

2021
V1

THE FLOT LINE hosted by Rick Hughes
2021 TRANSCRIPTS VOLUME 1 January-June

VOLUME
1



Rick Hughes
EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES



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

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

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

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

RADIO

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

PODCAST

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

BOOKS

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

BOOKMARKS & HANDOUTS

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

CONTACT

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

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

THE FLOT LINE hosted by Rick Hughes
TRANSCRIPTS 2021
Volume 1 January-June

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 2021*.

Rick Hughes

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

THE FLOT LINE hosted by Rick Hughes
TRANSCRIPTS 2021
Volume 1 January-June

Living on Borrowed Time	1
Understanding God	7
Has Your Love Grown Cold	13
Neutralized in the Angelic Conflict	19
Goodbye America	25
The Divine Desideratum - Part 1	31
The Divine Desideratum - Part 2	37
God's Power	43
Sin and Righteousness	49
The Public Lie and Forgiveness	55
The Extraordinary Believer - Part 1	61
The Extraordinary Believer - Part 2	67
The Extraordinary Believer - Part 3	73
The Extraordinary Believer - Part 4	79
The Supreme Court of Heaven	85
Prayer Protocol	91
Christ's Joy in You	97
Whose Fool Are You	103
Grace Transmitters	109
Mental Dynamics	115
The Armor of God - Part 1	121
The Armor of God - Part 2	127
The Armor of God - Part 3	133
The Armor of God - Part 4	139
God's Power in You	145
The Road to Destruction	151

Living on Borrowed Time

FLOT Line Episode 802 aired on January 3, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please stick around for some accurate information that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. I want to remind you of some Biblical truths and introduce you to a unique way of studying and learning the Word of God. That's my job to do it here on this radio show. Maybe you'll respond and say, "You know, that guy's got it together and I enjoy listening to what he's saying." I hope you will. Our radio show is also on daily podcast venues and if you just simply go to something like Spotify, type in The FLOT Line, you'll find all our radio shows with transcriptions as well. If you want more information, just contact us. **We offer all sorts of books and materials free of charge.** Nothing is for sale on this radio show or in this ministry. **I've always believed if God's in it then He will pay for it so we don't ask people for money.** Today I want to talk about something that's very serious. We're entering into the new year 2021. Who thought they were going to be alive in 2021, I bet you didn't, I know I didn't. 2021, here we go! The question I want to ask you this morning is are you living on borrowed time? Kind of a tough question to answer, but let's give it a shot. The Bible says in **James 4:14,** *"For what is our life, just a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."* If you've ever been out in the yard and seen the vapor trail of a jet as it streaks across the sky, you know it leaves that distinct vapor trail for a while and then it fades away. Life is like this. The Bible says, using an analogy here, that our life is like a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. We know we're not going to be here forever. This is not our eternal home. In Hebrews 9:27, *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."* So we know we're going to die. The question is when do we die? Is it this year, is it this week, is it this month? **Are we living on borrowed time?** In Psalm 89:48, *"For what man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?"* Every man that lives will see death, every man, every woman, every child, every boy or girl. We all must die. We weren't created to live eternally in this body, we have to get a different body. So let's look at what the Bible says about this and think about it. As you come into the year 2021, are you pushing your luck? Have you been putting off the single most significant decision you could ever make in your entire life and that is to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? You know this life is temporal and doesn't last and there are eternal values. Let's start with 1 Peter 1:24, *"All flesh is like grass, and this glory of the man like the flower of the grass, but the grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the Word of the Lord endures forever."* These verses that I'm quoting to you this morning, James 4:14, Hebrews 9:27, Psalm 89:48, 1 Peter 1:24, are all the Word of God. They are of divine origin and will last forever. **The Word of God lasts forever.** I'm not talking about having a Bible in heaven. I'm talking about the decreed Word of God lasts forever. It's been my honor to conduct a lot of funerals and I learned something, people actually listen at funerals. They don't

listen at a wedding, but at a funeral they listen because it could be them next. So in the funerals that I've done, I've done some funerals of mature believers and I've also been called upon to conduct funerals for people that are unbelievers. That's a very hard thing to do because I don't know how to approach it sometimes. If I'm dealing with a person that is an unbeliever who never trusted Christ, I will say, "Let me tell you what so-and-so would like for you to know if they could speak to you today" and I will give them the truth of the message of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. But for the mature believers' funerals, it's always a promotion. It's always a wonderful time. It is never sadness or sorrow. It's always a time of joy and hope. And the difference is stunning, one with eternal hope and confidence and one with no hope and eternal condemnation. Matthew 10:28 says, "*Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul but rather fear the One that can destroy both body and soul in hell.*" When you die without Jesus Christ as your Savior this is what you're looking at. You're looking at eternal damnation in the lake of fire because you were so arrogant you would not accept Christ as your Savior. The free gift of eternal life that God gave you, you stuck your nose up at it, you walked away from it because you thought somehow or another that God would expect you to change your life and act the way that you can't possibly act and that's not it at all. That's not what being saved is about. When I accepted Christ, I didn't change anything. Now my life did change in many many ways, but I did not deliberately say okay now that I'm a Christian I can never do anything but go bowling and sing in the choir for the rest of my life. I don't like to bowl and I don't sing in the choir so I'd be in trouble. Anyhow there is life after death and without Christ it's hopeless. It's life in the lake of fire forever, and that's not what you want to do. So if you're living on borrowed time this year I suggest you get this taken care of immediately, please, because there's a question I have to ask you today. Here it is. If this was the last year of your life, are you confident in your eternal salvation or are you just hoping that you're going to heaven? A lot of people don't know that they could be confident, that they could know it for sure. But the answer is absolutely yes, **you can have absolute confidence that you're going to heaven when it becomes your time to die** and then you will be face-to-face with the Lord. Listen to **1 John 5:11**, "*This is the record that God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*" So there's your answer. This is the record God gave you eternal life, it's in His Son. If you have the Son, you have eternal life. If you have not the Son of God, you do not have eternal life. You have life in the lake of fire. It's just that simple. So answer the question for me, if you died today would you go to heaven? Have you trusted Christ to save you? You know the Bible is very clear that our eternal life is anchored in Jesus Christ. It's Him, it's not our good deeds, it's not what we do while we are on this earth the really good deeds that we do. It's in Christ. John 8:24, "*I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.*" There's no way to go to heaven apart from Jesus Christ, our Lord Jesus Christ. In Romans 5:1, the Bible says, "*Being*

justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” I can tell you about peace with God. The greatest peace I ever knew was the day after I accepted Christ as my Savior. The night I went to bed after having believed in the Lord Jesus Christ I slept like a baby because I had for the first time peace with God. Do you have peace with God? If you’re living on borrowed time, can you say, “I’m absolutely confident that if I died today I will go to heaven?” Can you say that? Your eternal security is anchored in Jesus Christ. All of us must embrace that fact. We can’t live in this contaminated body forever. We have to put it off someday through physical death. The reason is so we can inherit our eternal body through the resurrection. The Bible talks about a lot of different deaths mentioned in the Bible, but the most destructive of all is called spiritual death. Spiritual death is separation from God in time because of the imputation of Adam's original sin to us to our genetically formed sin nature at birth. So when we are born, we are born physically alive and spiritually dead. Adam's original sin is imputed to us as the Bible says, *“For by one man sin entered in the world, and death by sin and now death is passed on all. The wages of sin is death.”* Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23. So we are born physically alive, we have a soul, we have a body, we have a consciousness and self-consciousness, but our human spirit is dead. We’re spiritually dead. It's possible that you are a walking dead man today. Yes, you’re alive physically but spiritually you're dead to God in Christ. The Bible is very clear about that being a walking dead man. It's a shame, but it's true. In John 3:16, *“God so loved the world,”* the verse you've heard all your life, *“That He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believes on Him is not condemned but he that believeth not,”* and listen carefully, *“he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”* Spiritual death, you are born spiritually dead, you're already condemned to the lake of fire apart from Jesus Christ. You’re under condemnation and there's no need to be. There’s no need to live like that. God made provision for us, made provision through His Son’s sacrifice on the cross to redeem us out of the slave market of sin and reconcile us to Himself. So there's a death sentence on each of us, we’re going to die, we know that, but we don't have to die the second death in the lake of fire the Bible talks about. We’re born spiritually dead and we can be made spiritually alive through faith alone in Christ alone. But your physical death, now that's a matter of the sovereignty of God based on His very own omniscience, all the facts, He knows the facts. He knows everything and He knows the time and the manner and the place of our departure. In Psalm 68:20, *“He that is our God is the God of salvation and unto God the Lord belongs the issues from death.”* Yup because of His perfect sovereignty He's able to pick out the perfect time, the perfect place and the perfect conditions of our death. And God predestined all of this in eternity past. If you're like me, you’ve had family members that have passed, you've had friends pass and you grieve those people and you miss those people tremendously and that's

understandable. We all do. But there was nothing unfair on God's part. Even though it could have been sudden or premature in your mind, it's not. God always knows the perfect time, place and conditions for our departure. So don't worry now about how you're going to die, it's not an issue. **The second death is the issue for the non-Christian. In Revelation 20:14-15, "Then death and hell were cast in the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."** Wow. See the Book of Life contains the name of every individual born. When someone dies without having accepted Christ as their Savior, their name is blotted out of the Book of Life. The Bible says the books of works are opened up and the person can try to justify why he should get into heaven, but remember the Bible says, "There are none that are good, no not one." "All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag" in God's eyes. So in spite of how morally good you may be, that's not going to get you into heaven and you will wind up in the lake of fire. So why don't you just settle the issue today wherever you are, in your car, in your home. You must think about this because you may in fact be living on borrowed time, maybe God's giving you just a little bit extra time. Now is the perfect time to come to the Lord. Unbelief is what sends a person to hell. "He that believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life, and he that believes not the wrath of God abides on him already." You're already under the wrath of God, so settle the issue and begin your eternal life in Christ by being born again. You can simply pray and tell the Father you are believing in Jesus Christ and want to accept Christ as your Savior. Your words are your words, that's between you and God. At some point in your life you have to do this or you're going to face the second death in the lake of fire. So if 2021 is your borrowed year, if God's going to give you one extra year, then let's settle it today. Paul wrote it this way, "**For me to live is Christ and to die, well, that's profit. For me to live is Christ and to die is profit.**" So by being born again, living is living in Christ and dying is gain, it's profit. We leave this body, we go to heaven, we have no more tears nor sorrow nor pain. The old things are passed away. We have an eternal inheritance. We'll see all that here in a minute. In Amos 5:8, the Bible encourages us to seek "Him that makes up the seven stars in the Orion and the one that turns the shadow of death into the morning." Yes, it's a new day dawning in your life when you accept Christ as your Savior, a brand-new day in a brand-new life. As the Bible says, "If any man's in Christ, he's a new creation. Old things are passed away and all things are become new." That's your spiritual birthday. Spiritual death day when you're born in Adam, spiritual birthday when you're born again in Christ. So the plain truth is that you have to be born twice or you're going to die twice. "The first death is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment." The second death, "Whosoever's name was not found written in the Lamb's book of life was cast into the lake of fire." This is the second death. So born twice or die twice. What about you, where do you stand with this? Have you had the second birthday, have you? Has "God turned the shadow of death in your life into the morning, has He made the day dark with night, that calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon

the face of the earth, His name is the Lord.” Now listen, if you are in fact already a believer and you've already received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior you're in a wonderful place. You can have great peace and great comfort knowing that God has it all under control even if this is your year to go to heaven. It could be. It could be my year, it could be your year to go to heaven, who knows. Psalm 103:17, *“The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who respect Him”* and His mercy is wonderful for you and for me. Here are some principles for death for us that are believers in Christ. 1. The believer's death is God's decision. Therefore, our physical death is God's victory. My pastor taught me these things a long time ago in a wonderful little book that he did, *Victory Over Death*, and I'm quoting him now, **“The believer's death is God's decision. Therefore, our physical death is God's victory.”** 2. Nothing can remove you from this life until God decides it is time. So you don't have to be afraid if you're a believer. You don't have to be upset. You can just live by faith and trust the Lord's timing, always perfect timing. You're not going to catch Him by surprise. He knows what's going on in your life and nothing, no tornado, no flood, no storm, no murder, nothing will remove you until God says it's time. 3. Since God is perfect, His timing is perfect in all matters of life including the death of the believer. His timing is perfect. 4. Since the death of the believer is a wise and gracious decision of God then none of us have the right to question that decision, to question God's perfect wisdom in any manner. Have you done that? I've seen people get angry with God because they lost a spouse. I've seen people get angry with God because they lost a loved one, a child or lost a dear friend or lost whatever. Listen, you don't know the circumstances, you have no idea what's going on. You have no right to question God's perfect wisdom at any time in any matter in your life. Neither historical disaster nor natural disaster, nor war, not an accident, not disease, not an earthquake, not a flood, not even a hurricane can remove you apart from the divine consent of God, and that includes Covid-19. Do not be afraid because death is God's victory for the believer. And for the believer, death has no sting, the grave has no sting for the believer. Did you know that? Listen to Psalm 116, *“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”* If you're a believer in Jesus Christ and 2021 is your year to go to be with your Lord, it's a very precious year and God will welcome you with open arms. In 1 Corinthians 15:55, *“O Death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?”* There is no victory for the grave for the believer because the grave can't hold you. You are guaranteed to have a resurrected life. The grave won't keep you down. You will live in Christ Jesus. In 2 Corinthians 5:8, the Bible says when you leave this body you will be *“face-to-face with the Lord.”* Isn't that amazing? So if 2021 is your year to be promoted, you'll be promoted face-to-face with your Lord. The disciples had questions about all of this when Jesus our Lord told them He was going to be crucified, killed, and they didn't know what to think about it. Here's what He told them in John 14. He said, *“Don't be afraid. Don't be troubled. If you believe in God,”* and they did, *“believe also in Me. Because in My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you and I'm going to*

prepare a place for you; if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you unto Myself, so that where I am, you may be with Me also.” Wow, what a tremendous promise. And Paul wrote about this in 1 Thessalonians 4:13, the return of Christ, he said, *“I would not have you be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that you have sorrow not like others who have no hope. For if we,”* that's believers, *“If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not go before those that are asleep,”* that's dead, *“for the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we, the ones that are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”* This is referring to the exit resurrection. 2021 could be the year that Jesus Christ comes back at the Rapture of the church, the exit resurrection. We know a lot about it, we understand how it works in this dispensation. We know that if we are alive and it takes place, we will just disappear with this and we'll go just like a whisper of wind. We'll be gone and meet the Lord in the air. Then we know about the Judgment Seat of Christ in heaven during those seven years until He returns to this planet to set up His millennial reign. It's all taught in the Bible. It's all clear. Listen to this, *“Comfort one another with these words, don't be afraid.”* Revelation 21:4, *“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, neither shall there be any more pain for all those former things will be passed away.”* That's a wonderful promise from God. If you've listened to this broadcast you should be encouraged. There is forgiveness for you and the gift of eternal life through the act of Christ on the cross. Please don't gamble with your eternal destiny by putting this off. It's the single most significant decision you could ever make, *“What think ye of Christ”* because today, this Sunday in the year 2021, could be the first day of the rest of your new life. The Bible clearly says, *“If any man is in Christ, he's a new creation. Old things are passed away and all things become new.”* This doesn't mean you're going to get a different body, different eyes, it doesn't mean this. It means that you are born again and spiritually made alive in Christ. Now you have God the Holy Spirit dwelling in you, equipping you spiritually. Now a war begins. **As long as we're alive, we have that battle with the flesh, the world and the devil. We have three enemies and victory is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** As we learn God's Word and apply it into our soul as wisdom, we have the ability to see Satan's smokescreen. Put your faith in Christ. Let me know you did, contact me and say “Rick, I accepted Christ as my Savior today.” That's the greatest news I could hear. This is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Understanding God

FLOT Line Episode 803 aired on January 10, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I am your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like to invite you to stick around. It will be just 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, without any type of manipulation. If I can verify and identify God's plan for your life then you have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. That's up to you. This radio show has been going on 15 years now and we currently broadcast in 66 cities. It's a great opportunity and a great thrill for me to be able to do that. We all know that adversity is inevitable but we must understand that stress is optional. **Adversity is what circumstances do to us and stress is what we do to ourselves.** The Christian life is designed to be stress free, no worry, no fear, no bitterness, no revenge motivation. The Christian life is changing the way you think. The Bible says, "*Stop thinking in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think, but think in terms of humility as God has given to us,*" the standard of thinking from His Word, that's Romans 12:3. As I speak today in this new year 2021, **is it possible that you know God but don't understand the God that you know?** When we're talking about spiritual phenomenon there are only three ways to perceive anything about God: rationalism by rationalizing certain evidence of factors; empiricism, which is scientific data and we have a Greek word called *pistisism* and that's the word for faith. The way we come to know God is not by rationalism, it's not by empirical data, it's by *pistisism*, it's by faith. So here is the key to coming to know God and to understand the God you know. First of all, it is through Jesus Christ that we are given access to God. There's just simply no other way to come to God. People say, "I go to God, sit under the trees," you're not going to get to God that way. **The only way you can come to God is through faith and it's through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.** He made that plain as He was here on this earth to His disciples when He said in John 14:6, "*I am the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father but by means of Me.*" So if you would like to know God, if you would like to understand the God you know, the first thing you must come to realize it's impossible to know God and understand God apart from knowing Christ as your personal Savior. The disciples were a bit taken back by all of this when Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by Me.*" They questioned Christ and He said, "*If you had known Me, you would have known My Father*" and that's in John 14:7. Then in John 14:9, "*He that has seen Me has seen the Father.*" In John 14:11, "*I am in the Father and the Father is in Me.*" What the disciples did not realize and had to come to understand is that Jesus Christ is God. God the Father is different than God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This is the Trinity and they're all coequal. Jesus Christ is God and the disciples had to come to understand that. They had to come to realize that when they've seen Him, they've seen the Father. Listen again, John 14:9, "*He that has seen Me has seen the Father.*" So coming to know God starts with coming to know Christ because He is God. He's undiminished deity and He's true humanity together in one body forever. What do I mean by that? He is what we call the God-

man. He's God and He's man in one body forever. As God He never used any of His deity to sustain Himself while He was on this earth. He certainly did miracles as God, but as man, He accepted whatever the limits were put on mankind. So He lived like us, He experienced the same things we experienced in His humanity. But in His deity He is God. You remember that song that said He could've called 10,000 angels to destroy the world and set Him free but He died alone for you and me? As God He could've walked off the cross. As God He could've stopped all of that, but He allowed it to happen. So please come to understand what Jesus said in John 10:9, *"I am the door; and it is by Me if any man enters in, he will be saved, and he should go in and out and find pasture."* If you wish to have eternal life, if you wish to have any relationship with God in the future, you must have a relationship with Christ now, it starts now. In John 10:27 He said, *"My sheep,"* those are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me, and I give unto them eternal life, and they will never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, who gave them to Me, is greater than all, and no man can pluck them out of My Father's hand."* So first of all, *"I give unto them eternal life."* Only God can give eternal life and Jesus Christ is God. He said, *"I give unto them eternal life,"* and here's a guarantee for you and me, *"They will never perish, and neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand."* So as the Shepherd of the sheep, no one can take you out of the hand of Jesus Christ. Then He goes on to say, *"And My Father, who gave you to Me, He's greater than all and no man's able to pluck them out of My Father's hand,"* so you have a double guarantee. Once you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Savior, no man can take that away from you. You will fail, you will sin, you will do horrible things, sometimes even as a believer, but you will always be in the hand of Christ or in the hand of God. No one can take your eternal security away. That's always a big question. People think, "Will I get saved and I know I'm going to heaven, but I did something bad, and maybe I'm not saved anymore." That's not true. I don't know what you may have done but let me say this to you clearly today. If you have trusted Christ as your Savior, if you have put your faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross, if you're trusting what He did for you, not what you do for yourself, what He did for you, then you have eternal life. Because the Bible says, *"These things are written, he that has the Son has life and he that has not the Son of God has not life."* **If you have trusted in Christ as your Savior, you have eternal life, and you can never lose it.** No one will ever take it away from you, I promise you. He said, *"I will never leave you, I will never forsake you."* So here's where knowing God starts, we must start by knowing Christ because we cannot ever know the Father until we know the Son. Please understand that, it's critical that you do that. You cannot know the Father until first of all you know the Son. Now it's true that God desires you to understand Him and it's true that God has a plan for the human race. Listen to what was written in Jeremiah 3:15 concerning your very own pastor in your local church. Here's what He said, *"I will give you pastors according to My heart, which will feed you with knowledge and understanding."* Did you get that? *"Feed you with knowledge and understanding."* The job of the pastor is not to be the director of the cruise ship, to make sure that everybody in the

congregation has a wonderful time when they come to church, that's not the job of the pastor. It's not the job of the pastor to provide a lonely-hearts club for those single members of the congregation. It's the job of the pastor to teach knowledge and give understanding. However, here's where the problem enters in. You can have a pastor that's wonderful teaching knowledge, wonderful teaching you the Bible, but you may not apply what he teaches. Knowledge is the Greek word *gnosis*, G.N.O.S.I.S., *gnosis* and knowledge is information that is understood. But there is another Greek word that goes with it called *epignosis*, E.P.I.G.N.O.S.I.S., and that word means full knowledge, *epi* full *gnosis* knowledge. **What your pastor is doing is trying to give you knowledge of the Word of God so that you will believe it and apply it into your life. If you will do that, it becomes understanding or wisdom. Wisdom is understanding and insight in life and you cannot live the Christian life without understanding.** This is what God desires of you that you understand Him, and you know Him. Most people who know God don't understand the God they know. So the first thing that I'm trying to get you to understand is you cannot get to God without going through Jesus Christ, His anointed Son. That's the first thing. If you want to have a relationship with God it starts with knowing Christ Jesus as your Savior. Secondly, we must understand that He is a God of protocol, which means that our God expects the right thing to be done in a right way. Most people don't like protocol. They don't like to follow protocol, especially in the age of social media. For example, if the President walked into the room, whoever the president might be, you wouldn't say, "Hey Donald, hey Joe," you would say, "Mr. President." That's protocol, you'd follow protocol. **Protocol means a right thing has to be done in the right way. The Christian life requires protocol.** You cannot make up the rules as you go along and this is what happens when you get too emotional about it. If you get emotional, you think that you are pleasing God because you get misled into thinking since you got high that God is near, and God must have touched you because you felt something. That's not what we're talking about. Understanding protocol means this. When you take communion, for example, I know you've taken communion in your local church, the Bible very clearly says if we take communion out of fellowship we're drinking and eating judgment upon ourself. Paul teaches that in 1 Corinthians chapter 11, you cannot afford to take communion with unconfessed sin in your life. So any pastor worth his salt when he gives communion would warn the congregation, "Before we take this communion, let's have a moment of silent prayer and if there is sin in your life then do what 1 John 1:9 says, 'Confess the sin to God and He will be faithful and just to forgive you' because taking communion out of fellowship is a violation of the protocol plan of God." And Paul said in that passage in 1 Corinthians 11, "*It's because of this that many are weak, many are sick and many are dead.*" You must understand, you cannot misrepresent God in communion. When you put that piece of bread in your mouth, that's the body of Christ that you're putting in your mouth. You're representing the body of Christ, His hypostatic union, His impeccability, His virgin birth, His undiminished deity. When you take that cup and sip that cup, then you're remembering His work on the cross, His redemption, His reconciliation, His propitiation. You're remembering these critical doctrines that your pastor

must teach you, so that it doesn't become just a ritual with no reality to it. The communion requires protocol, giving requires protocol, prayer requires protocol. Some people say, "Well I'm praying for you." Well good, I hope you know how to pray the right way because if you're not praying in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and praying to the Father and praying under the power and the influence of the Holy Spirit, your prayers are not going to go any higher than the ceiling. That's right. The Bible says, "*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*" So if you have unconfessed sin in your life and you're trying to pray, it's not going to go anywhere. I give you a perfect illustration that I've used many times. If you hate somebody, you hate them, you can't stand them and you can't forgive them, every time you see them your feathers get ruffled and the hair on the back of your neck stands up and you hate them, and then all of a sudden here you go to church and you're giving some money, you're singing in the choir and you see that person sitting in the audience and your mind is bitter and antagonistic. You're not doing any good, you're not glorifying God because you have unconfessed sin in your life. You haven't been able to forgive and this is what the Lord taught in 1 John chapter 13, "*If I forgive you, you need to forgive one another.*" People don't understand that the Christian life requires protocol. I didn't understand it. It took me a long time to learn and a well-qualified pastor to teach it to me. So when I pray I must be filled with the Holy Spirit if I expect answers. The Bible says in Ephesians 5:18, "*Be filled with the Spirit,*" that's a mandate from God. If I give, I need to be filled with the Holy Spirit when I give if I expect that gift to be credited to my account. When you do the right thing in the wrong way, it's still wrong, it doesn't glorify God just because you did it. What glorifies God is if you do the right thing in the right way and that's important. So you need to understand this about God. You may know Him, but you might not understand that He's a God of protocol and He requires you to do the right thing in the right way. If you're going to pray, first of all ask God to cleanse you of any known sin in your life. 1 John 1:9 is the rebound technique and that is the wonderful first problem-solving device that we have, rebound, problem-solving device number one, "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us.*" That's protocol in prayer and the same thing in communion and the same thing in worship. If you go to church and you expect God to speak to you through the ministry of the pastor you must make sure you're in fellowship. If you're sitting in the congregation with the Bible in your lap and you're full of mental attitude sins, you're not going to get anything. You may hear what he says but you're not going to be able to apply it. It's not going to become spiritual phenomena in your life because you've quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit. You've been warned in the Bible, "*Do not grieve the Holy Spirit,*" you've been warned in the Bible, "*Don't quench the Holy Spirit,*" mandates from the word of God, but yet you did it anyhow because you committed sin and didn't deal with the sin. **If you want to worship God, if you want to serve God, if you want to know God, you must deal with your sin through rebound.** Yes Christ paid for your sins on the cross but your sins in time will separate you from fellowship with God. When you sin it doesn't mean if you died and you sinned it didn't mean you going to go to hell. I'm not saying that. What I'm telling you is when you sinned you quenched the Holy

