. Here's the tragedy of the story. This deception by David of Ahimelech costs this priest and his entire staff

their lives once Saul found out David had been there. Listen to what happened. David must have felt horrible about this. He had no idea that lying to this priest was going to cost all these people their lives. Just like today's politics, lying costs people's lives every day. In 1 Samuel 22:11-19, *"So the king sent to Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were in Nob; and they all came to the king. And Saul said, 'Listen now, son of Ahitub.' And he answered, 'I am here, my lord.' Saul then said to him, 'Why did you conspire against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you gave him bread and a sword and you inquired of God for him that he should rise against me by lying in wait as it is this day?' Then Ahimelech answered the king and said, 'And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, even the king's son-in-law, and who goes at your bidding and is honored in your house? Did I do something wrong when I began to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to the servants or anything to the house of my father, for we knew nothing about this whole affair.' But the king said, 'You're going to die Ahimelech you and all your father's house are going to die!' Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, 'Turn and kill the priests of the Lord because their hand is with David and because they knew when he fled and did not tell me.' But the servants of the king would not do it, they would not lift their hands to strike the priest. And so the king turned to Doeg, 'You kill them, you do it.' So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod. And he struck Nob the city of the priests with the edge of the sword, both men and women and children and nursing infants; also donkeys, and sheep he struck with the edge of the sword."* He killed everybody. Everybody in that town was killed. All the priests were murdered because David told a lie. What a guilt that would be on David's conscience. A third bad decision is that David now tries to flee to Achish the king of Gath and pretends to be crazy to escape death. David must have been in his early twenties at this time. In 1 Samuel 21:10-15, *"David arose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath. But the servants of Achish said to him, 'Is this not David, the king of the land? Did they not sing of this one as they danced, saying, Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten thousands?'"* [they recognized who he was] *And David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of [fear, panic] Achish king of Gath. So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be mad in their hands and scratched at the door of the gate and let his saliva fall on his beard. Then Achish said to his servants, 'Look this man is insane. Why have you brought him to me? Do I need a madman that you brought this fellow that played a madman in my presence? Shall I let this man come into my house?'"* So David fled to Adullam which is eventually a good decision because he went to the caves of Adullam. *"So David left Gath and escaped to the caves of Adullam; and when his brothers and all his father's household heard about it they all came down to join him there"* (1 Samuel 22:1). Everybody's at the caves of Adullam, the family and everybody. David wants his family protected from the wrath of Saul. He'd already found out that Saul killed everybody in Nob, all the priests and everything. So David goes to the king of Moab and asks for protection for his family since his great-grandmother was a Moabite named Ruth. In 1 Samuel 22:2-4, *"And everyone who was in*

distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented, gathered together to David; and he became their captain. And there were about four hundred men with him. And David went from there to Mizpah of Moab, and he said to the king of Moab, 'Please let my father and my mother come here with you until I know what God will do with me.' So he brought them before the king of Moab and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold." He secured safety for his family. Now David spares the king's life which is a great decision that he made. Your life may be recognized for several great decisions that you make: (1) the children you brought into this world and how you raised them, (2) the spouse that you married and how you treated him or her, (3) the course of business you got into and how you did business. You're going to be known for these. This is something David was known for. In 1 Samuel 24:1-16, he had a chance to kill Saul and he wouldn't do it. He spared his life. *"It happened when Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines that he was told, saying, 'Listen, David is in the wilderness of Engedi.' So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all of Israel and went after David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats. And he came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave. And the men of David said to him, 'This is the day the Lord said to you, Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand that you can do to him as it seems good to you.' Then David rose up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe."* I don't know if you understand what he was doing, but Saul went to go to the bathroom and was squatting in the cave where David and his men were hiding. David snuck up on him and cut off the corner of his robe. *"And it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe. So he said to his men, 'The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed one, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing that he is anointed of the Lord.' So David restrained his servants and with these words, he did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul got up when he was finished and walked out of the cave on his way. David walked out behind him and called his name, 'My lord the king!' And Saul turned around and saw David bowed with his face to the earth. And David said to Saul, 'Why do you listen to the words of men who say indeed, David wants to do you harm? Look this day your eyes have seen the Lord delivered you to me and in that cave others urged me to kill you, but with my eyes I spared you and I said, I will not stretch out my hand against my lord for he is God's anointed. Moreover, my father, see this! Yes, look the corner of your robe is in my hand because I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, and you can see there's no evil, no rebellion in my hand.'"* Can you imagine that? Here's Saul in the cave thinking he's in privacy going to the bathroom while his men were bivouacked outside behind the bushes and it's the very cave David was hidden in. David spared his life. He didn't kill him. He could have but he did not. Think about that and the political intrigue we have today. The fear, the murder, behind the scenes things that go on. None of that honors God. It will never honor God in your life either. There's a lot more to talk about in this story. I hope you'll stay with me. We'll come back next week and try to finish it up. Until then, this is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