Spirit's ministry. When you sin you grieve the Holy Spirit. Without the ministry of the Holy Spirit as the Lord Jesus Christ taught the disciples in John 14, you can't worship God, you have to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The only way to do that is to make sure that you rebound when you know you've sinned. That's protocol. **The third thing we need to understand if we want to understand God is that His love is unfailing.** God's love is unfailing and it's demonstrated by His abundant grace provisions. This is seen in Jeremiah 9:23, the unfailing love of God. God will never turn His back on you. You may turn your back on God, but God will love you from behind. Maybe you walked away from a relationship with God because you got angry about something. You got angry about the way somebody in that church treated you or someone said something about you. You didn't like it and rather than just hit them in the mouth you decided to leave. Now you're bitter. That's terrible, it's a horrible sin in your life. God hasn't abandoned you. He hasn't turned His back on you because you walked away from Him. He still loves you. He gave you eternal life, He's not going to take it back. He's waiting to give you abundant freedom and abundant happiness in your life if you will just simply learn His plan. I can't tell you how many frustrated people I meet in my life. People that are angry, people that are frustrated, people that are bitter and will not learn the plan of God. They won't take time. They're so wrapped up in human viewpoint and emotion that they never take time to realize there's a better way to live. They don't trust it. They don't trust what's in the Bible, they don't even believe the Bible and that's a shame. Some of them may in fact actually be Christians. They may have accepted Christ at one time in their life and yet over the period of years they walked away from the church. They walked away from God. They walked away from that relationship but God still loves them and God still loves you. His love is unfailing and demonstrated by all of His wonderful grace provisions. He keeps you alive, He gives you oxygen, He gives you food. In Matthew 6, if you read that, you see what all God provides for you. He'll make sure you have what you need to survive. **Here's the fourth concept I want you to remember, as a New Testament Christian, you are now a member of the body of Christ called the church.** You're not part of the Old Testament family. You're not part of ritual Israel, you're part of the New Testament family. **The reality is Jesus Christ lives inside of you.** As a member of the body of Christ, Christ lives in you. That just amazed me after I accepted Christ as my Savior, that He lives in me. Listen to 1 Corinthians 3:16, *"Don't you know that you are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you?"* In the Old Testament that temple is where they went to worship God and now the temple is in you. The Shekinah Glory that indwelt the temple was Christ Himself and now Christ indwells you. You are God's personal representative indwelt by the Holy Spirit, indwelt by the Lord Jesus Christ and indwelt even by God the Father. You are the temple of God. Think about that. This is why Satan so actively seeks to prevent you from learning anything. This is why Satan doesn't want you to understand the God that you know and he will do anything in his power to keep you from learning. I run into people all the time who say I'm hungry to learn the Bible and so we'll get them started, get them studying and the next thing I know they're off in the toolies. They go down the My Way Highway because they are easily distracted. Satan can

distract you so easily. Quite frankly, it's a chore to learn God's Word. That's why the Bible says, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."* **You can be ashamed at the judgment seat of Christ, realizing you blew the greatest opportunity the world has ever known to have a wonderful life because you were too stubborn and too arrogant to do what the Bible says, "Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."** Study, grow are both verbs, they're both mandates and they're not a request, they're a commandment. That's why the Lord Jesus Christ said, *"Take My yoke on you and learn of Me. My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* Study, grow, learn, these are all mandates for us and if we don't do that then we never come to understand the God that saved us. The God that we may in fact know but not understand His plan and go through life missing out on so much. **Fifth, without the power of the Holy Spirit and without the guidance of the living Word of God you and I are incapable of executing God's plan for our life.** The Bible says, *"The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword."* Without understanding the Bible, God's playbook for us, God's plan for us, without being filled with the Holy Spirit it's impossible to execute God's plan. You can't make up the rules as you go along, you have to follow the rules. **Number six, the Christian must learn God's plan if he ever wants to please Him.** God's plan is as I told you, *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of God, the truth of God."* **This is why you have a pastor.** His job is to make sure you get the information and your job is to make sure you learn it and apply it into your life and follow the protocol plan of God. **And number seven, God will be the final judge, did we or did we not do the job or did we just play the game.** Here's a question I have to ask. Are you just playing the game of Christian? Yes, you're a member at your church, you're faithful to go, you give money, you sing in the choir, but do you execute the plan of God faithfully? Do you know it or are you just going through the ritual with no reality to it? Listen to what Ezekiel said about this, Ezekiel 33:31, *"And they come unto thee as the people come and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them for with their mouth they show much love, but with their heart they go after their own covetousness."* Covetousness is the Hebrew word *betsa* which means gain or profit and this means negative volition. They don't turn *gnosis* into *epignosis* and *epignosis* into wisdom so they don't get the understanding and insight that God intends. **God intends for you to have insight and understanding into what's going on in this world and into Satan's plan and policy.** Without the wisdom from the Word of God, you cannot ever have it. Gee, I hope you're listening, It's critical for you to understand this if you're going to glorify God to the maximum in your life. I hope I've challenged you. Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening.

Has Your Love Grown Cold?

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 804 aired on January 17, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes, we'll be giving you some information that will help you verify as well as identify God's plan for your life. If you want to orient and adjust to that plan that's up to you. My job is to get it accurate so that you can see clearly who you really are and what's expected out of you in this short time we have on this earth. FLOT stands for forward line of troops. We're dealing with ten unique problem-solving devices that come out of the Bible it's not something we made up, these are age-old Biblical doctrines, but if you learn them and use them they will stop the outside sources of adversity before they become the inside source of stress. We're facing a crossroads in history, in American history especially, with political unrest and the health crisis that's going on, with the worldwide pandemic. People don't know what to do. Some are sick, some are not, and it's an uncertain time in history. God's not unaware of it, He knows what's going on. There is something going on behind the scenes you might not be aware of. I see it constantly in my ministry as I travel and speak across this country and that's what I'd like to talk to you about today. The name of this study is *Has Your Love Grown Cold?* There are several Greek words for love in the Bible: *agapao* or we get *agape* from that and *phileo* we get Philadelphia from that and *erao* we get erotic from that. So when we're talking about love you have to identify which love it is. Most of the time we're talking about *agapao* or *agape* love. In Matthew 24:12, I want to read a verse to you and another verse in Revelation 2:2-4 and I think this will get us kicked off in the direction we want to go this morning. Matthew 24:12, "*Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.*" Then in Revelation 2:2-4, "*I know your deeds and your toil and your perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake and have not grown weary but, I have this against you, you left your first love.*" This Revelation 2:2-4 passage was written to the pastor of the church at Ephesus. In Matthew 24:12 it's a different story, "*Because lawlessness is increased most people's love will grow cold.*" This verse speaks of the end of the Jewish age which is at the end of the Tribulation and the Lord Jesus Christ identifies characteristics of that time. He said, "*Many will come in My name. Don't be misled.*" If you read the passages before it like 24:9-11, He said, "*Many will come in My name. Don't be misled.*" He said, "*There will be wars and rumors of war, do not be afraid.*" He said, "*You will be persecuted and put to death, and hated because of My name.*" He said, "*False prophets will arise and mislead many.*" He said, "*Lawlessness will increase and love will grow cold, but the gospel of the kingdom will be preached to the whole world.*" Now this is at the end of the Tribulation. If you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, thank God you won't be here. The Exit Resurrection or the Rapture of the Church as we know it occurs before the last seven years of Daniel's prophecy. So that last seven years is the end of the

time and that's called the Tribulation, divided into three and a half and three and a half years. The last three and a half years will be a time of horrible persecution of the Jews and anyone who claims to be a believer. So "Don't be misled. Many will say they come in My name and they're not. And there will be wars and rumors of wars, and you will be persecuted and put to death if you're a believer" but that's not written for us. This is believers in the Tribulation before the Millennial Reign of Christ takes place. But some of these traits can be seen when a client nation such as ours, the United States of America, enters into national discipline. There are five stages to God's discipline taught to us in the Bible. We can look at it and see what Israel went through. **If you read Leviticus 26:14-39, it identifies the five stages of national discipline and in each stage the discipline is increased.** It's fivefold until eventually the nation is destroyed. Hopefully that won't happen here. America is under national discipline. The Lord Jesus Christ talked about false teachers who misrepresent God's grace provisions and that's certainly happening today. I cannot believe some of the things I see on television, people promoting their books and their dreams and their ideas. I guess Christianity has become the biggest moneymaking thing out there. Thank goodness I learned from my pastor a long time ago that if God's in it He'll pay for it. Keep your mouth shut. Don't ask for money. Don't preach for money. Don't try to raise money. Just do your job and let the Lord handle it. He said there would be threats from foreign enemies and that's going to happen in our lifetime. As administrations come, and administrations go, enemies take advantage of weakness. I think we can see that there is weakness in the government today and I think that our foreign enemies are licking at their chops, they'd love to destroy us. The Bible says that lawlessness will increase and you can certainly say that's going on in this country today - murder, rape, mayhem, you name it, it's increasing. *"The gospel message would be preached as a defense to the end of the world,"* Jesus says in the Bible. The Gospel is being preached today and that's the only thing that can deter the evil that's in the world today. I used to speak in a lot of public high schools, but I cannot get in those schools anymore. I still speak in a lot of private schools, 300 students at a time, and that's great. **Unless we can get the message of salvation and Biblical principles to the youth of today then they don't have a chance because all they get is cosmic viewpoint thinking, human viewpoint thinking.** We're told in the Bible not to think like humans think. *"Don't let this mind be in you,"* like that. The Bible says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus,"* and in Romans 12:3, *"Stop thinking in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think, think in terms of humility."* The enemy a.k.a. the devil has done everything he can to stop the Gospel from being presented to the general public. What are the indications that a nation is going under discipline? Listen to Hosea 4:1-6, *"Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, no mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying and killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break out and blood touches blood."* That sounds a lot like us doesn't it? That was written to a different generation,

but there's a lot of application for us today. *“Therefore shall the land mourn, and everyone that dwells in it shall languish with the beast of the field and with the fowls of the air in the heavens. Yes, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away. And yet, let no man strive nor reprove another for thy people are as they that strive with the priest. Therefore shall thou fall in the day and the prophets also shall fall with thee in the night and I will destroy your mother. My people,”* here it is, listen carefully, *“are destroyed,”* this is God's divine discipline on the nation, *“for lack of knowledge. Because you rejected knowledge, I will also reject you that you shall no longer be a priest for Me. Seeing that you have rejected knowledge and forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget your children.”* That should be a great warning to you if you have grandchildren or children. **God's Word cannot be rejected.** *“The fool says in his heart there is no God. The fool is wise in his own eyes,”* and if you're ruled by fools you're looking for a disaster. We've been blessed in this country for years. God has prospered us, God has blessed us, God has raised us up and just assuredly, our Lord can take us down and we will go down if we don't change the way we think. ***“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”*** That just couldn't be any more plain than that and there is no desire for knowledge today. No one wants the knowledge and the insight and the wisdom found in the Word of God because they are settling for a humanistic viewpoint of life, socialistic viewpoint of life. Thinking you can fix your own problems and you can't, you can't fix the problem of man's sin nature. The only thing that can subdue the sin nature of man is God the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, *“If you'll walk in the Spirit you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh”* and the flesh lusts for alcohol, for sex, for money and that's where the problem comes in, in the flesh. This is exactly what Satan is good at, he knows how to start the fires of the flesh. So without the information taught clearly from the Word of God, no nation has a chance. Until our young people in this nation hear God's Word clearly and have a chance to decide for their own generation what they want to do with it, then there is trouble on the horizon. As I've always said, there's a train wreck coming and you can hear the whistle blowing right now. Each generation is responsible for their own thinking and even if we give the truth to this generation they may not accept it. They've been so indoctrinated. People are destroyed for lack of knowledge and when you forget God's Word and you forget God's laws, God says, *“I will forget your children.”* Now **the greatest virtue that you and I could have is to remember God's laws and remember God's Word** because we love Him, because we appreciate everything He's done for us beginning with giving us His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. In 1 John 5:3, the Bible says, *“This is the love of God that we keep His mandates and His mandates are not hard.”* So God is not asking you to do anything impossible. If you have personal love for God, it would be demonstrated by your obedience to divine mandates with an attitude of humility. What does the Bible say about loving God and why do people lose their love? Why does their love turn cold for God and turn cold for their neighbor, turn cold for their family? In Jude chapter 1 verse 21, *“Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”* That word keep is

the Greek word *tereo*, T.E.R.E.O. In the verb form it is the imperative mood. So this is not God asking you through Jude to keep loving Him, this is God mandating you. The aorist tense means, in other words, at any point in time we keep on loving God. It's a constative aorist, we keep doing that. The active voice says the subject produces the action of the verb and that's you and me. **We are mandated as believers to love God each day of our life, Jude 1:21, "Keep yourself in the love of God."** Now this is not somebody else doing it for you, this is you doing it for yourself. **How do you keep yourself in the love of God? By being obedient to His Word.** Again 1 John 5:3, "*This is the love of God.*" If you say you love God, if I asked you that, "Do you love God or has your love grown cold?" "Oh, no," you say, "My love is not cold, I love God." Then keep His mandates and they are not hard. What mandates? The Bible is full of them. I just gave you one, Jude 1:21, "*Keep yourself in the love of God.*" This means you are responsible for your decisions. You have to make the decision to do this. It's not a request. This is you using reciprocal love motivation. **Reciprocal love motivation is mandated in the Bible, 1 John 4:19, "We love God." Why, "because He first loved us."** What does that mean? Well it means this, personal love for God is responding to His love for us. In 1 John 4:9-10, listen carefully, "*By this the love of God was revealed in us, so that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we may live through Him,*" that's Christ. "*In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sin.*" He loved you first, then you love Him. You reciprocate that love with humility and obedience and appreciation. You know it's easy to forget God's love when you focus on the temporal and the obvious in your life and that may be causing you to short-circuit your faith. A lack of focus on God's character causes a short-circuit in the faith-rest drill. The faith-rest drill is problem-solving device number three. Personal love for God is part of the virtue love package, personal love for God, impersonal love for others. So a lack of focus can cause a short-circuit in that faith-rest drill when we do not stand on the promises of God when we focus on the problems and not the promises. Are you doing that? Are you focusing on the problems in this country, political problems, medical problems or are you focusing on the promises found in the Scripture, the solution? Where is your focus? When you fail to focus on the divine solutions then we fail to remember the unfailing love of God and you know what that causes. It causes bitter resentment and frustration toward the adversity you're facing in your life, even sometimes to the fact of being hostile toward God. This can lead to you getting involved in crusader arrogance. You think you're going to change the world, you're going to join some group, get some politician elected or march downtown - human solutions. See what happens is you fail to remember the justice of God is always active. Remember this, listen carefully. God's justice is always active and the Supreme Court of Heaven is still in business. Nobody gets away with anything. So if you see things you don't like going on politically today, just relax. The Lord is in control, He handles it and nobody will get away with anything. Even if this country goes down, even if we are defeated

by a foreign enemy, if you are a mature believer, you will be delivered through to the other side as a member of the pivot. God always delivers the pivot, this always happens. So God's in business, the Supreme Court of Heaven is in business. If you forget about that and you fail to use the faith-rest drill then you don't glorify God at all because you don't obey the mandates and you start looking for human solutions and they are no solutions. Divine solutions are the only solutions. So during these times of political strife, it's very hard to sit back and let God's justice deal with any situation that you may not like. But remember this, remember what I'm about to tell you, **God did not send you and me to handle His affairs. We were sent to lift up Christ,** not campaign for a politician. Jeremiah 17:5, *“Cursed is the one who trusts in man and who draws his strength from mere flesh, and whose heart turns away from the Lord.”* Yes, we would like to have a strong Christian as the president, yes. But no man is the solution, the solution is the Lord Jesus Christ controlling history. God uses prepared people and God can do some amazing things with people that are prepared. So don't put your trust in the man. Put your trust in the Supreme Court of Heaven, the justice of God will handle the details. You just replicate the life of Christ by learning God's Word and applying it into your life. If you have personal love for God it's going to be reflected in your attitude toward other people. Now stop here for a minute. Are there people that you hate, that you can't stand? I will admit to you there a few people when I see them on television the hair on the back of my neck goes up. I don't like them but I'm mandated to do something else. Listen to 1 John 4:20-21, *“Whoever claims to love God and yet hates a brother or a sister is a liar; for whoever does not love their brother and their sister whom they have seen, they cannot love God whom they've not seen. And He God has given us a mandate that anyone who loves God must also love their brother and their sister.”* This is virtue love, remember this, God doesn't endorse bitterness. God doesn't endorse hatred. God does not endorse vindictive behavior. God does not endorse implacability. God does not endorse you impugning anyone. Keep your nose out of it. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24 hours a day. The justice of God is able to handle it. **When the Bible says we are to love our brothers and sisters, this is impersonal love, not personal.** We love God. **Our virtue love for God is personal and is based on His character and His essence.** When you're using impersonal love, which is a wonderful problem-solving device, that's based on your character and your essence, not the person that you're thinking about. It's impersonal love and it's applied to those you like and those you may not like. What does that mean? It means you're not allowed to hate or be bitter toward people. You're not allowed to be vindictive toward people. If you have a neighbor you can't stand, they don't keep their yard looking right or they said something about you to another neighbor and you get angry over it, that's a sin. Maybe you don't think so but that's what it is. The Bible says, *“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forsaking this bitterness and this anger,”* in Ephesians 4:30-31. **This is the attitude of Christ, we forgive and we forget.** So this impersonal love means you can love even the worst person in your neighborhood based on your

character, not theirs, based on your fidelity, not theirs. Which means you don't get angry every time you see them. It means you don't get vindictive and malign them and if they need assistance you are there to help. Characteristics of impersonal love are clearly taught in the Bible in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. Regardless of how eloquent a speaker may be if he doesn't have virtue love, they're just making noise. They have an agenda and they're trying to use you to accomplish their agenda. Do not get sucked into their agenda. The Bible goes on to say in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 that *"faith without virtue love is nothing,"* **The basis of your faith is your love for God.** *"If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not grievous."* You might not understand why God says do or don't do something but not following His mandates will destroy you or destroy a nation from within. Today we've ignored the Word of God in many areas of social life. We've justified why it's okay to act in certain ways and say God doesn't know what He's talking about in the Bible. Oh yes He does. He's trying to deliver the nation from internal destruction. As goes the thinking of the inhabitants of the land, so goes the land. So even though you claim to have some kind of love for people, if you don't have faith, then it's worthless, it's nothing. **Faith is your personal love for God. It's you standing on the virtue of God's love, believing in God's Word and living in God's Word.** The faith-rest drill is critical for you. Virtue love is a most wonderful thing, but without faith it won't work. We see virtue love is kind. It's not jealous, it doesn't brag, it is not arrogant. I'm reading through 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, giving you some of those characteristics. Virtue love is kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant. It does not dishonor other people. It's not self-centered. It's not easily offended. It doesn't think in terms of human viewpoint. It does not find happiness in injustice, but rather in truth. Virtue love always overlooks faults and is full of truth and full of endurance. Virtue love never fails, never falters and virtue love is in fact the greatest thing that man could possess. ***"Faith, hope and love,"* the Bible says, *"And the greatest of these is love,"* virtue love. These are the personality traits of a mature believer.** Each one of these personality traits reflects the assets our Lord Jesus Christ possessed while He was among us on this earth. Thus they reflect the Christian life in its truest form. So let this lesson be a mirror for you to reflect what's in your soul. No one-shot decision will ever take you to spiritual maturity. It's the daily intake of God's Word taught to you by a well-qualified pastor is how you get to spiritual maturity and it will come with some momentum testing. You will be tested along the way. So the bottom line is this, you can fool a lot of people with your religious lifestyle, but your heavenly Father knows what's behind the veil. **Your fidelity, your obedience and your humility are true indications of a life with virtue love.** This is what the Father is looking for. Your virtue love, as long as you maintain it, it won't grow cold. It will stay hot based on faith and you will glorify God to the maximum. I hope you're learning. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Neutralized in the Angelic Conflict

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 805 aired on January 24, 2021

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'll be a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education. We always do it without any type of manipulation which means we're not running a con game here, we're not trying to solicit money. We're not trying to sell you anything, we're not trying to ask you to join up, fess up, give it up. We would just like to ask you to listen up. Listen to me as I try to verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If I can do that, then I pray you will orient and adjust to that plan. My job is to get the facts to you. That's why we have the FLOT Line, F.L.O.T., that stands for the forward line of troops. We're using a military analogy. What I'm trying to tell you is there are wonderful problem-solving devices found in the Bible. If you learn them and use them, they act like a main line of resistance in your soul and they will stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. That's why we've always said that adversity is of course inevitable, but stress is always optional because adversity is what circumstances do to you and stress is what you do to yourself. **By learning God's Word and applying God's Word, using the 10 unique problem-solving devices, then you can have this amazing life that we call the Christian life.** No more worries, no more fear, no more bitterness, no more anger, no more hostility, a wonderful way to live. It all starts with what's in your mind. Let me remind you of something before we get into what I want to cover with you today. This radio show is number 805. That's 805 Sundays that we've broadcast this radio show. Now we broadcast in 67 cities including Alaska and Hawaii and it's such an honor to be able to do this. We also have a podcasting venue where we podcast our radio shows and you can check them out on Apple iPod or Spotify. If you just go there and type in *The FLOT Line*, you'll find our podcasting venue there. We have many books that we've written and you can see these on our website rickhughesministries.org and everything is free. We don't charge for books, we don't charge for printed material. We can offer you any of these radio show transcripts, we can give those to you as well if you'd like to have the transcript. Remember that's what we're all about giving you accurate information, teaching you God's 10 unique problem-solving devices, beginning with rebound, how you solve the problem of sin, and then the filling of the Holy Spirit, how you solve the problem of your genetically formed sin nature and dealing with the faith-rest drill, problem-solving device number three, how you handle adversity by using faith. Number four is grace orientation, living grace, dying grace, surpassing grace, saving grace. Number five is Biblical orientation or what I call doctrinal orientation and that's thinking divine viewpoint as opposed to human viewpoint. Then there's that personal sense of destiny, that's problem-solving device number six. Number seven is your personal love for God. Number eight is your personal love for all mankind. Number nine is sharing the happiness of God and number ten is your occupation with Christ. I could spend a week on each one of those subjects. I don't have time to do it now, but I have done it in the past. We've written a book about Christian

problem-solving. If you'd like to have the book just contact us through the website rickhughesministries.org. Today I want to talk to you about something that's very dear to me. It's called being neutralized in the angelic conflict and here's what I'd like to say. Have you been neutralized in the angelic conflict? Have you been made not effective? The fact that Satan has an organization, the fallen angels, we know that for a fact, and that means he's prepared to attack the human race. You and I are humans and we're in it. His organization is described for us in the Bible in Ephesians 6:12. Listen as I read it to you, "*Because our warfare,*" that's what we're involved in, spiritual warfare, that's why I said, "Have you been neutralized?" "*Our warfare is not against blood and flesh, but it is against rulers,*" and that's the demon general officers, the three-star, two-star general officers. So "*against rulers and against authorities,*" that's the demon officer corps, those are the lieutenants and the captains and the colonels, "*against world rulers of this darkness*" that's the demon ambassadors and "*against spirit forces of evil in the heavenlies*" that's the rank-and-file demons. Again "*our warfare is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against authorities, against world rulers of this darkness, against spirit forces of evil in the heavenlies.*" These are four categories of demons that we're talking about in this passage. Satan has an organized army, that's for sure. And during the Church Age, which is what we're living in right now, demon attacks on believers are limited to what we call strictly demon influence. **If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you cannot be demon possessed. You may be demon influenced** but not demon possessed because the Bible says, "*Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.*" But demon influence, yes, many Christians have come under the influence of the doctrine of demons. Demon influence, the doctrine of demons invading the thinking of the soul, is taught in 1 Timothy 4:1-2 where Paul wrote to Timothy, "*The Spirit explicitly teaches that in the latter periods of time some believers will withdraw from doctrine and they will concentrate on deceitful spirits and the doctrines from demons by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron.*" Demons have doctrines, they have their own doctrine. God's doctrine is always grace, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith. It's a gift of God not of works lest any man should boast.*" The doctrine of demons says not by grace are you saved but you're saved by giving up bubblegum, you're saved by giving up colas, you're saved by giving up snuff, saved by giving up cigars, saved by giving up whiskey and rum. No, you're not saved by giving up anything, you're saved by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. But if a person doesn't understand this, if a person believes you're saved by something you produce, remember the Bible says, "*There are none that are good, no, not even one*" because "*all of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag*" in God's eyes. We are told to be careful not to fall under the influence of demons, doctrines of demons, because when this happens, you get neutralized in the angelic conflict. Demon influence is what we will call simply, listen carefully, brainwashing. **Demon influence wipes out the doctrine you've learned and it will destroy your Biblical norms and your Biblical standards.** And this cosmic type thinking of demon influence includes the doctrine of demons and the involvement in the cosmic system. We are warned in the Bible in 2 Corinthians 2:11, "*Don't let any advantage be taken of us by*

Satan, for we are not ignorant of his strategies.” The implication is that Satan can easily take advantage of us unless we understand something about his strategy, unless we understand why we're here. His strategy, I'll tell you again, is to brainwash you with human viewpoint. Therefore Ephesians 6:11 says, *“Put on the full armor from God, for the purpose that you can stand against the devil,”* stand, hold your ground *“against the strategies of the devil.”* The strategies of the devil are his method of attacking you. He has a dossier on you. He knows what you're like, he knows what your weaknesses are. He can attack those areas and induce you to sin in those areas. Remember, sin comes in three areas, something you say, something you do, or something that you think. **Satan's objective of getting you to fall into sin is to neutralize you in this stage of the angelic conflict. The way he does that is by getting you to operate under human viewpoint thinking. If you operate under human viewpoint thinking you will be ineffective in representing Jesus Christ.** Now you will say, “What is human viewpoint thinking?” Here it is, listen, it's human speculation that excludes Biblical viewpoints and it results in arrogant systems of subjectivity such as humanism, socialism, communism. These are all human viewpoints to produce utopia for man. The danger of human viewpoint is living by the dictates of your emotions. You see, human emotions must be under the authority of what you think and that's your thoughts. Are your thoughts Biblical rationales or are they human subjectivity that leads to compromise and some sort of inordinate competition? So again, these emotions that you and I possess must be under the authority of our thoughts, our thoughts guard our emotions and keep us from getting emotional. There's nothing wrong with good emotions. I'm just talking about when you let emotions control your life. Once you begin to let your emotions control your thoughts rather than your thoughts controlling your emotions that's when you begin to produce human good or acts that are designed to appeal to God and appeal to humanity. You think God is really happy with you because you went down and marched at the corner and you took a stand on this or you took a stand on that? If you don't understand the spiritual life, everything you wind up doing is the right thing in the wrong way. Unbelievers, people that aren't even saved, can produce all sorts of human good. We see that in the Bible in Revelation chapter 20 when the Books of Works are opened and they get a chance to try to vindicate themselves before thrown in the lake of fire, and it doesn't work. All of their righteousnesses are like a filthy rag. Unbelievers can produce human good just like you, but an unbeliever cannot produce the one thing you can produce and you should produce, and that's divine good. Divine good is manufactured under the filling of the Holy Spirit. It is the divine good that glorifies God to the maximum. It is the divine good that's rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ according to 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. It's called gold, silver and precious stones. Human good is called wood, hay and stubble. I've said it many times on this radio show, as a Christian if you do good deeds and you're not filled with the Holy Spirit, what you wind up doing is the right thing in the wrong way. If you go to church, if you tithe, if you sing in the choir, if you attend Sunday school, but you have unconfessed sin in your life, sin you haven't dealt with, then you're doing the right thing but in the wrong way. You're doing it in the energy of the flesh. Anything done in the energy of the flesh is human good. If you

put some money in the offering plate and you have known sin in your life that's energy of the flesh and it's human good. It will not be rewarded, it does not glorify God. Keep that in mind. The question you have to answer today is what are your priorities in your life? I would like to point your attention to the book of Daniel and notice the priorities in Daniel's life, the prophet who was captured as a young man and taken to Babylon along with four of his best buddies, captured by King Nebuchadnezzar. In the book of Daniel, in the first chapter, if you read it you'll see where Nebuchadnezzar tried to brainwash these youths and he did it a couple ways. First of all, he gave them all new names. He gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar and his buddies Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah got new names as well. You may recognize their names, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. The king also tried to get them to change their diet so that he could introduce heathen culture to them. But listen to what Daniel did, this is very interesting. Daniel 1:8, *"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with a portion of the king's food nor the wine which he drank."* Did you hear what I read, *"He purposed in his heart."* This is Daniel's divine viewpoint controlling his emotions. The king was trying to brainwash him, trying to get him to ignore all of the divine viewpoint he had in the past. Now let's talk about *"purposed in his heart."* You have a heart and I have a heart and we have a mind. Both of these are upstairs. I'm not talking about the organ that pumps blood throughout your body. I'm talking about the heart between your ears, the heart and the mind the Bible talks about is between your ears. **Your mind is where you assimilate the information of the Word of God and your heart is where you apply the Word of God to your circumstances.** The Greeks recognized this in the New Testament. They acknowledged it and they used two words for knowledge. If we want to use the first word it's called *gnosis* and it's always translated knowledge in the Bible. But there's another word translated in the Bible knowledge and unless your pastor has some Greek background he won't know this one either, it's *epignosis*. *Gnosis* is knowledge and *epi* is a preposition meaning full. There's a difference between knowledge and full knowledge. What's the difference? Going to church and hearing your pastor speak gives you the opportunity to learn God's Word but then on top of that, you must apply what you learn. You have to convert that *gnosis* that you picked up in church to *epignosis* where it becomes what the Bible calls wisdom. **Wisdom enables you to have insight and discernment into what the enemy a.k.a. the devil is trying to do, trying to neutralize you in the angelic conflict.** You cannot afford to be dumb and stupid as a Christian and get neutralized in the angelic conflict. The Bible tells you, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."* The Bible tells you, *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* Those are both mandates. It's the reason you're not neutralized, so that you can continue to be a representative witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. **Unless you purpose in your heart to make learning and applying God's Word in your life every day then you are never going to fulfill your potential as a divinely appointed influencer who presents Christ to the lost world.** You think God's going to put you out there and use you if you don't know what you're talking about? The worst thing in the world you could

do is misrepresent God. This is what got Moses in trouble. This is exactly why Moses did not get to go into the promised land. He misrepresented God at the second incidence of Meribah where God said "Speak to the rock and I'll give water" but instead he struck the rock. Water came out but God called him to the side and said, "You misrepresented Me and you're not going to go into the promised land." Moses wasn't happy about that after waiting 120 years, but he did not go into the promised land. You cannot afford to misrepresent God. You have to understand the facts, you have to understand God's plan if you're going to represent Him to a lost world. This means you can't teach the Bible in terms of human viewpoint. Human viewpoint ignores grace salvation. Human viewpoint will tell you that you're spiritual because you don't chew tobacco, you're spiritual because you don't drink, you're spiritual because you don't use swear words. That's not spirituality. Spirituality is you being filled with the Holy Spirit. If you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you are spiritual. If you're not filled with the Holy Spirit, you're carnal. The Bible makes it clear when it says, "*Walk in the spirit and you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh*" in Ephesians 5:18. Be filled with the Spirit, if you're not, you're carnal, you're fleshly meaning you're controlled by your sin nature. At any one time in your life, you're either going to be controlled by your sin nature or you're going to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. **If you're going to be a spiritual influencer, a divinely appointed influencer, two things must happen. You must stay filled with the Holy Spirit to the best of your ability, 24x7, and you must know what you're talking about. You must understand God's plan.** If you don't understand God's plan, how can you lead anybody. The Bible simply says, "*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. For by grace are ye saved through faith.*" Everyone must make this decision for themselves. Jesus said, "*This is the will of the One who sent Me, that you believe in Me, whom He has sent.*" He also said, "*You believe in God, now believe also in Me.*" Believing in God won't save you. A lot of people believe in God but they don't believe that Jesus Christ is the anointed Son of God. It is only through Jesus Christ we can come to God because He said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father but by Me.*" This is important that you understand this technicality, that you understand how to correctly represent God. So unless you purpose in your heart as Daniel did to make learning and applying God's Word every day, then you're never going to fulfill your potential as a divinely appointed influencer whose job it is to present Christ to the lost world. This is why Satan is always seeking to brainwash you. This is why he always has his human viewpoint system, that's the mantra for the cosmic system. Human viewpoint thinking is the mantra for the cosmic system. That cosmic system is out there spinning around. It's the devil's world, it's the devil's way, it's the devil viewpoint. We'll talk about it here in just a minute. What you think today is what you learned yesterday, did you know that? **What you're thinking today is what you learned yesterday.** People get interested in all sorts of things and spend hours upon hours learning how to do those things and to be effective at them. But how much time did you spend yesterday learning divine viewpoint and is it affecting the way that you're thinking today because that's what it's suppose to do. **Question, did you sit down with your Bible and listen to a well-qualified pastor teach you God's Word yesterday? Or**

are you one of these people that once a week is enough for you? I've used this illustration many times. If you send a child to the first grade and they go for an hour or two hours a week, they're never going to get out of the first grade. Yet many Christians think they're going to get out of the first grade by going to church on Sunday and that's it. That's not it. The local church is the classroom where the pastor is designed to teach you God's Word into your *gnosis* where you understand it and then you cycle it by faith into your heart where you apply it and have discernment and insight in the devil's world. Without you coming to this point in your life where you purpose in your heart to start having a consistent lifestyle of spiritual growth you will at best bounce around from church to church, from group to group, seeking some sort of compatibility with Christian friends who think like you, enjoy the things you enjoy. But I got a little news for you. The road to spiritual maturity is a very lonely road because your friends are not going to want to go down that road with you. They're not going to like it, they'll think you've gone all holy on them, that you've got into some kind of cult, since you no longer compromise your standards like they do. Maybe you purposed in your heart you're not going to get drunk with them anymore or you're not going to talk about your neighbor anymore, that you're not going to try to get on the political bandwagon anymore and you're going to leave that to God. What did you purpose in your heart because that affects what you think. **If you purposed in your heart to grow spiritually are you willing to commit to a lifestyle of spiritual growth? It's a lonely road.** Most of my friends when I started growing spiritually fell by the wayside and I don't even know where they are today because they were not interested. They liked God, they liked going to Christian rallies and acting all holy but it didn't take long for certain things to distract and compromise them and be neutralized in the angelic conflict. **If you purpose in your heart to grow spiritually, you will not be neutralized in the conflict and you can have an invisible impact in the devil's world. Then you will bring God maximum glory and you will be an accurate, informed, divinely appointed influencer.** As a divinely appointed influencer, you will have a life marked by sorrow, for sure, the Lord Jesus Christ said that, but it will be defined by joy. You will have a life marked by sorrow when you go down that road by yourself, you will be sad that people don't go with you, your children and your spouse might not even go with you. They may think you're crazy doing this but you will be defined by the inner peace and inner joy of the spiritual life. Romans 15:13, "*Now the God of hope,*" that's the Greek word *elpis* which means extreme confidence, "*Now the God of confidence fill you with all joy,*" there it is, "*and peace by believing,*" that's believing in Christ, "*So that you may now abound in confidence by means of the power that comes through the filling of the Holy Spirit.*" This is the life for you, a life of confidence, joy, peace because you are a divinely appointed influencer who has purposed in his heart to grow spiritually. The issue is not that you fail, it's that you get up and keep going. This is your host Rick Hughes. I pray you come back next week, same time, same place, and listen to the FLOT Line.

Goodbye America

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 806 aired on January 31, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and I invite you to stick around for a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, but no manipulation. We just want to give you some accurate information that will help you verify and identify God's plan for your life and if you can do this, you have the freedom and privacy to orient and adjust to the plan, if you want to. It's your life, it's your decision. My job is to give you the accurate information and we do it in many different ways. Through the radio shows if perhaps you're listening terrestrially over the air right now in some cities and sometimes streaming audio on various internet platforms. I thank you for giving me your time and I promise I'm not going to bore you. The show is playing on 81 stations across America this morning and we also podcast on various platforms such as Spotify, Apple and Anchor, just search for *The FLOT Line Show*. You can listen at your convenience. We have many books that we provide free of charge like *Life's Toughest Years* for teenagers or *A Divine Pardon* for those who are incarcerated and others, *Understanding Your Soul*, *Practicing Your Christianity* and *Christian Problem Solving Devices*. We also have a great book *Bible Promises and Principles*. Just contact us if you want them. This show comes to you every Sunday morning from my office here in Cropwell, Alabama. You say, "Where in the world is that?" Well, it's actually between Birmingham and Atlanta, near the shores of beautiful Logan Martin lake where I love to bass fish. No fishing today. I want to go into the subject that's a bit depressing. I struggled for a title and decided to go with *Goodbye America*, goodbye. Maybe in the past you've heard me say there's a train wreck coming and I can hear the whistle blowing. This has referred to the direction this great country is going as we lose our integrity. This means losing our standard of what's right and what's wrong and replacing it with sin and evil. It doesn't take a genius to figure out the end is very near. My own pastor has been teaching a series in Proverbs 11 which deals with this very thing and one of the verses he brought to my attention is Proverbs 11:3 which says, "*The integrity of the upright will guide them but the crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them.*" Can I repeat that? "***The integrity of the upright will guide them but the crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them***" (Proverbs 11:3). So the question we have to ask today is this, have we become a crooked generation led by crooked leaders? Crookedness refers to a lack of integrity or a lack of standards. When the population of this nation loses its standards of decency, its standards of morality, when we lose those, then the authority of this nation becomes relative with no absolute standards and subjectivity allows the rulers to justify any act they want to retain power. As Americans become crooked with no absolute standards to live by, then the future at best is very bleak. I think it's obvious there's a lot of crookedness going on in this country today. The indication that a nation is about to go down in flames of disaster is found in the Old Testament, 2 Chronicles 36:16, where God said these words, "*They continually mocked the messengers of God. They despised His Word and scoffed at His prophets until the wrath of the Lord came against His people and*

there was no remedy,” no remedy. We are a client nation to God and we have been protected by God, prospered by God for many years and **God expects several things from us. The number one thing He expects from us is for us to follow the laws of divine establishment: freedom, marriage, family and nationalism.** God intends for each person to be free. God ordained marriage for all members of the human race. God set the family up for the orderly transition of young people, and nationalism, not internationalism. Those four divine establishment principles are critical for the free function of any nation and for us to live by the rule of law and to live by integrity, especially from our politicians and from our population. So when integrity goes and people become crooked, then you can see there will be no remedy. It’s called divine discipline on a nation and we haven’t really gone into too much of that but there are five cycles of discipline to determine the course of history for any client nation such as the United States of America. This is taught in the Word of God. We have forsaken His Word, we have turned on Him, and we may be about to be disciplined by God’s justice and vengeance because of this. The very God that blessed us, the very God that promoted us, the very God that sustained us through World War I, World War II, and other horrible wars that we faced in Vietnam, Korea, Afghanistan, Iraq, and now we’ve turned our back and we don’t want anything to do with God. It appears to me at least, like that’s the case. So again, 2 Chronicles 36:16, *“They continually mocked the messengers of God.”* Well that goes on today, to minimize the impact of the preacher, mock the messenger of God, and make fun of the preachers, trying to do anything they can to denounce the preacher of the Word of God. Show their weaknesses, show their sins, show their failures, and we all certainly have them, I admit that. But *“Continually mocking the messengers of God and despising His Word,”* despising His Word, hmmm, hating the Word of God. This is when people think they’re smarter than God, *“and scoffing at the prophets.”* *“They continually mocked the messengers of God, they despised His Word, scoffed at His prophets until the wrath of the Lord rose up against His people and there was no remedy.”* This is what’s happening to us, this happened to Israel, eventually the wrath of the Lord arose against the people and there was no remedy, and it is possible that we are at that point or getting very close to that point. The verse that I just quoted out of 2 Chronicles 36:16, please remember it. It wasn’t written to us but the application could be made to us because we’re much like Israel. Israel, who was under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon who had conquered that nation, had set up King Zedekiah to look over things in his absence. But Zedekiah violated the mandates of the ruling king and he forgot his own God under his leadership. Zedekiah stiffened his neck and was arrogant and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord God of Israel even though God showed extreme mercy to him. And He shows extreme mercy to us as well. Listen to 2 Chronicles 36:15 the verse before the one I quoted. *“The Lord sent word to them again and again by His messengers because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.”* *“Again and again and again”* the Word has gone forth and we can’t live like this. We can’t live a crooked life in a crooked nation. We can’t live without integrity. We can’t live in this atheistic, socialistic, humanistic society and expect God to bless us, we just can’t. God’s been

more than patient with us, America, His own client nation to this lost world, that's us. He's blessed us with military victories over foreign enemies. He's blessed us with financial wealth and stability. He's blessed us with peace and internal security but something has changed. Something has changed radically in the last 50 years and now we fight in these endless wars that we cannot or will not win. Our nation's morality has been compromised and we no longer recognize sin and evil. Instead we actually sanction immorality and we have internal hatred and mistrust for our neighbors racially. Our cities are filled with murder and crime and our politicians compromise and lie to maintain their power. The rule of law in this nation appears to be gone for the big shots, but for the little man like you, oh you'll get it if you break the law, but they're not going to get it because they're above the law. It does not apply equally to all people, does it, or it doesn't appear to me to apply to all people. **These are some of the obvious trends of our country and it's not going to get any better unless there's a national revival and a turning back to God.** There's an ominous imminence of judgment and it's bad and it's coming quickly. The imminence of divine judgment is coming quickly and it's not going to be nice when it hits us. Listen to Proverbs 11:3, "*The crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them.*" Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke some interesting words to the disciples in Matthew 13:16, here's what He said to them. "*Blessed are your eyes because they see it and your ears because they understand.*" He said this to His disciples who had questioned why He used so many parables and Jesus quoted Isaiah who said this about his own crooked generation. He quoted Isaiah, listen, "*The heart of this people has become dull [that's scar tissue] with their ears they scarcely hear and they closed their eyes. Otherwise they would see with their eyes, they would hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts and return and then I would heal them.*" Now this is why the Lord Jesus Christ went to parables. The Pharisees and the Sadducees did not want to hear it anyhow. They were looking for any way they could to impugn the Lord Jesus Christ and to get rid of Him and so in spite of what He told them, they were not listening in spite of what He told them. But the disciples heard it because they can see and they can understand. They didn't have all that religious scar tissue, that two-faced religious scar tissue, and their hearts weren't hardened over. "*The heart of the people [it says in this verse] will be dull.*" "*The heart of the people has become dull,*" Jesus said in Matthew 13. That's what happens when you put a square peg in a round hole, you scar the hole up. Paul talked about this in Ephesians 4 where He said, "*Don't live like those Gentiles live in the vacuum of their soul,*" that's the emptiness of their mind, the hollow thinking that they have. It depends on, you've heard me say this to you before, what do you think? That's where you live your life. The Bible says, "*As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.*" So what's in your mind, what are you thinking? Do you think human viewpoint or do you think divine viewpoint? Divine viewpoint will not compromise sin and evil, human viewpoint will for power, for success. Because the cosmic system, the devil's world, it's going to try to recruit you, to recruit you to their way of thinking. Unless you understand what the Bible says, unless you trust what God wrote in His Word, you will become a victim to cosmic thinking and you will be drawn into that way of thinking. And I just call it, you know, drinking the Kool-Aid, that's what's