David and Saul - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 775 aired on June 28, 2020

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line radio show. I'm Rick Hughes. Thank you for listening. It's my great honor and privilege to bring you accurate information (not human speculation) from the Bible, the canon of Scripture. Hopefully designed to help you understand, to clarify God's will for your life. If I can do that then you can orient and adjust to the will. It's up to you. My job is not to make you do anything, not to solicit money from you, not to do anything except give you information. Last week we started a study on the life of David intending to show how bad decisions limit future options. We ran through some episodes in David's life and we're going to continue that study with David and Saul and some of the things that took place in the book of 1 Samuel. It's all designed to give you some wisdom which is part of what's called the FLOT line of your soul, your main line of resistance. When you learn these ten unique problem-solving devices, called the FLOT line, then you are able to stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. In David's case, as a young man, he's having some stress and he's having a lot of adversity because the king is trying to kill him. How he handles it, we can compare to your life and how you're handling some of the things that you're going through today. This is kind of an Old Testament survey from which we're going to draw some conclusions and Biblical principles that are applicable to us today. A lot of this deals with political intrigue going on in the kingdom at that time. Remember, David was introduced to King Saul after he killed the Philistine giant Goliath. In 1 Samuel 17:57-58, "*When David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine's head in his hand. And Saul said to him, 'Whose son are you, young man?' And David answered, 'I am the son of your servant Jesse from Bethlehem.'*" Saul had a son named Jonathan and he and David became best friends. Jonathan respected David very much, even gave him his uniform and his weapons. In 1 Samuel 18:4, "*Jonathan took off his robe and gave it to David with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt.*" David was just a shepherd boy. He didn't have a military uniform. So Jonathan gave him all of that. Saul was so impressed with David that he gave him a leadership position in the army. In 1 Samuel 18:5, whatever mission Saul sent him on David was successful so Saul gave him high rank in the army and it pleased all the troops and Saul's officers as well. At first King Saul admired David for his heroics but eventually he became jealous of David, especially when people begin to sing about David. They sang, "Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten thousands" and it made him very jealous, very angry and displeased him. From that day on, the Bible says, Saul kept a close eye on David. He was jealous of him and designed to kill him. "*Now Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him but departed from Saul*" (1 Samuel 18:12). Make a note of that. God departed from Saul. That doesn't mean he wasn't saved anymore. You can't lose your salvation. Saul is in heaven today. He was a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. He didn't know Him as we know Him but he knew who He was going to be and he believed by faith. So as you make bad decisions it's possible that you quench and grieve the Holy Spirit and the end result is you wind up on what we call the My Way