going to happen. So obviously I'm afraid we have a nation that's deaf, that has drunk the Kool-Aid. We have a nation that's blind to its own sin, its own failure; we're deaf to the warnings of Scripture, blinded by our unrealistic self-image of arrogance. I've been doing this radio show a long time, maybe 16 years now. The one you're listening to this morning is radio show 806, 806 Sundays I have aired this show and you would be surprised how few people I actually hear from, how few people really respond to what we have to say. Occasionally I get a letter from someone that's listening and occasionally I get a call from someone that responds but by and large, I don't hear much out of people. We continue to give this information. We continue to look for what I call positive volition. We're looking for that, people that are hungry to grow, hungry to learn because we have a nation full of scar tissue and the justice of God will be vindicated I assure you. No one listened to Noah either, remember? But the justice of God was vindicated when that flood came and I am warning you, if a young man can pull a gun out and shoot a police officer and not even think twice about it and go run over to his buddies and laugh about it, that young man has a seriously scarred soul. If we can have immorality and degeneracy and make it seem like it's okay, we have a nation with a seriously scarred soul. We are scarred as a nation. That means our hearts are hard. That's what Paul talked about in Ephesians 4:18 where he said, "*Whose heart has become hard,*" that's the Gentiles. They're not able to see themselves as they really are. That's what arrogance does to you, you have an unrealistic self image. That's what Jesus said, "You can't see and you can't hear because your soul is scarred up," and I'm afraid we are at that point. We are deaf, we are blind to our own sin and our own failure and as I said earlier, deaf to the warnings of Scripture, blinded by the unrealistic self-image of arrogance. The very thing which dulled the eyes of the Pharisees is exactly the same thing that blinds people today. It was and still is, get ready, organized religion. Listen to Jeremiah 23:25-29, "*I've heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name. They say, 'I've had a dream, I've had a dream.' How long? Is there anything in the heart of the prophets who prophesy falsely [or lies], these prophets of deceit from their own heart, because they intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they report to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal? The prophet who has a dream can report his dream but let him that has My Word, speak it in truth. Because what does straw have in common with grain?' declares the Lord. 'Is not My Word like a fire?' declares the Lord. 'And like a hammer that shatters a rock?'"*" The Bible says, "*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.*" Do you understand why people hate the 10 Commandments? Do you understand why they hate it so much they don't want it on public property? Do you understand why people don't want the Bible taught in schools and don't want kids to have an opportunity to hear the story of God's creation? Because they hate it, they consider themselves to be wiser than God. We've shut off the minds of our young people. Politicians have pulled into their own little sanctuaries. They don't believe the Word of God anymore, they think they're getting away with something. When someone comes into office who

tries to teach the Word of God, to promote the Word of God, to proclaim the name of Jesus Christ, well that person is marginalized and demonized as a weirdo or a crook. That's exactly what's gone on in this nation the last few years. You and I need men, men in the pulpits of America, not dreamers. We don't need people who peddle their merchandise to religious folks who think they're worshiping God by obeying a human ritual and religious observances. You and I need men that are called by God to teach, teach His Word and proclaim it, proclaim His forgiveness through Jesus Christ His anointed Son. Men who know the original languages, men who understand the divine institutions and the rule of law, and understand what it means to have integrity and wisdom and insight, understanding. If we ever turn back from our social agenda to a spiritual agenda, if we ever do that and get back to repentance, then God promised in Jeremiah 3:15 *"Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart who will feed you on knowledge and understanding."* That's the problem. We are focusing on a social agenda in America today. It's not a social agenda we need, it's a spiritual agenda. We need a spiritual revival. **The only thing that can change the heart of a man is the Word of God, alive and powerful.** When Jesus Christ comes into a person's life, there is a change. You can't change somebody by dictating social laws and rules and making people follow eventual edicts. You change people by leading them to the Lord Jesus Christ. **America has the wrong agenda. We need a spiritual revival, not social change. Listen again, Jeremiah 3:15, "Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart who will feed you on knowledge and understanding."** "If" we ever turn back, if, that's a third class condition, maybe we will, maybe we won't, I don't know. I mean we've gone so far in our social agenda that we've let the crooks get into power to the point where we may never turn back. If you don't understand the God we know then how can you ever worship or serve Him? That's a great question. If you don't understand the God you know, how can you worship and serve Him? Listen again to Jeremiah 9:24, *"Let him who boasts, boast about this. Boast that he knows Me, that he understands Me, that I am the Lord who exercises unfailing love and justice and righteousness on the earth. These are the things I delight in, says the Lord."* Do you see anything about a social agenda? **True worship is adoration and appreciation and genuine love and reverence for God.** You've got to understand, singing some songs on Sunday morning, being led by a worship leader is not you getting any closer to God. I don't care how many times you repeat the phrase, "He is worthy." If you really want to worship and serve God, listen to what I'm telling you. First, you must understand that salvation is indeed a free gift from God, free, it can't be earned, it can't be purchased. Salvation is free and you must understand that Jesus Christ paid for our sin on that cross. God judged Him in our place. He took our sin in His own body on the cross. John 3:18 makes it very clear that sin doesn't send anybody to hell, it's our unbelief that sends us to hell. Listen to John 3:18, *"The ones who believe in Him are not judged but the ones who do not believe have been judged already because he has not believed in the name of the Son of God."* **This verse makes the issue of salvation clear, what do you think of Christ?** Not what have you done or not done. All of your sins were judged on the cross. All of your sins were paid for by Jesus Christ on the cross and it's a done deal. Now the issue is will

you believe in Him? Titus 3:5, *“He saved us not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy. He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing by His Holy Spirit.”* This means that when you believe in Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you. He is your permanent mentor and coach. Ephesians 1:12 says, *“He will seal you until the day of redemption.”* When He does this, He makes your dead human spirit alive so you can have fellowship with God because you're now born physically and spiritually through the rebirth. You were born spiritually dead but when you believe in Christ you are made spiritually alive. That's why you have to have two birthdays, birthday one, coming into the world, birthday two, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ or being born again. This is not what organized religion will tell you. If you don't believe me, then go ask a pastor, this simple question, *“What must I do to be saved?”* If it's not faith alone in Christ alone, then it's a lie. Listen to what Paul told the Roman jailer who was scared to death by an earthquake that shook the prison while Paul and Silas were in it. *“Now about midnight [Acts 16:25] Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God and prisoners were listening and suddenly there was a great earthquake so that the foundations of the prison were shaken and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer awoke up and saw the prison door opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself thinking his prisoners had escaped. [See if he lost his prisoners, he lost his life.] But Paul called out, ‘Don't harm yourself. We're still here,’ and the jailer asked for the lights. And he rushed in trembling with fear and fell down in front of Paul and Silas and brought them out he said, ‘Sir, what must I do to be saved?’ [Here's the question] and they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your entire household.’”* They didn't tell him to quit sinning or straighten up and fly right. They said, *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, and your entire household.”* You must understand this to worship God because Christ said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life and no man comes to the Father but by Me.”* Christ said, *“This is the will of the One that sent Me, that you believe in Me whom He sent.”* This is where it starts, your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. If you don't have this, you can never worship God by going through some ritual that has no reality to it. Also consider the reason we study the 10 problem-solving devices which I make up the FLOT line on your soul. **God's 10 problem-solving devices are the basic modus operandi of the Christian life.** Are you hungry for truth? Does your soul crave to understand God's Word and have the wisdom of God and the insight and the understanding that comes with it? If the answer is yes, then you're the reason that I produce this radio show. I want you to take advantage of all of our free materials and more importantly the connection that I can give you to some very accurate pastors who teach God's Word faithfully. I'm not your pastor, I'm an evangelist. I'm simply a voice trying to reach you. The information I learned from my pastor years ago is the bridge from me to you because he taught me what I'm teaching you. What a wonderful life it's been, a life of sharing God's Word. **Remember, as goes your spiritual life, so goes the history of America.** I'm counting on you to have a hunger for God's Word. This is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Divine Desideratum - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 807 aired on February 7, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line wherever you might be today out of the 67 cities we're broadcasting in, from Hawaii and Alaska all across the U.S. Thank you for being here. It's a great honor for me, the host of the FLOT Line, Rick Hughes, to bring you this information. Today I want to remind you of several things before we jump into the subject I've chosen to speak to you about. Let me remind you that these radio broadcasts are heard every Sunday morning same time, same place and we're renewing contracts now and hopefully we'll be able to add some additional cities in the very near future. We'd like to be broadcasting in eventually 100 cities across this great nation if possible. We also have all these shows available on our podcast venue through Spotify or Apple Podcast or any podcast platform. You can go there and type in *The FLOT Line* search for that and you can listen to the FLOT Line shows wherever you might be. You can also get the transcriptions of these radio shows as well. We have books that we've printed that are available always free of charge, everything we do is free of charge. You'll never hear us asking for any money because we know if God's in it, He'll pay for it so we don't have to run around peddling up money. If you enjoy listening and you'd like for us to stay on in your area, drop us a note so we'll know when time comes to renew the contracts that at least somebody's listening in your city because we don't have any magical way of knowing who's listening. We depend on you and for you to let us know if this show means something to you. All right, it's the FLOT Line dealing with a military analogy about learning God's 10 problem-solving devices and using them in your soul so that you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. We cannot prevent adversity but we can prevent stress because adversity is what those circumstances do to you and stress is what you will do to yourself. So it's inevitable we're going to have adversity but not stress using those 10 problem-solving devices. That's why the Christian life is such a unique life because you don't ever have to worry, be afraid, or hold any bitterness. You can live the most wonderful, stress free, guilt free life in the world and that's the Christian life. Today let's talk about The Divine Desideratum. That's a Latin word ***desideratum***, which means a divine design or what is essential or what is necessary. This deals with the Christian life, the divine desideratum. Listen as I read to you Hosea 14:9, very interesting, "*Whoever is wise, let him understand these things* [two keywords] *whoever's wise let him understand these things; and whoever is discerning* [keyword discerning] *let him know these things. For the ways of the Lord are right and the righteous will walk in them, but wrongdoers will stumble in them.*" Three things the wise and the discerning will learn from this passage. "***The ways of the Lord are always right and the righteous [whatever those are] the righteous will walk in them and the rebellious [those with negative volition] will stumble over them***" [which means to self-destruct]. "*Whoever's wise, let him understand these things whoever is discerning, let him know them* [that means to have insight, the capability of seeing through the fog] *and the righteous will walk in them.*" Who are

the righteous? What does it mean to be a righteous person and what does it refer to when it says “*whoever is wise?*” If you have wisdom in your soul and if we have enough believers in this country that have some wisdom, then we can avoid judgment in this nation. That’s what it takes to precede a national restoration, to bring us back to where we need to be which is a client nation glorifying God, exalting and lifting up the Lord Jesus Christ. So Proverbs 13:20 is talking about “*Whoever is wise,*” listen carefully, “***He who walks with the wise men will be wise, but the companion of a fool will be destroyed.***” Be very careful who you identify with because this verse says you’ll be destroyed. It can be a foolish friend, a fool. What is a fool? Well, Proverbs 3:7, “*Don’t be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and depart from evil.*” And in Proverbs 3:35, “*The wise will inherit glory but shame will be the promotion of a fool.*” The fool is the one with negative volition who thinks he’s wiser than God, smarter than God, knows what’s best for everybody, and that’s what politicians have a tendency to do. They think they’re right and the rest of the world is wrong and they can tell you how you should live your life. So what are the things he’s trying to tell us here in Hosea 14:9? “*Whoever is wise, let him understand these things,*” what’s that mean? And what does it mean “*Whoever’s discerning?*” And when it says, “*We are commanded to learn these things,*” and “*we are commanded to walk in these things?*” What’s all this referring to? What I’m calling the divine desideratum, this is what God would have for you to understand. And what does it actually mean when it says, “*Wrongdoers will stumble in them?*” It means they can’t handle them. So “*these things*” refer to God’s policy and God’s procedure. See **we live in what’s called the time continuum and we take our orders from the eternal side of the continuum.** It’s going on, you can’t see it, eventually one day, when you die you will switch sides, you’ll move from the time continuum into the eternal continuum. If you’re a believer in Jesus Christ it’s quite a move, I can assure you. “*No more pain, no more sorrow, no more tears. The old things will be passed away.*” But if you are an unbeliever, it’s not a very good thing because you will be condemned to the Lake of Fire. So we live in the time continuum. We’re alive, we’re here on this earth, we’re taking our orders from the eternal continuum which means it’s coming straight from God through His Word written by the apostles, the prophets, and various people who helped put together the Scriptures. So to make this clear, there is a difference between the time continuum and the eternal continuum. Let me show you the difference in 2 Corinthians 4:18. “*While we look not at the things which are seen [that’s the time continuum] but at the things which are not seen [that’s the eternal continuum]. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*” Did you get the difference? Do you see it there? Things that are seen, things are not seen? As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you and I currently operate in the time continuum and in this continuum there is a divine desideratum for us. We have to understand what God’s protocol plan boils down to. We have to understand what it means by following His policy and understanding His procedure. It’s critical that you and I understand the God we worship or else we wind up doing the right things but essentially we do them in the wrong way. So again according to Hosea 14:9, “*Whoever’s wise, let him understand these things.*” Two keywords, whoever is wise and whoever will understand, both are Hebrew

words. And here are the meanings and the translations. The word “wise” is the Hebrew word *chakam* and it's a descriptive adjective meaning whoever's skillful, whoever's prudent, whoever's intelligent, whoever's capable of determining. And then we have the word “understand,” the Hebrew word *biyn* and it means to comprehend or discern or to have discernment. So here's what Hosea wrote, “Whoever's intelligent, let him comprehend the ways of the Lord,” and then it's repeated, “Whoever's discerning, let him know them.” This is the individual solution to the corporate problem of a nation such as the United States of America. Hosea, the prophet, identified Assyria as the coming judgment on the rebellious Jews of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. They had become involved with worshiping Canaanite deities and much like America today, Israel turned their back on God. She had turned to Baal worship and sacrifice to pagan gods as well as associating with the sacred prostitutes at the sanctuaries and began to worship calf images in Samaria. In spite of those sins as the book of Hosea illustrated, God still had compassion on them and God still loved them. And in spite of our direction toward the evil of humanism, the evil of socialism, and the sacrifice of freedom for some sort of security, God still loves this client nation called the United States of America. In spite of our immorality, in spite of our criminality, God still loves us. But who is wise and who is discerning in this land? If you will listen closely to what God expects from you, you'll come to understand this because as Hosea 14:9 said, “The ways of the Lord are right and the righteous will walk in them.” There's a commentary called *Benson and Benson* and he says this, “The ways of the Lord are both ways which He Himself takes [that's God] in His moral government of the world and the ways of godliness which He prescribes to man to follow. So these two things taken together [the ways of God, how He governs, and the ways of man, what he's expected to follow] they are to be right or straight. The truly righteous person will conform to the will of God, both in His precepts [according to Benson] and in His providences and shall have the comfort of so doing, and they shall well understand the mind of God both in His Word and in His works, and they shall be reconciled to both and shall accommodate themselves to God's intention in both. So the righteous shall walk in those ways towards their great end and shall not come short of it,” end of quote from the *Benson* commentary. So what's he talking about, the precepts and the providences of God? Precepts mean a general rule intended to regulate the behavior and thought of an individual and the providences mean the protective care of God. So these two concepts when you put them together, it means this is what God expects from you. He expects you to understand His divine policy and He expects you to follow precisely correct procedure. So let's start with His divine policy, let's start there. It starts in your soul, inside of you. Remember you have a soul, the invisible immortal part of you and that soul has mentality, it has volition, it has conscience, it has self-consciousness, that's your soul. And when your body gives up and goes away and dies, your soul and your spirit, if you're born again you have an alive human spirit, it's going to go to heaven and your body is going to go to the grave and you're going to get a new body, a resurrection body. So the soul is the battlefield inside of you. It's the battlefield of rational thought versus irrational emotions. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ you must live by what

you think, not by what you feel because the body is a temporary home of the immortal soul and it's only the soul that is saved for eternal life, not the body. The body has to be destroyed because it's a sin infused body. You have Adam's original sin infecting your body and it's not going to operate in eternity. So we have to get rid of that and get a new body, a body like Christ's. The body of corruption, the body we live in now is contaminated and has to be destroyed and the new body issued. Why? To house your soul throughout eternity. Do you know what this means to you? Think about this now, you're going to carry your thoughts with you into eternity. Those things that you learn now that are stored in the consciousness of your soul, you will take into eternity with you and you will learn so much more once you get there, I assure you that. Mark has something to say about the soul in Mark 8:36, "*What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul? What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*" It's talking about being saved. I mean, what good does it do you if you're a multi-zillion-billionaire and you die and go to the Lake of Fire. What would you give in exchange to keep from going there? Everything. The apostle Paul expressed God's divine policy about these things, about how you're to live your life in the body of corruption and how you should do it. What's the divine policy of God for you and for me today? Listen to Philippians 1:27-28, here it is, "*Only conduct yourself [that's our lifestyle] in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ [Paul said] so that whether I come and see you or if I remain absent, at least I'll hear about you, that you are standing firm, [that means you're not retreating] you're in one spirit [that means you empowered by the same goal] with one mind [that's the mind of Christ, not human viewpoint thinking but divine viewpoint thinking] striving together [that's unit integrity, shoulder to shoulder, shield to shield, believers standing together, why?] for the faith of the gospel and in no way being alarmed by your opponents*" [that's our enemy, a.k.a. the devil]. So again I'll read it, listen, this is God's express policy for us. This is His divine policy and how we are to live our life. "*Conduct our lifestyle in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ so that whether I come to see you or I remain absent, I will hear about you and that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel and in no way alarmed by your opponent.*" If you're listening to me today, this is the same viewpoint you should have and I should have. We should stand shoulder to shoulder, shield to shield, with unit integrity. You and I should be on the same page, not retreating, not being afraid, and being empowered by the same goal which is to glorify Jesus Christ and to re-present Him to those in our community. So God's policy demands that we live a certain lifestyle, that's His divine policy and that comes from this passage that we're studying in Hosea 14. There's a divine policy that we're to live by. Billy Graham, the famous evangelist once said this, "**The Bible teaches that the Christian life is one of constant growth.** When you were born again you were born into God's family and it is God's purpose that you grow into a full stature and become mature in Christ. It would be against the laws of God and against nature if you were to remain a baby and thus become stunted in your growth. So in 2 Peter 3:18, [Billy Graham quotes] the Bible says we're to *Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*, that implies steady development, constant enlargement, increasing wisdom."

And that's what this show is about, to open a door so you can see this, to give you a breath of fresh air as opposed to traditional Christianity that's a lot of ritual with no reality to it. God's policy is for you and me to grow up. We do that in a local church under the authority of a well-qualified pastor. I can't tell you how many people write to me and say, "I wish I knew where one of those was." Well, it may be true, there's not a well-qualified pastor in your community but they are available. I have a lot of friends that are great, wonderful men of God that have been in their pulpits for years teaching the Bible and everything they teach is offered free of charge and you can access it in this age of instant communication through the Internet or through books, DVDs, MP3s, if you want it. You can take a cup of coffee and your Bible and a notebook and sit at your kitchen table and study God's Word every day until God reveals to you where there is that sort of church in your community or sometimes I have actually known people that picked up and moved to where there is good, qualified, face-to-face Bible teaching and it has been well worth it. They made that move on purpose so that their children and their spouse can get good, solid, sound Bible teaching. So this growth that Dr. Graham talked about, the growth that's being expressed in Hosea 14, "*Being wise,*" it's going to require some effort, not just ritual without reality and that means the local church is a classroom for spiritual growth. Listen to a simple question. **How can you worship God if you don't understand Him?** Can I ask you that again? Listen, how can you worship God if you don't understand Him? See that's what He said, "*I'm looking for those who know Me and understand Me,*" in Jeremiah 9, it's there. For example, let me just give you a little small test just for a minute about understanding God. If I told you that God was outside your front door right now, that He's standing outside your front door, would you rush out to meet Him? If I said, "You might not believe this but God is out on your porch. He's out on your front doorstep," would you throw everything down and go run to meet God? Listen to what the Bible says, Exodus 33:20, "*And God said to Moses, 'You cannot see My face, for no man shall see Me and live.'*" Ah, what? "*No man can see Me and live.*" Ah, let me shut the door, you might not be in such a hurry to meet God face-to-face if you understood that verse because the true glory and the brilliance and the holiness of God would be so much that we would not be able to survive it in this human body. So this may show, you might not quite understand the God you know. **God's policy is for us, those of us that are in the time continuum, to grow spiritually by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit and for us to assume the mind of Christ so that we can re-present Him to those that that we encounter along the way.** Thus, what we do is we become divinely appointed influencers within the angelic conflict and that mission is not going to be easy. I challenge you about that, it will not be easy due to Satanic opposition. Because of this, listen, we have a divine mandate in the Scripture to arm ourselves with the uniform of grace, the grace assets found in 2 Corinthians 10:4. It says, "*For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.*" And our uniform is described in detail in Ephesians 6:11-17. It starts off with the word "*put on,*" the aorist middle imperative and that is a commandment from God. The aorist tense is a constative aorist, there never is a time you're not to put it on. "*Put on the full armor of*

God,” you're required to do this, you're mandated to do this. Why? *“So that you will be able to stand firm against the strategy of the devil. For our struggle [Ephesians 6:12] is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers and the powers and against the forces of darkness and against spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places. Therefore, [or because of this] take up the full armor of God so that [or for this purpose] you will be able to resist him on the evil day, and having done everything keep standing firm. Stand firm, therefore, having belted your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace. And in addition to all of this, taking up the shield of faith with which you shall be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.”* Wow, wow! Philippians 1:9, *“Not having my own righteousness but the righteousness of God.”* We need instructions in righteousness and we're going to see that here shortly. But go back to this Ephesians passage again before we wrap it up today. ***“Put on the full armor of God,” God has made it available to you. These are your invisible divine assets known as God's problem-solving devices.*** This is the FLOT line in your soul so you can stand against the strategy of the devil. Satan has a strategy against you. He has a dossier on you. He knows what you're like. He knows you're weaknesses and your strengths and don't expect him to attack you at your area of strength. He will attack you at your area of weakness. *“For we don't struggle against flesh and blood, [Paul wrote] but we struggle against rulers and powers, spiritual forces of darkness [these are all angelic demons]. Because of this, take up the full armor of God [every piece of it, don't leave anything off] so you can resist him on the day that you're attacked. Put on the belt of truth [that's the Bible doctrine in your soul, learning the Word of God] having on the breastplate of righteousness [that's the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ given to you at salvation as well as the righteousness that you manufacture as a mature believer] having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace [that means you have to know the gospel and understand it]. In addition to all this, standing behind the shield of faith [faith-rest drill] and take the helmet of salvation [that's eternal security] and the sword of the Spirit.”* *“The Word of God is alive and powerful,”* there you are. I mean, I could teach you this for a long time. I won't. There are a lot of pastors that have done it and you can get those studies. But this is how we resist, this is how we stand against him. This is God's policy for us in the devil's world. Please, listen to what I'm telling you, that you be wise, be discerning, understand these things because there's a lot going on, you may not understand what's happening today. We are counting on you to be a well-qualified believer. We're counting on you to grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We're counting on you to be an invisible hero in the angelic conflict. So I thank you for listening. Thank you for tuning in and my prayer is you will come back next week, same time, same station. Pray for us as we continue to present this study and if you need more information, let us know. Until then this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Divine Desideratum - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 808 aired on February 14, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line, F.L.O.T., FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please stick around. It will be a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, all without any manipulation. No con games, no asking for money, no solicitation for membership or support, just giving you some information hopefully that will help you verify as well as identify God's plan for your life. And if you'd like to orient and adjust to the plan, you have the freedom, you have the privacy to do that in your own life. That's the show. The FLOT Line, F.L.O.T. is a military acronym for the forward line of troops and what we're teaching on the show is how the Word of God can act like a forward line of troops or a main line of resistance in your soul so that you can keep the outside sources of adversity out before they ever become the inside source of stress. I'm not telling you, you can't have adversity, you're going to have adversity. But I'm telling you that stress is optional because adversity is obviously what circumstances do to you but stress is what you do to yourself. So the Christian life is a stress free life, it's a way to live without worry, without fear, without bitterness, without jealousy, without implacability, and all these other things. It's a wonderful way to live. Thank you for listening. We now broadcast in 82 cities. What a great honor and a great privilege it's been for me to do this the last 15 years and hopefully we'll grow to 100 cities soon as the Lord provides and you'll notice we do it without ever asking for money because if God's in it, He'll pay for it. We believe that with all of our heart so we just keep our mouth shut and do our job. The last time I was with you we talked about the divine, I'll pronounce the word for you, desideratum, the divine desideratum. That's a Latin term that means what's essential or what's necessary. And I want to review just a little bit before I go forward with you. Hosea 14:9, we took that passage and it says, *"Whoever is wise, let him understand these things and whoever's discerning, let him know these things."* There is a difference between knowing and understanding, I promise you. *"For the ways of the Lord are right and the righteous will walk in them, but the wrongdoer will stumble in them."* So there are three things that the wise and the discerning will learn here in this passage. He will learn *"The ways of the Lord are right."* He will learn *"the righteous"* [whatever that refers to, I'll talk about that], *"The righteous will walk in them."* And he will learn that *"The rebellious [or those who have negative volition] will stumble over them."* So when it says *"Whoever is wise"* this is the believer's wisdom that avoids judgment and precedes a national restoration. What we must have in this country are Christians who know God and understand the God they know because that's the critical issue. Do you understand the God you know? Proverbs 13:10 says, *"He that walks with wise men shall be wise, but the companion of the fool shall be destroyed."* So in your wisdom as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you must be very careful about who you identify with, who you associate with. And then there's the arrogant one who thinks he's smarter than God. Listen to Proverbs 3:7, *"Don't be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and depart from your evil."* And then in Proverbs 3:35, *"The wise will inherit glory but*

shame will be the promotion of a fool.” So when the Bible says, *“Whoever is wise, let him understand these things,”* what exactly is He telling us to understand and what does it mean to be discerning? We went over all of this in the last radio show. I'm reviewing for you a little bit, kind of like a bomber flying over the bombing run and turning around and flying over it again. What does it mean to be discerning? We are to discern these things. We are to understand these things. *“Whoever is discerning, let him know them,”* Hosea 14:9 says. And what exactly are we commanded to learn? Let him learn them, *“Let him know them,”* and then what does it mean when it says, *“Let him walk in these ways,”* and what does it mean when it says, *“Wrongdoers will stumble?”* We went over all of this. **The divine desideratum refers to God's policy, God's procedure, God's protocol plan.** We understand that we live in the time continuum, not the eternal continuum, not yet, we live in the time continuum. There is a difference between the two. 2 Corinthians 4:18 says, *“While we look not at things which are seen but at things which are not seen for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things that are not seen are eternal.”* So as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you and I, operate in what we call the time continuum, those things that we see and understand. It's critical that while we are in this continuum that we understand the God we worship or else we wind up doing all the right things in the wrong way. And that's why Hosea 14:9 says, *“Whoever is wise, let him understand.”* Those keywords, wise and understand, mean something important. Wise is the Hebrew word *chakam* and it's a descriptive adjective meaning whoever's prudent or intelligent or capable of determining. Let him understand, the Hebrew word *biyn*, it means to comprehend or discern or to have discernment. So if I gave you a modified expanded translation of that passage it would simply say, *“Whoever's intelligent, let him comprehend the ways of the Lord,”* and the phrase is repeated again, ***“Whoever's discerning, let him know them.”*** **This is the individual solution to the corporate problem of this nation, individuals who must understand the ways of the Lord.** See when Hosea wrote that he identified Assyria as the nation that was going to bring judgment on the rebellious Jews of the Northern Kingdom of Israel who had become involved with worshiping Canaanite deities. And you know how similar this is to America today? Heck in America, everything that use to be evil is now good and everything that use to be good is now evil. Israel did the same thing. They turned their back on God and they had turned to Baal worship, sacrificing to pagan gods as well, and associating with sacred prostitutes at the sanctuaries and worshiping the calf image at Samaria. But in spite of these things [Israel's faithlessness], the whole book of Hosea is a testimony to the fact that God still loved them and still had compassion on them, and it's the same with you and me. In spite of our direction toward the evil of humanism, the evil of socialism, and the sacrifice of freedom for security, God still loves this nation. In spite of our immorality, in spite of our criminality, God still loves this nation and He loves you and me. We are in this nation. So listen closely to what God expects of you, Hosea 14:9 again, *“The ways of the Lord are right and the righteous will walk in them.”* *Benson's Commentary* says, “The ways of the Lord are both the ways which He Himself takes in His moral government of the world and in the ways of the godliness in which He prescribes for

man to walk.” Take these things and put them together. *“The ways of the Lord, they are straight and right,”* and the truly righteous person will obey God. “He will conform to the will of God, both in his precepts and his providences,” *Benson* says, “and shall have the comfort of doing so.” Precepts means a general rule intended to regulate behavior and thought and providences means the protective care of God. So God has something He wants you to think, He has something that He wants you to understand, and if you do this and obey this, He will protect you and take care of you. Basically it means stay out of the cosmic system, stay out of human viewpoint thinking. As the Bible clearly says, you've got to *“Let the mind of Christ be in you.”* That's the divine viewpoint thinking, *“Let the mind of Christ be in you,”* not the cosmic system. See the devil has a lot of thoughts floating around out there, offering a lot of information on the cosmic system, and it's not the divine policy. It's not what God expects you to follow. **God expects you to follow precisely correct procedure. The divine policy starts in your soul where all rational thought is. That's where the battlefield is, isn't it, rational thought versus irrational emotions? We really live by what we think.** I mean our body is a temporary home of our immortal soul. The body's not saved, the soul is. The body is corrupted, it's contaminated. We have a sin nature, it has to be destroyed because it won't work in heaven. We'll be issued a new body for the soul throughout all eternity. The Bible says in Mark 8:36, *“What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and still loses his soul? What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* That's a reference to the Lake of Fire, I mean no one wants to be in the Lake of Fire. Paul expressed God's divine policy like this, this is how God expects us to live, in Philippians 1:27, *“Conduct yourselves [or your lifestyle] in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or whether I remain absent, I will hear about you that you're standing firm [you're not retreating], that you're in one spirit [that means empowered with the same goal], with one mind [that's the mind of Christ], striving together [that's unit integrity], for the faith of the gospel and in no way alarmed by your opponent [not full of fear].”* Billy Graham said it this way, “The Bible teaches that the Christian life is one of constant growth. When we're born again, we're born into the family and it's God's purpose that we grow up [we become fully mature individuals] and it would be against the laws of God and against nature if we remain baby Christians all of our life.” That's why 2 Peter 3:18 says we are to *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* and this requires some effort, not just ritual without reality. I mean, I know you go to church, that's wonderful, but is there reality to what you do? A lot of people just go through the motions. They go Sunday morning, they do the communion, they do the Eucharist, they put some money in the offering plate, they sing a few songs, listen to a little sermon, and head off to the restaurant, and think about other stuff. Ritual without reality is meaningless. That church is the classroom for spiritual growth. I mean how can you worship God if you don't understand the God you worship? I keep harping on this. For example, I told you last week, I'll remind you of this again, if I told you God was outside your front door, would you want to go outside and meet Him? Many of you said, “Absolutely, sure. I want to go outside and meet God.” However the Bible says in Exodus 33:20, *“And God said to*

Moses, *'You cannot see My face, for there should be no man see Me and live.'*” So if you walked out the door to see God you’d die. “Well, I’m not in a hurry to see God now,” right? The true glory and the true brilliance of God would be too much for the human body to survive. **God's policy for me and you in the time continuum is for us to grow spiritually by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit and for us to learn the mind of Christ and thus re-present Him to those that we encounter. And that's how we become divinely appointed influencers in the angelic conflict.** That mission is not easy because of Satanic opposition. You found that out already because we have this divine mandate to arm ourselves with the uniform of grace assets. God gave us a uniform, God gave us assets, it’s all found in 2 Corinthians 10:4, *“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.”* That uniform is described in detail in Ephesians 6:11-17 where we have a mandate from God, the imperative mood of *“Put on,”* it’s an order. *“Put on the full armor of God so you will be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, powers, against the world forces of darkness, against spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places. Therefore take up the full armor of God so you will be able to resist on the evil day [that’s the day you’re attacked] and having done everything, you will continue to stand. So stand firm having belted your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace, and in addition to all of this pick up the shield of faith with which you shall be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.”* Now I could spend a long time on this, I’m not, I just read through it. But we are mandated to put on this armor, this metaphorical armor that God has given to us is in the spiritual life and Paul in jail could see these Roman soldiers, see how they’re dressed, and he used that as an analogy like we’re using the FLOT line as an analogy. We are to arm ourself and be prepared for battle because we are in a battle, not political battle but spiritual battle, called the angelic conflict. **We cannot have our own righteousness, that's the first thing.** In Philippians 1:9, *“Not having my own righteousness but the righteousness of God.”* We need instruction in righteousness the Bible says. We must have instructions in righteousness, listen to 1 Peter 2:24, *“He Himself [that’s the Lord Jesus Christ] bore our sins in His body on the cross so we might die to sin and live to righteousness [there's the word again, righteousness] for by His wounds we are healed.”* There is a way God wants you to live. There’s a lifestyle God wants you to adhere to, it’s the lifestyle of righteousness, 2 Timothy 3:16, *“All Scripture is God breathed and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, and for instruction in righteousness.”* It would help if we knew what righteousness is and how we obtain it. **Every one of us, each one of us believers, we are given God's very own righteousness the minute we believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior. The minute we get that righteousness, at the point of salvation, that gives us capacity for blessing while we are still on this earth so we can grow spiritually.** This imputed righteousness that He gives to us, gives us the capacity for the lesser blessings in life that we will experience such as our daily needs, logistical grace every day. The lesser blessings of logistical

grace, the things that we need everyday, food, water, clothing, shelter, Matthew 6, are motivation for us to keep on growing in the spiritual life. That's what God planned for us. You see at salvation, the day you got saved, do you remember when that was? I remember mine was August 17, 1967. Do you remember the day you believed in Christ as your Savior? How at salvation God the Holy Spirit entered us into union with Christ and we now share His righteousness. This is our wall of fire, our protection, that's what it is, His righteousness given to us. *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we might be made the righteousness of God through Him,"* it was a trade-out deal. On the cross, Jesus Christ the anointed Son of God took our sin and when we come to the cross and believe in Him, He gives us His righteousness. That's our wall of fire, that's our protection. The lesser blessings in the divine protection carry us during the time between when we get saved and when we go to heaven. We have to learn the Word of God, we have to learn how to execute the Word of God, we have to learn how to live in righteousness. If we go back to the passage that we started with, Hosea 14:9, *"Whoever is wise, let him understand these things. Whoever's discerning, let them know them."* I realize I'm a bit technical. I know I'm talking in terms that are kind of technical but it's essential that you understand it and you come to learn this. All of us are given God's righteousness at salvation as a capacity for us to be blessed while we're still here on this earth and we are to grow spiritually while we're here so that we can have blessings in life. It's called logistical grace blessings and the lesser blessings of logistical grace, food, shelter, and clothing motivate us to keep going in the spiritual life until we reach spiritual maturity. So if we're going to be blessed with greater blessings in our post-salvation experience, we must have this righteousness which comes from the spiritual life. This sort of righteousness that I'm talking about is not the imputed righteousness of Christ, it's our spiritual capacity righteousness. It's the righteousness you manufacture under the filling of the Holy Spirit in obedience to the Word of God. Spiritual capacity righteousness is what gets you rewarded in heaven. Spiritual capacity righteousness is what makes the Lord Jesus Christ say, *"Well done My good and faithful servant."* It's attained at the filling of the Holy Spirit plus the Word of God you've learned, metabolized, and applied in your life like those problem-solving devices of the FLOT line of your soul. Have you learned them yet? Do you know what they are? The 10 unique problem-solving devices: rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the faith-rest drill, grace orientation, Biblical orientation, personal sense of destiny, personal love for God, impersonal love for all mankind, sharing the happiness of God and occupation with Christ. Do you know what these mean, have you learned them? We do have a book on this, it's called *Christian Problem-Solving*, we'd be glad to send you free of charge if you'll write to us or go to the website rickhughesministries.org. It takes a while to understand each one of these, and rebound is critical and that's how you deal with sin, how you get rid of sin, and you stay filled with the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit is critical because the Bible mandates you do it or else you're going to be under control of the flesh and carnal. The Bible mandates that we operate by faith using the faith-rest drill. So these things are critical. We have to learn them in our spiritual life. See when we got saved, God the Holy Spirit entered us into union with Christ.

We share His righteousness, yes, and that's our wall of fire, that's our protection. And then the lesser blessings of the divine protection carry us during the time between when we get saved and we go to heaven, when we start learning doctrine, growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, putting on the armor of God, standing against the strategy of the devil. I mean we're in a war, you've entered into a war and the war is for your thoughts. The war is to control what you think because the inside of you is your soul and the Bible says, "*As a man thinketh in his soul, so he is.*" Keep this in mind, it's to make you fearful, it's to contaminate you with fear, it's to manipulate you with fear, this is what Satan's all about, to get you distracted with politics, how's that? Keep your eyes on the prize. **Keep your eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ. Don't get distracted.** If we're going to be blessed with the greater blessings in our post-salvation experience, we've got to have this righteousness which comes from our spiritual life. This righteousness can be called spiritual capacity righteousness and comes through the filling of the Holy Spirit plus the Word of God that you've learned and applied and glorifies God. When you receive the greater blessings of spiritual maturity it demands that we have the capacity to appreciate and enjoy these blessings. So coming to our senses righteously is a function of the three spiritual skills in our life. Relative righteousness, "*All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag,*" the Bible says. A lot of people have relative righteousness. They think God is impressed because they don't smoke. They think God is impressed because they don't drink. They think God is impressed because they don't use bad words. They think God is impressed because they don't fool around and cheat. "*All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag in His sight.*" The Hebrew word for filthy rag is not one that I would say over the radio, it's not nice, I could make a comparison to several things. Think about going to a mechanic's shop and finding an old greasy rag on the floor that he wipes his hands on and changes oil with and the rag is oily and dirty with sawdust and grease. That's the best you can manufacture, that's the best you can do, and it's a filthy rag in God's sight. That's how much further His righteousness is above our righteousness. And then we get imputed divine righteousness, Romans 3:22, "*But now apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been revealed being witnessed by the law and the prophets, but it's the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all of those who believe. There is no distinction of persons.*" So the minute you believe in Christ, you're given His righteousness. **Salvation, getting saved, is the first act that must be done in a precisely correct procedure and it's faith alone in Christ alone.** Being saved is not you being good, it's not you being moral, it's you believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is a grace gift compliments of God's love provided through the sacrifice of His Son. Titus 3:5, "*He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done but because of His mercy, He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.*" The spiritual life requires precisely correct procedure. We are mandated to be filled with the Holy Spirit to grow in grace, 2 Peter 3:18 and Ephesians 5:18. These are not requests, these are commands. Thank you for hanging in here with me today as I went through this detailed material. Please come back next Sunday, until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

God's Power

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 809 aired on February 21, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and I'd like to thank you for tuning in. This may be the first time you've heard us on your station. We've expanded the FLOT Line to 82 stations across the country including the Philippines and it's my great honor and opportunity to teach this show going on 16 years now. The whole objective is to give you some Biblical truths and introduce you to an in-depth way of studying and learning the Word of God. And we do this without any type of manipulation, no solicitations, no asking for money, no asking you to join anything, just simply 30 minutes of education, motivation, and inspiration. That's my job, verify God's plan, identify it for you and hopefully if I can do this, you will orient and adjust to the plan. This plan starts with the best news you could ever hear in your entire life that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. He went to the cross and paid our debt to God and we are now free of the penalty of death and free of the power of sin by receiving Christ as our Savior. When we do this, we in effect accept the offering made on our behalf by Him. It's a free gift, compliments of God. *"For by grace are we saved through faith. It's not of ourselves, it's a gift of God and not of works lest any man should boast."* In Titus 3:5-7, *"Not by works of righteousness which we've done but according to His mercy [His mercy, His goodwill] He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord so that being justified by His grace [no other way, by His grace] we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* You can have an eternal relationship with God today through Jesus Christ. God's anointed Son came, lived His life, perfect Lamb of God without spot and without blemish that took away the sin of the world, went to the cross unfairly, died for us, paid the penalty of sin, walked out of the grave three days later to the amazement of everyone that was there, and resurrected and went to be with the Father, and He will return. I mean, people would pay big bucks to have this kind of power don't you imagine? There is a fight for power today, political power, military power, social power. What about the power to raise someone from the dead? Wow, if you had this kind of power, you could be a wealthy person. **The Bible talks about how you can tap into God's power.** Yes you can, you can tap into the same power that resurrected Christ from the dead. **Philippians 3:10, "That I may know Him and know the power of His resurrection,"** the power of His resurrection. We get a word from this, the English word called dynamite and the Greek word is *dunamis* which means strength or might or power. Obviously it took some sort of extraordinary power to resurrect Christ from the dead. Some people say, "He didn't really die. He just passed out on the cross and they buried Him and He woke up and rolled the rock out of the mouth of the cave and went on out." No, come on, it takes more faith to believe this than it does to believe that He actually did resurrect from the dead as He prophesied that He would do. It took extraordinary power to raise the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. This power is known as the omnipotence of God. **God is all powerful. Many people know God but don't understand**

the God they know. Do you understand the God you know? Do you understand His omnipotence, His omnipresence, His omniscience? Do you understand this? These three things alone are amazing Biblical studies. His omnipotence means that He's all powerful. God has the power to do whatever He wishes to do. In Colossians 1:16, listen to this. *“For by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and For Him.”* Guess who that's talking about? That's talking about the Lord Jesus Christ before He ever came to this planet, before He became a baby in the manger. It was the Lord Jesus Christ who was the instrument of creation. Amazing the power that He must have had to create this universe. Now I know everybody wants to say there are aliens flying around, rocket ships going here and there. Listen, the Lord Jesus Christ came to this planet to die for mankind, for us. This is the angelic conflict. There's a reason why He came here. You can get into all sorts of space exploration and wonder whether or not other people live on other planets. I'm telling you this. This is the only planet in the universe where the angelic conflict is taking place, right here, right now and this resurrection gave us the victory over Satan and his plan. That's why Paul the apostle said in Philippians 4:13, listen carefully. ***“I can do all things through Jesus Christ who gives me the strength.”*** **There's the power to overcome adversity.** That's why we always tell you, adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. You can't stop adversity, you live in the devil's world, you're going to have adversity, but you never have to have stress. You never have to be afraid. You never have to worry. In the midst of this pandemic you don't have to worry you're going to die, God's in control. He has the power to watch over you, protect you. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. This means you can relax. This means you can have phenomenal faith. This means you can speak with courage. Do you want to tap into this power? Would you like to tap into this kind of power in your life? **Would you like to have this amazing power that resurrected Christ from the dead? You can have it. It starts with you trusting in Jesus Christ for your salvation.** That's where it starts. Listen carefully, Colossians 1:13, *“God has delivered us from the power of darkness,”* that's a different sort of power, that's satanic power. He's delivered us from the power of darkness. What exactly is the power of darkness? It's the misinformation used by the devil in order to subjugate you, to misinform you, and hopefully to prove God wrong in condemning him to the Lake of Fire. He doesn't want go the Lake of Fire and he wants to use you as a witness for his defense. God delivered us from the power of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of His dear Son. When you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ you have phenomenal powerful assets at your finger because you become a member of God's royal family. The very moment you make the decision to trust Christ, the very first powerful miracle takes place in your life. It's unbelievable. Listen to 2 Corinthians 5:17, *“If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things passed away, behold all things become new.”* Wow, that's what I wanted. When I was 22 years old and I heard this, I wanted to start my life over. I knew I had made a mess out of my life due to circumstances and as someone made the analogy to me like a dirty chalkboard and the teacher goes up and takes a wet sponge and cleans

it off and the dirty chalk is all gone and you have a nice new clean chalkboard, that's what happens to you when you believe in Christ. You're born again, you have a new identity, you become a member of the royal family of God. Technically, the way that it happens is when we're born we're born spiritually dead because we have the imputation of Adam's original sin. And so we are alive physically and we have a soul but we're dead spiritually. So when we believe in Christ, God the Holy Spirit comes and indwells the human spirit and we are made alive spiritually. Spiritual birth, it's called the second birth. So this is what happens the moment we believe in Christ, this first miracle takes place. We become a new creation. Now, instead of just a body and a soul, we have a body and a soul and a spirit. It doesn't change the way we look, it doesn't change anything else, it just changes what's on the inside because if you want to go to heaven, this body is not going to survive it. This body has to go back to the grave because it's infected with sin. What will survive is your soul and your spirit and a new body once you get there. So when the Lord Jesus Christ spoke of the new birth, He referenced this in John 3:3, listen carefully, *"Jesus answered and said unto the Nicodemus, 'I'm telling you except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"* That's a powerful statement and it takes a very powerful thing for a person to be born again. The power is manifested in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. So this new birth that He's talking about, that He told Nicodemus, *"Except you be born again,"* this freaked Nicodemus out. He didn't quite understand this. I mean he's like, *"How can I go back to my mother's womb and be born, that's impossible. And the Lord said, 'I'm surprised you being a Pharisee you don't understand these things.'"* This new birth is actually your dead human spirit being made alive again so that you now have the capacity to have a relationship with God. Capacity, John 4:24, *"God is a spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."* If you don't have a living human spirit you can't worship God and if you don't come through Jesus Christ you can't worship God because you have to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Christ said, *"I am the way, I am the truth and I am the life."* The only way you can understand God is to come through Christ Jesus and to be born again, and to assume the mindset of Christ, learn His Word and apply it into your life. **By becoming a member of God's royal family, the wonderful thing about it is you can have access to God's unlimited resources, unlimited.** I mean the Father has resources that we can tap into that are unbelievable. I don't ever mention money on this show and I don't intend to talk about it here but I can tell you this, to broadcast on 82 stations across the country and into the Philippines takes a tremendous amount of money and you haven't heard us ask for a dime. You haven't heard us ask for any money. Why? Because we believe if God's in it, God will pay for it. We know that He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. All the Lord has to do is sell a few cattle to pay for anything we have and so that's our view, that's our faith. We believe God will pay for it if He's in it and that's our unlimited resources. Financially, physically, spiritually, we have these resources. **Ephesians 1:17, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory may give you [here's one of your resources, listen] a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him," having wisdom and insight through the knowledge of Jesus Christ.** So Paul goes on to