Highway. Saul was on the My Way Highway. He disobeyed God. God told him to do certain things. He didn't do them. He did it his way. So the Lord said, "I'm going to replace you with a king who will obey me" and Saul's jealousy was over that. God selected a new king. Saul had even said, "I beg you to forgive my sin and come back so I can worship the Lord" begging Samuel to reinstate the ministry of the Holy Spirit. But Samuel said, "I will not go back with you. You rejected the Word of the Lord, the Lord rejected you as king over Israel." In 1 Samuel 16:14, *"The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul [that's the enablement of the Holy Spirit] and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him."* So Saul got jealous and wanted his son Jonathan to kill David and Jonathan wouldn't do it and Jonathan told David that he needed to get out of town. In 1 Samuel 20:42, *"Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace. We both swore in the name of the Lord saying, May the Lord be between you and me and between your descendants and my descendants forever.'"* So David rose and departed and Jonathan went back into the city with his dad. David is on the run. Fear turns to flight. Operation survival mode. The first place he goes is to Nob where the temple is located. Here he made a terrible decision. He lied to the priest. Ahimelech the priest said, "Why are you here? What do you want?" David responded, "The king ordered me on private business and told me to not let anybody know anything about what I'm being sent on and directed my young men to such and such a place and don't tell anybody. So now that I'm on this secret mission, what can you give me to eat? What can you feed me?" So David wound up taking the seven day old shewbread and the sword of Goliath. The priests thought they were doing the king a favor but it wound up getting them all killed because there was a man in that crowd named Doeg the Edomite who heard these things and reported them to Saul. Saul came down and called all of the priests of Ahimelech to come to his office and had Doeg the Edomite kill all of them. He killed the priests, everybody in the town, the children, the women, donkeys and sheep. You can read about it yourself in 1 Samuel 22:18-19. This is a bad decision that David made misleading the priests and getting them all killed. From here David fled to Achish the king of Gath, tried to take refuge there, but Achish wouldn't take him in and so there he had to pretend like he was crazy. Then David goes to the king of Moab and asked for protection for his family since his great-grandmother (Ruth) was Moabite. *"Please let my father and my mother come and stay with you until I know what God is going to do with me.' Then he left them with the king of Moab; and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold"* (1 Samuel 22:3-4). We left off with David sparing Saul's life. Saul was on the run, looking for him, trying to kill him. He took three thousand chosen men and went to look for him in 1 Samuel 24. And they stopped to take a break and Saul goes into a cave to relieve himself and it happens to be the cave David is in. David's men thought God had delivered Saul to David, but He didn't. David would not kill him. He just snuck up behind him while he was doing his business, cut the hem of his robe off, and when he left to go outside he walked out behind him and revealed what he had done. The Bible says in verse 16, *"Saul lifted up his voice and wept."* Here are a few principles you should be able to apply into your life. David waited on God's justice and did not execute his own justice. He could have killed Saul in the cave but he did not

do that. He was not going to step in and kill God's man. David's demonstration of fidelity to Saul meant nothing to the king. He didn't care. Saul was so emotional. He lacked any human mental stability and he went right back and tried to kill him again later. Saul had abandoned God's plan. God abandoned Saul and he was no longer going to be the ruler of Israel. And here's a very important principle. **No man is too important to be replaced by God.** Today in our political scene there are a lot of people that want to replace our current president. They think they could do a better job, they think they have more smarts, they think he's a liar, they think he's all sorts of things. But listen to Romans 13:1, *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except that which God has established, and the authorities that exist are established by God."* If God allowed our current president to be elected president, who is so smart as to say that they know more and they want to do whatever they need to do to get rid of him because they hate him so much? David would not make that move, he would not do that because he recognized that Saul was God's man even though Saul was not acting like it. There was another episode where David could have taken Saul out but he didn't. When Saul came again to try to kill him and bivouacked and slept in a ravine, David snuck into his camp at night and was urged by his men to kill him but he wouldn't do it. This reminds us that the leopard does not change his spots. Another attempt on David's life, Saul did it in 1 Samuel 26:1-3. And David still would not seek revenge. In 1 Samuel 26:10-11, *"David said, 'As the Lord lives, surely the Lord will strike him or his time will come that he will die, or he will go down into battle and perish. The Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed one; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water and let us go.'"* Again, once David reveals to Saul that he could have killed him, *"Saul said, 'I have sinned. Come back, David my son, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error'"* (1 Samuel 26:21). We've learned from this study that power-hungry politicians will murder to preserve power. Where did I get that? In 1 Samuel 19:1, *"Saul spoke to his son Jonathan and to all of his servants that they should kill David."* Why would he want to kill David? He recognized the people appreciated David more than him and he knew God had withdrawn His blessings from him, King Saul. Thus, in jealousy, he wanted David dead even though David never did anything to harm Saul, never did anything to make him look bad in the kingdom. Saul was operating on emotional anger full of malice toward David. **The Bible tells you never to have malice,** Ephesians 4:32. *"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ has forgiven you."* That's impersonal love that the believer uses in the FLOT line of his soul. It's a tremendous problem-solving device. As a reminder, problem-solving device #1 is rebound (confessing your sin), #2 is the filling of the Holy Spirit, #3 is the faith-rest drill, #4 is grace orientation, #5 is doctrinal orientation, #6 is personal sense of destiny, #7 is personal love for God, #8 is impersonal love for all mankind, #9 is sharing the happiness of God and #10 is occupation with Christ. Ten unique problem-solving devices. God had a plan for David. David had a personal sense of destiny. He should have recognized that. David had personal love for God because he would not kill Saul,