say, *“Then I pray that the eyes of your heart would be enlightened,”* in other words you begin to see who you are, see who He is, and see what the world is. There are a lot of blind people walking around today, blind in the fog. They don't understand what's going on and *“Through Christ the eyes of our heart can be enlightened so we will know what is the confidence we have in His calling and what are the riches of His glory of the inheritance of His saints.”* Paul goes on to say, *“And we will know the boundlessness, greatness of His power;”* the greatness of His power. It's at my fingertips, it's at your fingertips, it's available to you through prayer, through faith, the power toward us who believe. Do you remember Moses when he led the Jews out of Egypt after they'd been in captivity for 400+ years and they backed up against the Red Sea and the Pharaoh decided he was going to come kill them all even though he let them go? Do you remember the tremendous power that it took to part the Red Sea? God's power was demonstrated when Moses said, *“Stand still and watch what God will do,”* this power is available to you in your life too. *“These things are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might [the Bible says] which He brought about in Christ Jesus when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places far above all rule, all authority, and power and dominion, and above every name that is named not only in this age but in the ages to come.”* This is what God did, resurrected His only begotten Son, King of kings, Lord of lords, seated Him at the right hand of His glory until He says, “Okay, go back and get them, ” that's you and me. When He gives this command, the Lord Jesus Christ will return but right now He is set high above everything, above all rule, above all authority, above all power and dominion, even above any name that is named. These resources, this amazing power, this power that causes us to be born again, to be transformed into a different person, this power can be utilized by faith through prayer. Again, I told you what Moses said, *“Do not be afraid.”* **Fear neutralizes the power of God. Fear is you assuming unassigned responsibility.** If you know these 10 problem-solving devices that we speak of on this radio show, number one the rebound technique, that's how you deal with sin, confessing your sin, and number two, the filling of the Holy Spirit, that's how you override your sin nature control, and number three, the faith-rest drill, standing on those 7,000 promises of God, if you understand this, then you're not going to be afraid. You don't have to be afraid of some coronavirus. You don't have to be afraid of some foreign enemy. *“Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world.”* You have phenomenal power and assets at your fingertip and it's all available to you. *“Standstill,”* Moses said. Don't run around like a chicken with your head cut off, excuse the analogy but, *“Stand still and watch what God is about to do, for that Egyptian army who you have seen today, you'll never see them again.”* They were wiped out. How did He do it? **Luke 1:37 says, “Nothing is impossible with God,”** nothing. Nothing is impossible with God, if God can resurrect His only begotten Son from the dead and seat Him at His right hand in heavenly places, think what He can do for you, nothing is impossible. In Romans 8:31, *“What shall we say to these things? If God is for us who in the world could be against us?”* Nobody. Let me give you some principles here. One, divine provisions are logistical grace provisions and even much more. Logistical grace is seen in Matthew 6 where

God said, "You don't have to worry about today or tomorrow. I'll take care of you. I feed the birds, I take care of the flowers. I mean everything's on a timetable, everything's prepared for, why are you worried? Don't be worrying." Worry is a tremendous mental attitude sin. Worry is a sin that will quench the Holy Spirit and grieve the Holy Spirit, what are you worried about? You're not allowed to worry as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. The disciples had to learn this, they had to learn not to worry. He told them, "You're going to be persecuted." He told them, "I'm going to be killed and they're going to try to kill you as well. Don't worry, My Father is in control." So what kind of adversity are you having in your life today? Is it a health problem? Is it a financial problem? Is it a political problem? Is it a social problem? **Don't worry, just stand still, stay filled with the Holy Spirit, use rebound to confess your sin of worrying, use rebound to get back in fellowship with God, claim a promise from God like Isaiah 54:17. "No weapon that is formed against you will ever prosper,"** 7,000 promises in the Bible for you and by the way, we have a promise notebook free of charge for you. It lists hundreds of promises and hundreds of principles taught in the Word of God and it's all yours, all free, no gimmicks, no games. Just write to us at rickhughesministries.org and ask for this book, *Promises*. We'll send it right out to you so you can read it daily and claim the promises of God that are prepared for you. That's the important thing. *"What shall we say to these things? If God is for us who can be against us,"* so we have divine provisions, logistical grace, breathing, air, water, food, shelter, clothing, 7,000 promises. They're not all in this book, we couldn't afford or print that many in this book. But anyhow, there's hundreds in there. Listen to **Isaiah 40:29, "He gives power to the faint and to him who has no might, He gives him increased strength."** This is what God can do for you. If your circumstances are so overwhelming you feel like fainting, when you turn this over to Him by faith, filled with the Holy Spirit, living on divine viewpoint, He will give you increased strength. You can look it in the face and not be intimidated. This verse goes on to say, *"Even the youth shall faint and be weary and young men shall fall exhausted but those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles and they will run and not be weary and they will walk and not faint."* Wow, this is an amazing promise for you. The power to overcome fear, the power to have strength that other people don't have in the face of adversity; adversity that would cause other people to crumble, you can fly over this like an eagle. You can soar through this and run and not be weary, walk and not faint. Sometimes when I'm fishing I see eagles flying over the lake, soaring with the wind, in the currents of the wind. **The mature believer who has divine viewpoint, who's accumulated the wisdom of God in his soul, he can soar over the circumstances of life.** You can see it, you can understand it, and you will not be intimidated by it. Why? Because you have the divine power of God the Holy Spirit living in you and you have the power of the Word of God. Hebrews 4:12, *"The Word of God is alive and powerful [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."* The Word of God is alive and powerful and the Holy Spirit lives in you. Ephesians 1:13, *"He sealed you until the day of redemption,"* and Paul says, "Look,

you're to *'be filled with the Spirit'*" in Ephesians 5:18. This happens when you confess any known sin, you're filled with the Spirit, that's rebound, problem-solving device number one. It lets us solve the problem of our sin infected nature. So when we are filled with the Holy Spirit and we have the Word of God, we can soar like eagles. We can have the power to overcome the difficult circumstances in our life. We can have the strength to go through anything. You even have the ability to rescue somebody from the Lake of Fire, there is nothing more powerful than this. This is what the Lord Jesus Christ said, *"You will receive power [power, power] when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, to the ends of the earth."* Paul said in Romans 1:16, *"I'm not ashamed of the gospel. It's the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes it, to the Jew first and then to the Greek."* The gospel is the greatest power the world has ever known. The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, His death, burial and resurrection is available. When you share this gospel with someone and they receive Christ as their Savior, you rescued them from the Lake of Fire. That's powerful and that's your ability. Have you ever asked a person, "If you died today would you go to heaven?" "Would you like to know how?" There are people you need to challenge, you need to say, "Look." When you give someone the gospel, it can change that person, change their destiny. That's why Paul said, *"I'm not ashamed of it. It's the power of God to salvation to everyone who believes it, to the Jew first and then to the Greek."* You have the ability also to have the power to intercede in intercessory prayer for people. John 15:7, *"If you abide in Me [stay in fellowship] and My Word abides in you [know the Word of God] then ask whatever you wish and it'll be done for you."* Colossians 4:2-3, *"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving and at the same time pray also for us, that God would open a door for the Word to declare the mystery of Christ on account of which I've been a prisoner."* That's powerful. **We have this power to intercede in prayer.** You also have your very own spiritual gift. If you are a Christian, God equipped you with a gift. Listen to 2 Peter 1:3, *"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence,"* At salvation you are given a spiritual gift. **You have a spiritual gift and this gift is powerful, whatever this gift may be.** It could be the gift of evangelism like me, or the gift of pastor teacher like the man you need to be seated under learning God's Word. It could be the gift of giving, mercy or administration. Whatever this gift is, it's a powerful asset for you to use in God's plan. Tap into the power, the *dunamis*, the power of God beyond physical explanation. It all starts with the power to transform, a change of life through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. What an amazing powerful thing. When He walked out of that grave, this power became yours. **You are going to get a resurrection body. The same power that resurrected Him will resurrect you.** 1 Thessalonians 4 talks about it, *"The dead in Christ will rise first and then we which remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds and so shall we ever more be with the Lord."* This power is ours. Don't forget about this. Remember the power God has given you and tap into it today. Until next week, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Sin and Righteousness

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 810 aired on February 28, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. Yes that's right, the FLOT Line, F.L.O.T., the forward line of troops, military analogy for a main line of resistance that you can build in your soul based on the 10 unique problem-solving devices found in the Word of God. As we say so often, adversity is inevitable but stress is optional because adversity is what circumstances do to you and stress is what you do to yourself. So in spite of the adversity you may be having, it could be an opportunity to do something. Adversity often gives opportunity, opportunity to express faith, opportunity to use God's problem-solving devices. That's what this show is about, giving you this information so that you can make good valid decisions because bad decisions limit future options. God gave you a brain, God gave you a hiney. You can sit on one and think with the other one and success in your life is going to depend on which one of those you use. God wants you to use your brain. He said in the Bible, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus,"* that's using your brain, learning to think like the Lord Jesus Christ thought. The Bible says in Romans 12:3, *"Don't be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,"* changing the way you think. The key to living a successful Christian life is accumulating the mind of Christ, called wisdom in the Bible, and letting this wisdom circulate in your soul so that when you come into a situation where you need answers, you don't have to run to somebody for help. You can pull it out of your own soul. God the Holy Spirit will help you recall it if you've learned it, and then you can apply it into your life. That's why we use that little saying LAG, L.A.G., learn it, apply it, and you'll glorify God. Learn, apply, glorify God. Today on the FLOT Line we want to talk about righteousness and sin, two words, key words, found in the Bible. We know that part of God's essence is righteousness. God is sovereignty, He's righteousness, and He's justice. So those are three of the character assets of God, sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, immutability, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, this is God's character. Now remember what the righteousness of God rejects, then the justice of God will judge because you cannot come to God in your own righteousness, and we'll see this in the study. One of the verses that I want to center in on, and this could deal with the future of this nation, the United States of America in 2021, **Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a disgrace to any people."** Let me read it again. Proverbs 14:34, *"Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a disgrace to any people."* In this one verse penned by King Solomon many years ago, we have a complete prescription for the success or failure of a nation, such as a client nation USA. And we need to focus on two words found in this verse, righteousness and sin. In the New Testament the word righteousness is the *dikaioisune*, the Greek word for righteousness. In the Old Testament it's *zedakah* and that's a noun, a descriptive noun meaning someone that's blameless or someone that's innocent, someone that's doing what is right and in this case, in Proverbs 14:34, it's in accordance with God's essence which includes His righteousness. And remember God is also justice and we call this the Supreme Court of Heaven. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24 hours a day, *"Whatever a man sows, that he's going to reap."* Nobody is going to get away with anything, keep this in mind in this political season. If you're frustrated or angry, God is still in control, He hasn't abandoned His throne. He knows what's going on and you have to let the justice of God deal

with things you like or don't like. This word righteousness, we have to understand this word. The only way that you and I can approach God is with imputed righteousness, not earned righteousness, imputed righteousness. **Imputed righteousness is the righteousness given to us the moment we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior.** This is the single most significant moment in your entire life. Without this moment, without this opportunity, without this decision, you will never ever be able to be in the presence of God in eternity future and you like millions of others will find yourself tormented in the Lake of Fire because you rejected God's love. *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him will not have to perish but have everlasting life."* God loves you, get this in your brain, think about this. If you reject Christ as your Savior, you are rejecting the love of God, and the justice of God will deal with you if the righteousness of God cannot accept you. Now I'm telling you, we were given this righteousness of God through Christ when we believed in Him. Where would I come up with something like this? In the Bible of course, 2 Corinthians 5:21, *"He [that's God] made Him [that's Christ] He made Him who knew no sin, [the blameless Son of God, Lamb of God without sin] He made Him who knew no sin to become sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God through Him,"* in Him. Think about this. All of my sins were poured out on Christ on the cross, every sin I ever did in the past, every sin I'll ever do in the future. What the justice of God would have to judge me for, it judged Christ in my place. My sins are not an issue. The issue is, what think ye of Christ? That's the issue and without having Christ as Savior you have no righteousness standing with God. You can try to manufacture your own righteousness and I'll show you how this won't work here in just a second. So on the cross Christ was imputed with our sins. He paid for our sins, a judicial imputation. He was judged in our place but then when we accept Christ as Savior, it's a real imputation. We are given His righteousness. It is given to us and so we become a member of the royal family of God and God sees us in equal standing because we have the righteousness of Christ. Again, *"He made Him who knew no sin become sin on our behalf so we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* Now, it's impossible for us to manufacture our own righteousness. There's no way we can do it, we're just not capable of doing that. Isaiah 64:6 tells us this, *"We are all like an unclean thing, and all of our righteousnesses,"* I'll back it up and say it one more time, Isaiah 64:6, *"We are all like an unclean thing and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags."* I cannot give you the literal Hebrew translation of filthy rags, it would embarrass you. The best thing I can do is tell you it's some greasy rag laying around in a mechanics shop with oil and dirt and grime all over it. That's the best you can do. God does not accept this. Our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag before a supreme, holy, righteous, just God and then Isaiah goes on to say in this verse, *"We all fade as a leaf and our iniquity like the wind has taken us away."* The only way we can receive God's righteousness is by faith, that's the only way and no one can do it any other way. *"For by grace are you saved through faith. It's a gift of God not of works lest any man would brag about it,"* Ephesians 2:8-9, it's a gift of God. God's righteousness is a gift through Christ. *"For by grace are you saved through faith."* Faith is the door. Even the Bible clearly says in Romans 4:3, *"For Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness."* This was his faith, Abraham had faith in what God told him to do. Are you aware what God told him to do in Genesis 12:1-4? The Lord said to Abraham, *"Get out of your country, leave your family, leave your father's house, go to the land I will show you."* This is father Abraham, the father of the

Jewish race. God said, *"I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and I will make your name great and you will be a blessing and I will bless those who bless you and curse anyone who curses you."* There's a promise you can count on. God said He would bless those that bless the Jewish race and curse those that curse the Jewish race. *"And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. So Abraham departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him [that's his nephew] and Abraham was 75 years old when he departed from the land of Haran."* Abraham's righteous standing with God was his faith and his faith was indeed tested in Genesis 22 where he was asked to sacrifice his own son on an altar. Now God would have never had him kill his son but He put him to this test and Abraham was more than willing to obey when God said to do it. But the angel of the Lord said, "Don't do it, don't lay a hand on the lad," or *"Don't do anything to him because this is proving to Me that you fear God since you didn't withhold your son, your only son, from Me."* And then the Lord provided a substitute which is in Genesis 22:13. The picture of the Lord Jesus Christ being sacrificed on our behalf, here it is, *"And Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by the horns. Abraham went, took the ram, and offered that ram as a burnt offering instead of his own son."* The ram is the Lamb of God who was offered on our behalf and that's how we become righteous, through the righteousness of Christ on our behalf. God's substitute for me, God's substitute for you was the death of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ on that cross, and with this act, His righteous character, the character of God, was satisfied and sin was paid for once and for all. There's no way we could've ever satisfied the righteousness of God. The justice of God would've been forced to judge us forever in eternity in the Lake of Fire were it not for the gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. He paid the penalty for our sin and because of the death of Christ on the cross, God's righteousness was satisfied and His justice was alleviated from us because His justice judged His own Son, not you, not me. It judged Christ for me and for you once and for all. Abraham's faith was tested many times and your faith will be tested as well because the Bible says, *"For by grace you are saved through faith."* Saved through faith, that's the only way you can have eternal life is faith alone in Christ alone. Don't for one minute think you can save yourself because the first step to becoming righteous in God's eyes is faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. Now once you become a Christian, I remember this vividly in my own life, I became a Christian at the age of 22 years old. I had gone on a date with a young lady who took me to church, a place I never went, never. And after church we went to a home Bible study, a place I would've never ever gone, ever. But it was there that the grace of God reached out to me through the speaker. A fellow from South Africa was visiting and brought a message about how to receive Christ as your Savior and as a 22 year old fellow I accepted this message. I believed in Jesus Christ that night. I prayed and asked God to save me that night. And I didn't really feel weird things happen you know, no harps, no flutes, no flashing lights, no angels. But it worked and when I went home that night, that was the first night in a few years that I had peace with God, because I knew. I never disliked God, I was never angry at God. I just never paid attention to God but I knew that night that God loved me. Now the first step to becoming righteous in God's eyes is that faith and then, after I became a Christian I had a whole lot to learn. I had a whole lot of information that I had to accumulate. I was given a Bible by a football coach and he suggested that I read the book of John and I began to read in the book of John how so many people believed in Christ. Every time He did a miracle it says, "and they

believed” and “they believed” and “they believed.” The demonstration of His eternal essence was by the miracles He performed. They couldn't deny them. So as I took the Bible and as I began to learn it and apply it and try to glorify God in my life, opportunities began to open up for me to talk about what had happened to me and I began to develop this righteousness, this righteousness that I have as a Christian. See, I had the capacity to do this by receiving God the Holy Spirit. When I got saved and when you got saved, God the Holy Spirit indwelt us. At the moment of salvation, He came to live inside of us. Ephesians 1:13 says, *“We are sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption.”* This gives us tremendous capacity because Christ said when He [the Holy Spirit] comes, *“He will lead you into all truth.”* He will be your private tutor, your private mentor. And so with this capacity, with the Holy Spirit, Paul wrote, *“We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit,”* in Ephesians 5:18 and this means one thing. **As a believer you have a choice every day. You can operate under the energy of your flesh, which is your sin nature or you can operate under the power of God the Holy Spirit. One way of operating is called carnality. The other way of operating is called spirituality.** If you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you are spiritual. This doesn't mean you're a mature believer, it means you're in fellowship with God. If you're not filled with the Holy Spirit, you're carnal. This doesn't mean you're lost, it means you're out of fellowship with God. Fellowship with God is broken when you sin. Rebound, problem-solving device number one, is when you go to God and admit this sin as per 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all wrongdoing.”* When you use 1 John 1:9 you move from this carnality back to spirituality and that's the secret to growing as a Christian, walking in grace and learning and applying God's Word. We have the capacity to manufacture righteousness under the filling of the Holy Spirit, under the leadership of God the Holy Spirit, by developing the wisdom of Christ, assuming the mind of Christ, coming to the place in our life where we don't think in terms of human viewpoint anymore. We think in terms of divine viewpoint. We are not trapped in the cosmic system way of thinking anymore. We're living in a different dynasphere, the divine dynasphere, in God's system. So we think differently. We see things when we get wisdom, this is amazing. This is why your friends don't see what you see because when you have wisdom it gives you insight and discernment. Biblical wisdom gives you insight and discernment and you can see through the fog, you can see through the smokescreen. If there's anything Satan is good at it's throwing up a smokescreen. Many people can't see through it, but you can with wisdom from the Word of God and under the filling of the Holy Spirit. You begin to manufacture righteousness as a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, as a divinely appointed spiritual influencer. This is why you're here. This is why God left you here, so you could replicate the life of Christ and re-present Him to your friends. This righteousness that you have the capacity to manufacture is rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ, it's a wonderful thing, but you have to learn God's Word to get it. That's where the pastor comes in. You sit under a well-qualified pastor, you take in God's Word and you learn to use it, and you apply it. Many of the letters I receive people ask where is there a good pastor in my city? Where is there a good pastor that I can learn under? I get information, I mean letters like this all the time from people wanting to find a well-qualified pastor. Sometimes they are frustrated because of the gimmicks or the games and what all goes on in their local congregation. I will tell you this, a well-qualified pastor must have the gift of pastor teacher and he must be prepared. He can't get up in the pulpit and fake it. He's got to be prepared which

means he must know some languages, some Greek and Hebrew languages. He must be a serious student of the Word of God. I can assure you for every hour that I teach it's usually several hours of preparation. This is what a well-qualified pastor lives for, to devour and study the Word of God so he can feed you the Word of God. This is what you must find. You must sit under this sort of man if you're ever intending to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and produce the righteousness that God is looking for. *"Righteousness delivers a nation,"* is that what that verse said? ***"Righteousness exalts a nation."*** **We must have this in our country if we are to survive, righteous people. We must have righteous people, believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who having the imputed righteousness of Christ, and under the filling of the Holy Spirit and the ministry of a well-qualified pastor, manufacture righteousness that is rewardable at the judgment seat of Christ.** This makes them a member of the pivot, this small group of mature believers that God uses to deliver a nation. **This righteousness is the stability of a nation.** A base of mature believers delivers a nation in a time of crisis and we must have it in America if we're going to survive because righteousness exalts a nation. Are you righteous today, are you? That's the question. Are you righteous? Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? Are you learning God's Word on a consistent basis? Are you replicating the life of Christ by thinking like He thinks and re-presenting Him to your friends as a divinely appointed spiritual influencer? If not, you're not fulfilling this verse. Now there's something called relative righteousness and this doesn't work. That's the worst kind there is, self-righteousness. It's you trying to impress God with your good works and relative righteousness is not going to work. People are not indicted for their sins at the Great White Throne, they are indicted because they rejected Christ as Savior. Their sins were paid for, every sin you ever did was paid for on the cross. Unbelievers go to the Lake of Fire because of this self-righteousness of not believing in Jesus Christ, not because of sin, because they depended on their own righteousness and the worst kind of all is religious self-righteousness, that's the worst there is. In Luke 18:10, Jesus Christ our Lord gave a parable about two men going to the temple to pray. He said, *"One was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector,"* and He talked about how the Pharisee stood and prayed with himself, thanking God that he's not like other people, that he doesn't commit extortion, or that he is not unjust, he doesn't commit adultery, etc. etc. that he fasts, that he tithes. The tax collector, *"Stood afar off, and beat upon his breast, and simply said, 'God be merciful to me a sinner.'"* The Lord said, *"This is the man that went down to his house justified rather than the other one because anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."* Self-righteous religious people, that's not salvation, that's exactly what this means. You don't go to heaven because you tithe. You don't go to heaven because you don't drink or commit adultery, you don't smoke. You go to heaven because you believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now the second word we want to look at in this passage, Proverbs 14:34, *"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to that nation."* Sin is the second word we want to examine, sin, and in the Hebrew this word is a national condition or a national attitude of disregard for the laws and the policy of God. That's what you have to remember. Now, when we talk about sin, sin always comes in three areas, something you think, something you say, and something you do. When we have a nation full of mental attitude sins, what we have here is inordinate competition. We have group A hating group B and group B hating group A and so these people are competing with one another and it's inordinate, it's wrong.