God's anointed. David had to live by faith but he was afraid. He was making some bad decisions in regard to that. He wouldn't kill him but he was absolutely scared to death. Saul operated on emotional anger, full of malice and hatred. This is the same David that we're talking about that God would later establish a covenant with in 2 Samuel 7:8-16 where He promised, "*Your house and your kingdom will be established forever before Me and your throne shall be established forever.*" The Lord Jesus Christ came through the line of David. That's how important David was in God's eyes. Had Saul been able to kill David, well apparently the line of Christ would have been cut off. So this gives you some idea who was motivating Saul to kill David. This is exactly what Satan wanted. He doesn't want to go to the Lake of Fire. He doesn't want to burn forever in the Lake of Fire. If he could cut off God's plan, he can be exonerated. Didn't happen, but he tried his best to get Saul to kill David. Just couldn't do it. Power politics are corrupt and if they get absolute power they will absolutely corrupt everything. Saul thought he was untouchable but actually the one that was untouchable was David because of the promise of what would come in the future. David made some mistakes in the moment of fear and panic, running. First of all, he lied to the priest at Nob, Ahimelech, and secondly this one lie he told Ahimelech (I'm on the king's business and I just need some food and a weapon, it's a private matter I'm not supposed tell anybody what I'm doing) caused the death of all the priests at Nob as well as all the citizens of the city and all the animals in the town - everybody was killed. That's the rage of Saul through Doeg the Edomite. Since David went to the Philistine king Achish for protection, he acted crazy once again when he perceived they might kill him. This was in the town of Gath and that's Goliath's hometown. So David went to the king of Gath to get protection. Then eventually he went to work for Achish as a mercenary to provide security for him. He even agreed to fight against the armies of Saul in 1 Samuel 28:1-2. This is a prime example of how far a believer out of fellowship can go. If you return to your unbelieving lifestyle, what we call reverse process reversionism, a believer can be saved, accept Christ as his Savior, start growing and then something distracts him, he gets on the My Way Highway and then he begins to go in a different direction. He even lives like an unbeliever and then all of a sudden other Christians say he wasn't really saved or he wouldn't do that. That's baloney. I know several people that were absolutely saved and led a lascivious lifestyle, a lifestyle of pursuing drugs or alcohol or other things. They went to heaven but they went to heaven the hard way under the sin unto death. This is a prime example if you go in reverse as a believer, if instead of growing in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and you fail to use problem-solving device #1: rebound, you let sins accumulate in your life, then the filling of the Holy Spirit is going to be quenched and grieved. Then, as a result, you're going to be disciplined by God in three stages: (1) warning, (2) intense, (3) death. You're not going to orient to grace, you're not going to use the faith-rest drill and you're going to be full of self-pity and misery and go out under the sin unto death. That's exactly what happened to Saul. So David made some mistakes. When he went over to Achish and he wanted to fight against Saul's army and join the Philistines, that's a complete reversal process. He's going in the opposite direction. When you're in reverse process reversion