This is a terrible sin, jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, implacability. These are mental attitude sins that Christians can get into, especially in the political arena if you get trapped in this and get mental attitude sins toward some political opponent you don't like. You've got to remember in Romans 13 God said He's the one that puts people in charge, not you. He's well aware of what's going on. There are several things that haven't changed. The character God hasn't changed. The justice of God hasn't changed. This nation is still under the leadership of God and right now we are depending on you to be a member of this pivot to manufacture this righteousness that will glorify Jesus Christ to the maximum. But sin, mental attitude sins, big problem. **A bigger problem is the sin of rejecting what the Bible tells you to do, "Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." If you're not growing, if you're not learning, you're sinning.** The Bible says, "*Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing Word of truth.*" Are you studying under a well-qualified pastor? Are you growing spiritually in your life every day? Are you replicating the life of Christ and re-presenting Him to your friends? This is what's critical. The sin of a nation is not necessarily the degeneracy and the apostasy in that nation, although there's a lot of it. It's the believers who reject God's plan and go merrily down the My Way Highway thinking that everything's okay. Look at yourself in the mirror. Are you re-presenting Christ? Are you replicating His life? Are you growing in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior? If you're not, that's the sin I'm talking about because without this, then the Holy Spirit doesn't have anything to work with. God is depending on you to be a member of this pivot. He's depending on you to be the individual that replicates Christ and re-presents Christ, that's what He's depending on and that'll never happen in your life as long as you're lazy about your spiritual growth. You must not be sucked into this sort of lifestyle. You must not allow yourself to be satisfied with a ten minute devotion in the morning and then off on your merry way. You must find a pastor, study under this pastor, grow under this pastor, and re-present Christ to your community, your neighborhood, your family through your life. I hope you're listening. I hope you're paying attention because sin will destroy our nation. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes and I thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Public Lie and Forgiveness

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 811 aired on March 7, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, stick around for some motivation, inspiration, some education but absolutely no manipulation because we're not going to try to con you out of any money. I'm not going to ask you to join up, fess it up, give it up, nothing like this. We're just going to ask you to please listen up. This radio show, the FLOT Line, has been on the air for 15 years now and we are expanding rapidly across America. It's one of the few radio shows where you can actually learn something. **Remember God gave you two ends, one of them you sit on and one of them you think with and success in your life is going to depend on which one of those ends you use. Obviously heads you'll win and tails you'll lose. Bad decisions limit future options.** If you make enough bad decisions you will have no options left and the worst decision you could ever make, the absolute worst number one bad decision is to reject Jesus Christ as your Savior because there's no way out of the Lake of Fire once you make this decision. Once you decide that you do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and you reject this, then you rejected the best good news that you possibly could have ever heard. The love of God reached out to you, "*God so loved the world,*" the love of God reached out to you, provided for you an atonement for your sin and you rejected this. Please consider this today, please think about this today, do not reject Christ as your Savior. I know many people who claim to be atheists, but there's no such thing as a real true atheist because in order to be an atheist, you have to be God yourself. That's right, you have to look at the entire universe at one time and if He's left out, if you leave Him out and God's there, you're in trouble. So you have to be God yourself and say, "There is no God, because I'm God. I've looked all over the universe and there is no God." But that's not true, you can't do this can you? So an atheist by faith believes there is no God. It's strange, but that's how you become a Christian, by faith, same thing. It's a matter of your volition. It's a matter of your choice. So when we talk about the FLOT line we're talking about choices you make to build inside of your soul a main line of resistance called the FLOT line, forward line of troops. Obviously that's a military analogy. We're talking about how you can build up inside of you, inside of where your brain is, the way you think, a main line of resistance that can stop all of the adversity that you come into from becoming stress. Adversity obviously is an opportunity and it's an opportunity to not get full of stress. Stress will destroy you. Anger, bitterness, hatred, vindictiveness, implacability will destroy you, you can't afford to let this happen. So if we want to make some good decisions, the first one is to trust in Jesus Christ and believe in Him, receive Him as your Savior, because the Bible says, "*If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away, all things become new.*" This was the greatest thing that ever happened to me at the age of 22 when I accepted Christ as my Savior. I became a new person, not on the outside, I was still the same ugly guy I always was, but on the inside, born again, a child of God. "*He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God*"

through Him,” and that's what happened to me on that day, 17 August way back in 1967. I trusted Christ. I was made new. I began to grow and study and learn, got into a local church where God's Word was taught. I learned it, I applied it into my life. I learned what my spiritual gift was and how my gift functioned and operated and began a ministry that's lasted all these years and now here we are talking to you over this radio show. What an amazing opportunity. What's amazing is what I want to talk to you about today, if you're interested. I want to talk about lying. I was in school speaking one time and a young girl said, “I have a problem with lying. I lie to everybody. I lie to my parents, I lie to my teachers, I lie to my friends.” A lot of us live by the lie. However, there is a lie that's very dangerous, and you've seen it in the political turmoil that's going on in our country today. It's called the public lie, the public lie. Let me give you some background on this from the Bible in Matthew 22:15. *“The Pharisees,”* these are the men that wanted to trap Jesus Christ and try Him. *“The Pharisees went and plotted,”* they attempted to discredit Him. They attempted to do anything they could to make Him seem as a worthless, useless scoundrel. *“So the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him,”* and then of course try Him, *“trap Him in what He said and they sent their disciples to Him along with the Herodians saying, ‘Teacher, we know You're truthful’* uhuh, yes, yeah *‘and teach the way of God in truth and defer to no one for You are not partial to any.’”* Boy, you talk about a bunch of back stabbers, here they were. The Pharisees wanted to trap Him, in some way to get rid of Him, minimize the Lord Jesus Christ. In Luke 11:53-54, *“When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects, plotting against Him”* to minimize His impact *“plotting against Him to catch Him in something that He might say.”* If they can catch Him in any sort of lie or catch Him in some way when He spoke when He shouldn't speak, then they can destroy His personality and destroy the impact that He would have. This is what a public lie is. **A public lie is told in order to minimize the individual, to minimize the impact of the individual.** Listen to Mark 3:22, *“The scribes who came down to see Him were saying, ‘He's possessed by Beelzebub, and He cast out demons by the ruler of demons.’”* That's a lie, that's a public lie. The scribes were repeating a public lie. This is what they were saying, they were accusing the Lord Jesus Christ of being possessed by the devil. In Matthew 12:14, *“But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him as to how they might destroy Him,”* and I might add anyone who followed Him. So the public lie is designed to destroy someone's impact, to minimize his impact, to make him look like he's strange, weird, a liar and he's obnoxious. *“Many witnesses,”* Mark 14:56-58, *“told lies against Jesus and their stories did not agree. Some men stood up and told this lie against Jesus.”* Here's what they said, *“We heard Him say, ‘I will tear down the temple which men have made and after three days I will build one that is not made by men.’”* Of course they didn't understand what the resurrection was. **So the public lie, you tell it often enough, loud enough and long enough, people believe it. There are people in this country that are manipulated with public lies.** The Pharisees and the scribes are an example of vituperation and vilification by creating a public lie about the only perfect person who ever remained on this earth. So since they could not discredit Him, they lied

about Him and here's your principle. **When evil people get power, they will say and do anything to maintain the power. They will lie and manipulate you just to maintain their power.** Let me show you another passage in John 19:1-12, a little lengthy. Let me read it. This is the trial of Jesus and I want you to see the public lie here. *“So Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged and the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and placed it on His head and put a purple cloak on Him and they repeatedly came up to Him and said, ‘Hail, King of the Jews,’ [pop] and they’d slap Him in the face again and again. And when Pilate came out and said [to the Pharisees, Sadducees, religious people] ‘Look, I’m bringing Him out to you so you will know I find no grounds at all for the charges in His case.’”* Did you hear that? *“I find no grounds at all for the charges in His case,”* he didn’t buy the public lie. *“Jesus came out wearing a crown of thorns and a purple robe and Pilate said to them, ‘Here’s your Man.’ And then the chief priests and the officers saw Him and they started shouting, ‘Crucify Him, crucify Him.’ And Pilate said, ‘You take Him and you crucify Him. I find no grounds for charges in this case.’ And the Jews answered and said, ‘We have a law and by that law He should die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God.’ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid and he entered the Praetorium again and asked Jesus, ‘Where are You from? [John 19] Who are You?’ And Jesus gave him no answer and Pilate said to Him, ‘Are You speaking to me? Are You going to talk to me? Don’t You know I have the authority to release You? I have the authority to crucify You?’ And then Jesus spoke, [John 19:11] ‘You would have no authority over Me at all if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason, the one who handed Me over to you has the greater sin.’ As a result of this, Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews shouted saying, ‘If you release this Man you are not a friend of Caesar because anyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar.’”* So they tried to trap Pilate into crucifying Christ, making him look like he would oppose Caesar if he didn't do this. But what Jesus said, *“You would have no authority over Me at all if it had not been given you,”* that's Romans 13:1-2, *“The powers that be are ordained by God.”* They lied, slandered, maligned, gossiped, criticized, anything to get rid of who and what Christ was because He represented a threat to their power. You know in your life you will run into a few totally obnoxious people, we call them TOP's, totally obnoxious people, who will be jealous of you just like these men were jealous of the Lord. Or they simply just dislike you, people that will say or do anything to put you down. If you have a FLOT line in your soul that we talk about, if you have that main line of resistance in your soul, then you will be able to respond and not react, that's respond with forgiveness and faith and not react with bitterness and hostility. Here are some principles I want you to remember. Anyone can say anything about anyone else and somebody's going to always believe it, especially if they have mental attitude sins toward this person to start with, like if they're jealous or bitter about this person. Sure they will believe the lie if they hear it. They might not like his personality and if they hear something they don't like, they will agree with it. If the person who hears the lie about you believes the lie, then it's most often because he dislikes you to begin with. The originator of the public lie is usually an irrational person to begin with. What do I mean by this? I

mean he has or she has an unrealistic self-image to start with, which means they think they're smarter than you and smarter than the person that they run down and lie about. Volition is involved in telling a lie and in believing the lie.. Thus the law of volitional responsibility falls on anyone who tells it or anyone who believes it and under this law, because of this law, we create our own misery and our own suffering. **Galatian 6:7, "Do not be deceived, God will not be mocked. Whatever a man sows, that he's going to reap."** So if someone tells a lie about you, they use their volition and if the person they tell it to believes it, he's using his volition. This means that anyone who manufactures a public lie is under liability from the Supreme Court of Heaven for lying. It also applies to those who believe the lie since they chose to listen to it and believe it to start with. So the principle you've got to get here is the public lie is designed to create an environment for the control and the manipulation of other people at the expense of character assassination. In reality, if you believe the lie, you will live by the lie and your life will become a lie because if you live by the lie, you will die by the lie. Again, if you believe the lie, you will live by the lie, you'll repeat it yourself and your life will become a lie and if you live by the lie, you will die by the lie. That's why having a FLOT line in your soul is so important because it gives you the opportunity to respond rather than react. Respond using grace orientation and using impersonal love, two wonderful problem-solving devices, grace orientation and impersonal love. By using impersonal love you can then take the Scripture, the wisdom of the Bible, God's Word, and apply it such as Ephesians 4:30-31, "*Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God [that's because of your sin] by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption [don't grieve Him]. Let all bitterness, all wrath, all anger, all clamor, all slander be removed from you along with all of your malice.*" Malice is a desire to hurt someone. The believer is told to get rid of his bitterness and his wrath and his anger and his clamor and his slander. Many of you I'm talking to are believers. You have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ but you might have bought into a public lie. Have you repeated a lie? Have you slandered someone by repeating a lie? Did you believe the lie because you hate the individual to start with? People do that all the time. **Proverbs 11:9, "With his mouth the godless person will destroy his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be rescued."** What in the world does this mean, through knowledge the righteous will be rescued? Well, wisdom is the fruit of knowledge and the righteous are spiritually mature believers, hopefully that's you. This means you can be delivered and unaffected by the lie or the slander that's pointed your way. If your life comes under the public lie, if someone begins to criticize, malign, slander you, gossip about you, then you can overcome this. The key here is always forgiveness, forgiveness of the liar or forgiveness of the person who does the slandering. Because if you maintain bitterness, then the person that did it to you, the person who wronged you will still control you through your very own implacability. That's right, you cannot get trapped in your own bitterness, you can't allow this to happen. So the key is forgiveness. Forgiving the liar, forgiving the slanderer. If you are in business and you have a competing business person, they'll lie about you, they'll run you down, they'll malign you. Years ago my family was in the boat business and we faced a lot of this from competition from other marine

dealers that would lie about our service or lie about our product or lie about our personnel in order to try to gain the sale on their behalf. This goes on every day. It goes on in your neighborhood where someone will lie about someone in your neighborhood or in school lie about a teacher or in a business opportunity where someone will lie about your business, all designed to gain an advantage over the people that don't like you to start with, and others buy into the lie. **So you have to learn how to forgive people because if you maintain hatred and bitterness, then the person who did the original lying about you will still control you through your own implacability.** Principle, the mature believer, that's a believer with a FLOT line in his soul, the mature believer can forgive the person who wronged him by using grace orientation and impersonal love. Now in talking about grace, we have saving grace, living grace, dying grace and surpassing grace. Living grace is a wonderful thing because you can grace people out. You don't have to retaliate when someone does something to you that you don't like. You don't have to bend to their level and try to get even with them. I had a friend who walked around with a little book in his pocket and if you wronged him he said, "Your name's going in the book and I'm going to get you." Well that's no way to live. Grace orientation is now his new way of living. He can forgive people, grace them out. Why? Because God graced us out. The same thing God did for you, you can do for others with impersonal love. Did God love you with impersonal love? Yes He did, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."* Listen, could God love you when you were in sin? Not with personal love, no, because there is nothing in you to love. He loved you with impersonal love. In other words, He loved you based on His character, not your character. Now once you trust in Christ and once the righteousness of Christ is given to you, once you're adopted by the family of God, brought into the royal family of God, then God's personal love is directed to you. But He loved you impersonally while you were still in sin, He loved you based on His character, not your character and you can use impersonal love with those who hate you. The Bible has a lot to say about forgiveness, a lot. It's a Greek word translated as forgive in the English but in the New Testament *aphiemi* carries a whole lot of meaning including to forgive a debt or to leave something or leave someone alone, to send them away, even to divorce, and to forgive. **Ephesians 4:32 is the attribute of forgiveness**, listen carefully. Here is the attitude. This is what it looks like when it's working. ***"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ in God forgave you."*** Now let me ask you a question. Is there a totally obnoxious person that you can't stand? Are there people that if they come into your arena of contention, the hair on the back of your neck goes up and you can't stand them? Have they done something to you or said something about you or done something that hurt you in some way? Have you forgiven them? *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as Christ [for God's sake as in Christ] in God forgave you."* Aren't you glad that God doesn't hold you accountable for your sin? Aren't you glad that God held Christ accountable, that He judged Him in your place, in my place so that, *"He who knew no sin became sin for us."* So we have to be kind, compassionate, that's the mandate. This is not a request. This is a commandment from God. Listen to Matthew 6:14, *"For if you forgive*

other people when they sin against you, then your Heavenly Father will also forgive you.” If you don't forgive people, that's a mental attitude sin. How can God forgive you of sin when you don't confess your sin, you don't admit your sin? You know, if there are two guys in a church and they hate each other because they got sideways in a business deal they give money, pray out loud and they say to other people, “Let me tell you what this jerk did to me,” they are kidding themselves if they think they're in fellowship with God, they're way out of line. They're doing the right things but they're doing them in the wrong way. They're doing it in the strength of their sin nature because they have bitter, vindictive hearts. Colossians 3:13, *“Bear with each other and forgive one another. If any of you has a grievance against someone, forgive them as God forgave you.”* Principle, **“if somebody asks you for forgiveness, and in honor you forgive them, then your integrity and your loyalty to the Word of God demands that you forget what they did to you and that you never again recall it in your mind or penalize them for it.”** That's a quote from R.B. Thieme Jr., my former pastor. If someone asks you for forgiveness and in honor you forgive them, then integrity to the Word of God and loyalty to the Word of God demands that you forget what they did to you and that you never again recall it in your mind and you never again hold it over them or penalize them for that. Romans 12:19, *“Beloved, do not take your own revenge but defer to the wrath of God. For it stands written [in Deuteronomy 32:35] ‘Vengeance is Mine. I will repay,’ says the Lord.”* This means there's no such thing as half forgiveness. You hold it over their head. You never trust them again. It's hard to forgive and forget but that's what God does. Our Lord forgave Peter when he denied Him three times the night of His arrest. You can read about it in Luke 22:54-62 when Peter was warned by the Lord, *“You're going to deny Me before the rooster crows in the morning.”* Peter said, “I would never do that,” but he did. Luke 22:61 says the Lord heard him do it, looked right at him, *“and Peter went out and wept bitterly.”* The Lord forgave him. Think about what you've done, God forgives you. The Bible says, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”* **You have to learn to forgive like He forgave and you have to learn to live like He lived. Half forgiveness is not genuine forgiveness, it's just half forgiveness.** You must forgive as Christ forgave. That means once you forget the wrong done to you, never hold it against that person. We fail, we fail to forgive, we fail to forget. This is where manipulation by stipulation fails, you can't stipulate forgiveness. Either you forgive him or you don't forgive him. Forgiveness is only real when you forget the wrong that was done to you. But here's the problem. Arrogance has no ability to forgive. A self-righteous, arrogant person is a non-forgiving person. The function of forgiveness in your spiritual life avoids distractions like this. There's a warning to the spiritual life rendering forgiveness given in Ephesians 4:30-32. *“Stop grieving the Holy Spirit by whom you've been sealed till the day of redemption.”* *“Forgive each other,”* that's exactly what the Bible says. God blotted out our transgressions at the moment we believed in Christ so we are to forgive and forget. It's a spiritual principle. We are to live without reaction, without accompanying sins later on. **Forgive others and forget it, that's the principle.** Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Extraordinary Believer - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 812 aired on March 14, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stick around. It'll be 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education, but absolutely no manipulation. You may ask yourself, "How could this show benefit me?" That's a fair question. Well the Bible says, "*We have this treasure in our earthly vessels so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.*" The key word in this passage in 2 Corinthians 4:7, *treasure*, in the word for thesaurus. You've heard of a thesaurus, a word treasure, and the Bible says that the Scriptures are a word treasure for us, they make us rich. In Colossians 2:2-3, "*That their hearts may be encouraged [Paul wrote] having been knitted together in love and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery that is Christ Himself in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*" **Learning God's Word will make you rich spiritually.** It will give you a rich and wonderful life. It will give you understanding, insight, and discernment, this wisdom that comes from the Scripture. That's why Proverbs 3:13 says, "*How blessed is the man that finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For her profit [that's the profit of wisdom] is better than the profit of silver, and her gain better than fine gold. She [that's wisdom] is more precious than jewels and nothing you desire can compare with her.*" That's the importance of learning and understanding and applying the Word of God in your life. When I became a Christian many years ago I had no idea what the Christian life was about. I thought you just acted a certain way and demonstrated you're a Christian. You went around saying, "Hello brother, hello sister, praise the Lord, praise God." You tithed, went to church, and that was being a good Christian. I didn't understand much about the Christian life. Now I do and the only reason is because I got under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor that taught it to me. He wasn't a cruise ship director. He was a pastor and he wasn't concerned with my social life, he was concerned with my spiritual life. He was an extraordinary person based on his knowledge of the Scripture. The Bible talks about extraordinary people and this is what I want to show you, how to go from ordinary to being extraordinary. **The definition of an extraordinary person is someone who goes beyond the ordinary, an exceptional person, a remarkable person.** I mean, have you ever heard someone say, "There's nothing really special about me," some kind of phony, baloney type stuff? I have a friend, one of my close friends, who often describes himself as a pothole in the road to progress. Well, we often seek to minimize our impact in our surroundings and I can assure you, he's not a pothole in the road to progress, he's a tremendous individual. We're so use to seeing celebrities that we often idolize them as someone special. Sport celebrities, movie celebrities, but that's not the type of people I'm talking about. Just because they can act or just because they can perform in an athletic arena, does not mean they are extraordinary individuals. When studying the life and the ministry of the apostle Paul in the

Bible, one must realize that he was a most extraordinary person. **The last recorded written words of Paul were “Grace be with you.” It was this grace that he taught that made him such an extraordinary individual** and the epistle that he wrote, 2 Timothy, while he was under house arrest in a Roman prison in Rome for sedition explains “*Grace be with you.*” The Emperor Nero was using Christians as a scapegoat. He was gas lighting the Christians for his mishandling of the great fire of Rome that burned half the city and he was blaming it on Christians and Paul was a target of Nero's vindictive behavior. This gives us some principles we need to understand about Christians and politics. Extraordinary Christian individuals are a convenient target for the forces of Satan. So here's a warning to you. One, if you're interested in getting serious about your spiritual life, if you're interested in becoming an extraordinary Christian where you can replicate the life of the Lord Jesus Christ and glorify God to the max, then you better be ready to be in the middle of the angelic conflict because Satan will come after you. Two, here's a second principle. **Extraordinary mature believers have the ability to motivate and the responsibility to encourage other people in the faith.** That's your job. If you're going to be the representative of Christ, if you're going to represent His life, you have to motivate and you have to encourage others in their faith. And three, even though the apostle Paul was facing death, he was not preoccupied with his own circumstances. **Not being preoccupied with circumstances is a clear trait of an extraordinary individual.** And here's the fourth principle. **The extraordinary believer does not think like ordinary believers think, he thinks in a different realm. He thinks in Biblical wisdom.** He thinks in the realm of divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint, and this comes from his knowledge of the Scripture. So it's all about what you think. What's the motivation? What's the inspiration that sets you apart from other individuals? It has to be as the Bible says, “*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus,*” Philippians 2:5. It has to be like Paul wrote 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,*” that's critical. Do you think like ordinary people think or do you think in the realm of the extraordinary? What does the Bible say? You know our Lord took a group of ordinary individuals, fishermen, the disciples, and He changed the world with them. They went from being ordinary to being extraordinary and how did He do it? What did the Lord do to change these individuals that gave them such an impact in life that we still study today their writings and still today are encouraged and motivated by looking at their lives? Well if we look at the book of John beginning in chapter 13, going to 15 and into 16, we can identify the first steps of the transformation from being ordinary to extraordinary. Here are the verses I want to give you. In John 15:11 Jesus Christ our Lord said these words, “*These things have I spoken unto you.*” These things, that's the key right there. That's an antecedent of what comes before all of this, the things He talked about. “*These things I spoke unto you so that My joy might remain in you, and your joy may be full.*” That's an

extraordinary person who has joy in the face of adversity and persecution. In John 16:1, *“These things have I spoken unto you so that you be not offended.”* And then again in John 13:17, *“If you know these things, you’ll be happy doing them.”* Three times he talks about *“These things,”* and these are things you need to understand if you're ever going to be an extraordinary Christian. What does *“These things”* mean? Well it means this, every disciple had potential. Every disciple had the opportunity if they listened and applied what they heard. When the Lord Jesus Christ spoke these words, He spoke them to His disciples after that last supper in the upper room and the words, *“These things,”* refers to everything He taught them after the Last Supper. It was a massive amount of information that was given in a short time and I assume, I wasn't there, neither were you, but we can assume nobody was taking notes because of the promise found in John 14:26. Here it is, *“But the Comforter who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance whatever I’ve said unto you.”* That's called recall. The Holy Spirit was going to help them recall these things that Christ was teaching them. These words indicate there is a distinct recall ministry of God the Holy Spirit that He does for us when we take in God's Word and we learn it. He helps us to recall this information when we need it. When we learn it and put it into our stream of consciousness where it cycles into our memory center, when we hit a situation in our life where we don't have the answers, God the Holy Spirit can pull this up and that's called Biblical wisdom. Then you still have to act upon it. This is important to understand. **When you absorb, when you metabolize, when you utilize the Word of God, which is our mission today if you ever hope to move from ordinary to extraordinary, that's when you can be used by God.** There has to be the absorption, the metabolization and the utilization of the Word of God for you to fulfill your mission. You have a mission, God's given you a mission. I challenge you with this mission today. You must become an extraordinary individual, a Christ-like person. Principle, here it is. One, the Lord Jesus Christ is teaching the disciples essential doctrines that they're going to need to maintain their efforts once He leaves them. Beginning in John 13 and going into John 16, He's going to teach all this critical, essential, massive amount of doctrine that they will need and again, no one's writing it down. No one's taking notes but the Holy Spirit will help them remember it. That's how it wound up in the book of John, God the Holy Spirit so moved John to write these things. Two, without objective optimism, you say, “What is that?” **Objective optimism is an outlook of expectancy in your life.** Without objective optimism which is an outlook of expectancy, any believer under maximum pressure can fold up into a nice little pity party. Have you done this since the election? Have you folded up into a little pity party? Have you thought that maybe God forgot about what's going on in this country? Well He hasn't. I assure you the supreme court of heaven is in function 24 hours a day and you have to learn to think in these terms of wisdom, Biblical wisdom. Three, **having the mindset of Christ guarantees an internal focus on God's plan and not an external focus on circumstances.**