or backsliding, this means you're going in the opposite direction spiritually, mentally or physically. The believer, if we begin to do that, the object of our love, we reverse that, we move away from that. If you're married, you'll move away from the love of your spouse. You'll want more attention, you can't concentrate, your priorities are changed and the reverse process begins to take place. You reverse your love object. You no longer love God. You love self or you love the details of life. Many people today are more in love with the gifts of liberty and freedom than they are the Giver who gave it to us. The believer in this reverse process cannot be distinguished in any way from an unbeliever. He looks just like an unbeliever but he has not lost his salvation. You do not lose your salvation. Christ said, *"I will never leave you. I will never forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5). *"I give to them eternal life, and they will never perish; and neither shall any man ever pluck them out of My hand"* (John 10:28). Those are divine promises. God actually spared David from going into battle and killing his own people in 1 Samuel 29:1-11 when King Achish would not allow him to fight under the advice of his military commanders. So he did not wind up going to fight. And Saul died. Saul had been predicted to die by Samuel, "You're going to die tomorrow, you and your sons are both going to die." Saul died the sin unto death in battle, fell upon his own sword, took his own life. That's how bad it got to be. Let's look at how Saul dies in battle in 1 Samuel 31. *"Now the Philistines fought against Israel and the men of Israel fled the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his son Jonathan; and the Philistines killed Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua the sons of Saul. And the battle became fierce against Saul and the archers hit him and he was wounded severely by the archers. Then Saul said to his armor bearer, 'Draw your sword and thrust me through with it lest these uncircumcised men come and thrust me through, and abuse me.' But his armor bearer would not do so because he was greatly afraid."* This is the same thing David feared, "I'm not killing him, if he is suppose to die let God kill him, not me." **This should remind you, God didn't send you to straighten out anybody.** He can handle the straightening out. You decide in your mind you need to get rid of the preacher, you need to get rid of the president, you need to do something. **You need to wait and let the justice of God handle it.** The justice of God can handle it. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24x7. **Go to the Father in prayer, put it before Him in prayer, and watch what He will do.** *"Therefore Saul took out his own sword and fell on it. And when the armor bearer saw Saul was dead he also fell on his sword and died with him. So Saul with all of his sons and his armor bearer and all of his men died together that same day. And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley and those who were on the other side of the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead they forsook the cities and fled and the Philistines came and dwelt in their cities. And so it happened the next day when the Philistines came to strip the slain that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. And they cut off Saul's head, stripped off all of his armor and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines to reclaim it in the temple of their idols and among all of their people. And then they put his armor in the temple and then they fastened his body to the wall. Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard about*

what the Philistines had done to Saul, all the valiant men rose and traveled at night and took Saul and the bodies of his sons off the wall of Beth-shan and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh and fasted for seven days.” That's the last thing we hear of Saul. So there you have it. A lot of mistakes by David. A lot of tragedy by Saul, a politician trying to retain his power in the hour of weakness. It's tragic to hear these sort of things. It's tragic to see what's happening in our country today. May I remind you that we have forsaken the Word of God. Hosea 4:6 says, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Since you rejected knowledge, I will reject you from being a priest for Me.”* This country has been a priest nation for God for many years. We've sent forth missionaries across the world. We've been a haven for the Jews. We have evangelized our own and everyone else we can. We've protected the Word of God and God has blessed us in a mighty way. Ways that no other nation in the world has been blessed. Now we face a pandemic in a political season, at election time. It's being used as a weapon against the current president by an aspiring administration that wants to take charge, who think they can do a better job of managing things. The only way they know how to do that is to attack the person of our president. To malign him, run him down, slander him, criticize him, and lie about him. Our president doesn't take it lying down, he always fights back. We're in a critical time in history. Here's the answer. The answer is you. As goes your spiritual life, so goes the course of history in America. It doesn't depend on the current president. It doesn't depend on who might be president. **Our freedom and the blessing of God on our nation depends on you. As goes your spiritual life so will go the history of the United States of America.** We're at a crossroads in history. Which way are you going to go? While the pandemic is going on many people are beginning to turn to the Lord and focus on the Lord and cry for the Lord to help them but when this stuff is over and life goes back to normal, if it ever does, then people are going to forget about God. They'll go back to just what they've been doing, being occupied with the gifts and forgetting who the Giver is. That's what's got us here to start with. We've forsaken the Lord. We've moved away from His Word. Everything that is right has now become wrong and everything that used to be wrong is now ordained as right. We are sick. We've abandon God's Word. We've abandoned the principles of God and you're seeing it in politicians today and you're seeing it in the power struggle for office of the presidency of the United States. May God deliver us from what lies ahead. What we may see, who knows? We're coming into the most perilous time in history in this election year. My prayer is that you will seek the Lord's will and that you will do as God leads you to do and that God will raise up some man, whoever it may be, that will deliver us from the coming doom that we face in the future. Until we get back to the Word of God, until we get back to honoring God, there's no way we're going to be prosperous and no way we're going to survive. We're split down the middle. Think about it. Pray about it and get with it spiritually so that God can use you in the future. This is my prayer. This is your host, Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

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