You see, you have to look at the solution not the problem. If you're looking at the solution, if you know that God's in control, Jesus Christ controls history, if you understand the supreme court of heaven is open 24 hours a day, then you have nothing to worry about, nothing to fear. Four, **what the Lord is teaching them are the very doctrines that will sustain them when He's gone, the very doctrines that sustained Him during His earthly trials.** He's teaching them how He endured what He endured and it's for them to learn. Remember what I said? "*So that My joy might be in you and your joy may be full,*" that's what He's saying. He's not sad, He's not upset that He's being persecuted and He's going to the cross because He knew it was the Father's plan. So He's passing on His objective outlook and His confidence in His Father's plan to the disciples. These are a few of the character traits of an extraordinary individual, the extraordinary Christian individual. Listen to them. They understand essential doctrines. That's what the Lord Jesus Christ was doing, He was passing on to them essential doctrines. He's teaching them essential doctrines they will need to maintain their efforts once He leaves them. So the extraordinary believer understands essential doctrines. What are they? Well number one, in the 10 problem-solving devices, is rebound. If you don't understand rebound, if you don't understand how to stay filled with the Holy Spirit, if you don't understand what 1 John 1:9 is teaching you, then you're always going to be operating in the energy of the flesh. You're going to do all the right things but you're going to do them in the wrong way and the right thing in the wrong way is going to wind up being wood, hay, and stubble at the Judgment Seat of Christ. **So the extraordinary Christian is a Christian who understands essential doctrines.** Essential doctrines such as rebound and the filling of the Holy Spirit, how to stay out of the sin nature trends and the sin nature pattern, how to not get into carnality but remain in spirituality, stay filled with the Holy Spirit. That's where 1 John 1:9 comes in. He must understand the faith-rest drill. That's an essential doctrine, the faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God, 7,000 promises in the Bible. These first three, rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit and the faith-rest drill are essential doctrines that you should understand, you must understand. This is not something I'm making up, this is in the Bible. I didn't come up with some great new theory. Here it is, it's in the Scripture. Moses told the Jews when they came out of Egypt, "*Stand still and watch what God's about to do.*" That's the faith-rest drill. **If you're going to be an extraordinary believer you must have objective optimism.** What does this mean? No self-pity, no feeling sorry for yourself since your favorite person didn't get elected. No feeling sorry for yourself since circumstances are going bad against you, no self-pity. Jesus Christ controls history in your life, in your nation, in your family, remember this. You have to have an objective optimism, not subjective, not looking at everything as if it was all pointed at you. It doesn't depend on you. If you and I are taken out today, the world will go on. So we keep an objective optimism. **This extraordinary believer must have an outlook of expectancy, that's a personal sense of destiny.** That's problem-solving device number 6, a personal sense of destiny. If you

don't know what these are, we have a book about it called *Christian Problem-Solving*, we'll be more than happy to send you the book free of charge. Go to rickhughesministries.org and order this book and we'll get it right out to you free of charge so you will know what all of these 10 problem-solving devices are. We also have a 10 problem-solving devices bookmark you can stick in your Bible so you can refer to them. An outlook of expectancy is a personal sense of destiny. God has you here for a reason, for a purpose in the middle of this angelic conflict and He is looking for a few extraordinary individuals. **Another essential trait of an extraordinary individual is he has the mind of Christ, divine viewpoint.** And he has confidence in the Father's plan which means essentially that he has personal love for the Father. *"If you love Me, keep My mandates and My mandates are not grievous,"* 1 John 5:3. This means you have confidence in God's plan. You don't second-guess God's plan. Even though things don't go your way, you think God's forgotten about you, you think God is not in charge, you're wrong. If you're out of fellowship, if you're under sin, if you're hiding it and covering it up and things are going wrong, maybe it's divine discipline. However, if you're staying in fellowship, confessing your sins and growing daily in the Word of God, then it's an opportunity to grow. **Every crisis is an opportunity to grow, an opportunity to apply God's Word in your life.** So this amount of doctrine that the Lord Jesus Christ gave the disciples between John 13 and John 16 is staggering. I wish you'd take your Bible and read along sometime. Maybe when you get home, wherever you are, start with John 13 and read up through John 16 and you'll see what He taught the disciples. The first thing He taught them after dinner that night, He got up and started washing their feet. Peter was offended by this. He said, "The Son of God's not going to wash my feet." Well, it wasn't about foot washing, it was about teaching forgiveness for sin because the Lord said, "You don't need a bath, you don't need to be saved again. You just need to have your feet washed," John 13:2-17. If you read John 13:2-17 you will understand that the Lord Jesus Christ is teaching the rebound technique. When your feet get dirty, come to Him, He'll wash them, He'll cleanse you from your sin. And then in John 13:21 the Lord Jesus Christ identified a mole in the ranks, a mole, someone that was going to sell Him out. He said, *"One of you will betray Me,"* John 13:21 and this should've gotten the attention of the disciples. This should have made them perk their ears up. I mean they were laying around fat and happy like we all are after a big meal. I'm not sure how many of them were actually paying attention because He emphasized the need for them to pay attention. And listen to John 13:29, He said, *"Some thought because Judas had the money bag that Jesus was telling him to go buy merchandise for the feast or that he should give something to the poor."* That's not what He said. You could see them sitting at the far end of the table, you could see them say, "What, what, what'd He say?" And maybe one of the others looked and said, "Oh, He just wants Judas to go buy some more food," or "Judas to go give something to the poor." That's not what the Lord said. *"One of you is going to betray Me, there's a betrayer in our midst,"* and the Lord Jesus Christ also taught forgiveness, right behind this

passage. In John 13:14, *"If I your Lord and Master have washed your feet, then you ought also to wash one another's feet."* In other words, "If I can forgive you for your sin, then you have to learn to forgive each other for their sin." He taught impersonal love to these disciples, one of our problem-solving devices, impersonal love for all in John 13:34-35. He said, *"A new mandate I give to you, that you love one another just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."* That's impersonal love. That's the ability to love someone that's not lovable sometimes. That's you loving them based on your character, your integrity, your virtue, not theirs. I mean after all, isn't this exactly what God did for you through Christ? When it says, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,"* was He giving you the Lord Jesus Christ because you were a wonderful person? No, you were lost in sin and He loved you. He loved you with His character, not because of your character, and this is what impersonal love is. It's the ability to love others based on who you are not based on who they are. Then the Lord Jesus Christ taught the need to have genuine humility. In John 13:36, *"Peter said unto Him, 'Lord, where are you going?' And Jesus answered, 'Where I go, you can't follow Me now but you will follow Me later.' and then Peter said to Him, 'Lord, why can't I follow you right now? I would give my life for you,' And Jesus answered and said, 'You will give your life for Me? I'm telling you before the rooster even crows in the morning you will deny Me three times.'"* This was a shock to Peter. He thought Jesus thought very highly of him and here he finds out that Jesus knows he's going to betray Him. He had to learn genuine humility and never would have had he not failed because he thought he was invincible. All of us fail, all of us have a sin infected sin nature. All you need to do is go to the Lord and confess your sin and get up and move on and quit feeling sorry for yourself because you did something stupid. There are not very many people in the Bible that didn't do stupid things including Moses who murdered the Egyptian, including David who took another man's wife and killed him to cover it up. A lot of great people did a lot of stupid things, just like us. The Lord taught them that believing in God is not being saved. In John 14:1, *"Let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God? Believe also in Me."* Many people believe in God but they don't believe that Jesus Christ is the anointed Son of God. Jesus said, *"This is the will of the One that sent Me that you believe in Me whom He hath sent."* Just believing in God is not being saved. Salvation is believing in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. The only path to God is through Christ who said in John 14:5, *"I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life and no man cometh to the Father but by Me."* I hope you're listening, there is a lot more of this to go. I pray that God will direct you to a well-qualified pastor where you can learn His Word and apply it in your life every day and thus give maximum glorification to God because of who and what you are in re-presenting Jesus Christ to your family, to your community, and to your nation. I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Extraordinary Believer - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 813 aired on March 21, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and once again glad to be with you this morning for 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education and no manipulation. No con games, no gimmicks, no asking for money, just giving you some information. Hopefully this will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life so that you can orient and adjust to the plan if you'd like to. This show is about giving you information to live by, giving you the mind of Christ. The Bible calls it, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* When you learn to think like He thought you change your IQ from a human IQ to a spiritual IQ. This means you develop what's called divine viewpoint, looking at things from the Word of God, having a personal sense of destiny related to your Biblical orientation in your life. The FLOT line is made up of those 10 unique problem-solving devices that my pastor taught me years ago. In our last show we started a series on how to be an extraordinary servant of God. In John 13 all the way through John 16 Jesus Christ was talking to the disciples giving them many doctrines so they could transform from ordinary individuals to extraordinary men of God that would carry out God's plan and purpose for their lives. The question is how do we become extraordinary servants of God? Or do you even want to be one? Because that's what I'm looking for, men and women that understand the plan of God, that will live it and will represent Jesus Christ to their friends and their community. So how in the world would an ordinary believer like you become an extraordinary servant of God? Well, Hosea 14:9 gives the answer. *"Whoever is wise, let him understand these things. Whoever is discerning, let him know these things for the ways of the Lord are right [this means they're found in the Bible] and the righteous [that's you and me hopefully] will walk in them and wrongdoers will stumble over them."* So we must be wise. If we're going to be extraordinary servants of God we must be wise and we must understand and discern the things of God. That's what the verse says, *"Whoever is wise, let him understand these things. Whoever is discerning, let him know them."* And what are the things? *"The ways of the Lord are right and the righteous will walk in them."* When he's referring to the righteous people, he is talking about you and me if we're filled with the Holy Spirit, we're dealing with our known sin, if we're growing in grace and producing capacity righteousness in our life where we glorify Jesus Christ with everything we say, do, act, the way we live our lives. This is what is reviewed at the Judgment Seat of Christ, 1 Corinthians 3, the wood, hay and stubble and the gold, silver and precious stones. This deals with our life, how we lived our life as righteous individuals. How we walked. Paul said in Ephesians, *"Don't walk like the Gentiles walk in the vanity of their mind."* So let me give you some principles on this. That's the best way for me to put it together. If you're going to be an extraordinary believer, you must associate with other believers who have Biblical wisdom, that's the first thing. Quit hanging out with the wrong people. **Proverbs 13:10, "He that walks with wise men will be wise,**

but a companion of the fool will be destroyed.” Much of your life depends on who you spend time around. What is a fool? It's a man who rejects divine viewpoint. It's a man who thinks he's smarter than God. It's a man who will lead you down the My Way Highway merrily together, you'll both destroy yourself. So, if you're going to be wise, if you're going to be the extraordinary servant of God, first of all, you must be careful about who you spend your time around. **The extraordinary servant of God has come to understand exactly what God expects out of him. Proverbs 3:35, “The wise shall inherit glory but shame shall be the promotion of the fool.” That's your inheritance, the glory found in 1 Corinthians 3, gold, silver and precious stones.** And if you're wise, if you understand the wisdom from the Word of God and you've accumulated insight and understanding, then that's waiting for you. Here's a third principle. The spiritually extraordinary servant of God has positive volition and stays filled with the Holy Spirit, positive volition as opposed to negative volition. Positive volition is a hunger and thirst for righteousness. Negative volition is not. Negative volition wants nothing to do with God, nothing to do with His Word. “Just leave me alone. Let me live my life the way I want to live it,” but the extraordinary servant of God has positive volition, he stays filled with the Holy Spirit and he does not “*walk like Gentiles walk in the vanity of their mind,*” as warned by Paul in Ephesians 4:17. The vacuum in the mind, *mataiototes* is the Greek word, means a vacuum that sucks in all of this human viewpoint, all the cosmic thinking of the world, the panaceas that Satan throws out that there can be a utopia here on this earth. It cannot be, never can be. No political person can change the history of this country because you can't change the hearts of men. The only thing that can change the heart of a man is the gospel, the good news, and Jesus Christ can do this. When you believe in Christ and you receive Him as your Savior, God puts a new heart in you, sort of. A new life begins and a new opportunity begins for you. **An extraordinary servant of God understands God's divine *desideratum*. That's a Latin word meaning God's policies, His procedures and His protocol plan. God's policy is always grace.** We are saved by grace, we live by grace, we die in grace, we have surpassing grace in the future. And then you understand God's procedure in the divine *desideratum* and this simply means that it requires faith because Hebrews 11:6 says, “*Without faith it is impossible to please God.*” And then finally the protocol plan of God demands order, the protocol plan of God demands order which means a right thing has to be done in a right way. And you heard me say that it's right to go to church, it's right to sing in the choir, it's right to give money. It's okay but you can do it in the wrong way and a right thing done in the wrong way is no good. What is a right thing in a wrong way? Prayer can be a right thing in a wrong way because the Bible says, “*If I regard iniquity in my heart, then the Lord will not hear me.*” So if I'm praying and I have unconfessed sin in my life, it's not going to go any higher than the ceiling. In order for my prayer to be effective I have to be in fellowship which means I must use 1 John 1:9 when I know I've sinned. So if you're an advancing believer, you must pay attention and focus on the priorities of God,

especially while you're living in the time continuum. Time continuum, you say, "What is that?" Time continuum means on this earth right now while we're here. Listen to 2 Corinthians 4:18, *"While we look not at things which are seen, but at things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are but temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."* That's where our focus must be, not on the seen things here in the devil's world, but on the eternal things. That's where we will be. That's where we will spend eternity and if we're going to focus on something, we have to focus on that. So the extraordinary servant of God follows a precisely correct procedure in this phase of his eternal existence, right now while you're here. I mean, you're already living in eternal life. Did you know this? Did you realize that you're already in your eternal status the moment you believed in Christ? Listen to John 3:18, *"He that believes in Him is not condemned but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* If you are not a believer, you don't have to wait to die and go to hell, you're already condemned. And if you have accepted Christ as your Savior, you have been born again and you are living in, already, your eternal life phase. When you die, which you will, you have to die because this body won't work in heaven, then you just simply transfer to be face-to-face with the Lord. There's nothing big you have to go through, it's just "boom," and you die, you wake up, and you're face-to-face with the Lord, there you are. So we follow precisely correct procedure. And it's critical that we understand the God we worship. That's what's critical, that's where the problem comes in sometimes. So many people know God and worship God, but they don't understand Him and they wind up doing all the right things in the wrong way. So that's why Hosea 14:9 says, *"Whoever is wise, let him understand these things."* Wise and understand, two different Hebrew words, both are important. The word wise in the Hebrew is *chakam*. You say, "What does this mean?" Well, that's a descriptive adjective and it means whoever is skillful or prudent or intelligent or capable of determining a course. *"Whoever is wise, let him understand."* That's the Hebrew word *biyn* and it means to comprehend or discern or have discernment. So if I put this together in a modified expanded translation it's saying this, *"Whoever's intelligent, let him comprehend the ways of the Lord."* The divine advantage that you have as a Christian, when you find a well-qualified pastor that understands God's Word and is wise, is that he can teach you how to live the Christian life. So God's message to us is simply this, the ways of the Lord are right, and the righteous will walk in them. This reflects the attitude of you, a faithful believer and hopefully as you sit in the congregation of your local church, there will be others there with you. Why? Because you have imputed righteousness from the moment you believed in Christ and hopefully your pastor can teach you enough of the Word of God so that you can build capacity righteousness in your life. Not relative righteousness, that's different. That's the religious, self-righteous person who thinks he is going to go to heaven because he's good and does good deeds. There is no doubt that a Christian should be a moral individual but morality doesn't save you. Morality is not how you get

to heaven and sometimes people try to depend on their morality or their good deeds to buy their way into heaven. That's called relative righteousness. It doesn't work. This simply means we'd move from being an ordinary believer to be an extraordinary believer if we learn these things that I'm giving you. That's what we want you to do. No fanfare, nobody's going to clap for you, nobody's going to give you a pin, nobody's going to put your picture up on the internet and say, "Here's a great, extraordinary, spiritual hero right here." But I can assure you of this that your heavenly Father knows who you are, I promise you, and He will reward you. Now let me take a look at women, ladies, okay? In Proverbs 31 King Lemuel tells us of instructions given to him by his mom and she warned him don't associate with women who have no virtue that might lure him into adultery. She warned him about the dangers of being an alcoholic. She warned him to judge fairly regardless of people's social status or financial status. And when you get Proverbs 31:10-31 we have an acrostic poem illustrating an extraordinary woman called the woman of virtue. We might call her extraordinary, the extraordinary spiritual woman. It says in Proverbs 31:10, "*Who can find this woman?*" This virtuous woman, she's a woman of force. She's a powerful woman because, "*A virtuous woman [Proverbs 12:4 says] is a crown to her husband,*" never a liability, a crown because of the wisdom in her soul that gives her insight and discernment, because of her positive volition, because of her spiritual growth. This refers to a woman that has great inner strength, noble character, great insight and great discernment which is the byproduct of Biblical wisdom in her soul. She's very valuable. **Proverbs 31:10 says, "She's more valuable than rubies."** That's a lot of money. **Proverbs 8:11, "For wisdom is greater than rubies."** So the wisdom in her soul is greater than the wealth of rubies that you could pour at her feet. The true value of a woman like this is not what she looks like. I mean so many people get hung up on looks and symmetry of body. The true value of a woman is not what she looks like but how she thinks. Does she have this wisdom in her soul? Does she have this insight and understanding in her soul? Is she manufacturing virtue? Is she re-presenting Christ? That's the question. So the Bible says, and in the Proverbs 31:30, "*Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain [there you go] but a woman who fears the Lord shall be praised.*" "*Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain.*" There are many ladies that use charm to deceive people and use their beauty to get themselves promoted but there is nothing worse than an empty, hollow, lonely woman who has no life except to manipulate other people and she's not respected by the Lord. But if she has some wisdom, if she understands God's plan, she will be praised. Here are some principles, listen to these carefully. An extraordinary woman of God is not basing her greatness on her exterior beauty, not basing her greatness on materialistic things that she possesses. All of these things are totally useless and totally meaningless unless she has some inner beauty of virtue and inner happiness based on the Word of God in her soul. If a man can meet a woman like this, a woman who has a soul saturated with the Word of God, wisdom in her soul, that's a great find. It's not easy to find a woman like this since the world we live in doesn't put emphasis on these things. It puts emphasis

on the outward, not on the inner. If you're a guy and you're asking God to lead you to a woman to spend the rest your life with, look at what's in her soul, not what she looks like, not how she smells, not how she talks, but what she thinks. That's the important thing. If an ordinary Christian woman ever hopes to become an extraordinary spiritual woman, a spiritual lady, she must put first things first in her life and this means without Biblical wisdom, she could possess all the trappings of luxury and beauty and still be miserable due to an empty soul. There is nothing worse than an empty soul, a soul that has no content, no capacity, no character. However, when an ordinary lady functions under God's extraordinary plan, this woman has the possibility of becoming extraordinary and is assured of happiness and comfort by means of God's Holy Spirit and the resident wisdom of the Word of God in her soul, giving her great capacity for life, giving her great contentment in life, making her a virtuous woman, the woman that Proverbs 31 talks about. You know ladies it's interesting. When a man finds an extraordinary Christian woman, he finds a dedicated and trusted friend that could even be a mate for life. It's interesting how a weak man is frightened by ladies like this with virtue because he cannot manipulate her or feels inferior. Females especially suffer greatly when a nation like ours begins to go under discipline. We may be on the verge of national discipline today here in America. I don't like the direction this country is moving in. Let me give you some insight from the book of Isaiah where God speaks about judgment on the Northern Kingdom of Israel that was rapidly deteriorating politically and spiritually and militarily until they were finally conquered by the Assyrians in 722 BC. Judah was looking at the same thing and thus Isaiah speaks to Judah, the Southern Kingdom, and warns them of what was coming if they did not change the way they were living and repent, Isaiah 1:18, *"Come now, let's reason together says the Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. But if you refuse, if you rebel, you will be devoured by the sword."* The divine discipline on a nation has a devastating effect on the female population. In Isaiah 3:16-25, Isaiah gives a picture of it, *"The Lord says the women of Zion are haughty, walking along with outstretched necks, flirting with their eyes, strutting along with swaying hips, with ornaments jingling on their ankles. Therefore the Lord will bring sores onto the heads of these women of Zion and the Lord will make their scalps bald. In that day the Lord will snatch away their finery and their bangles and their headbands and their crescent necklaces, the earrings and the bracelets and the veils and the headdresses and anklets and the sashes and the perfume bottles and the charms and the signet rings and the nose rings and the fine robes and the capes and the cloaks, the purses, the mirrors, the linen garments, and the tiaras and the shawls."* Wow. *"Instead of fragrance, there will be as stench. Instead of a sash, there will be a rope. Instead of well dressed hair, baldness. Instead of fine clothing, sackcloth. Instead of beauty, branding and your men will die by the sword. Your warriors will fall in battle."* This is a warning to a nation, to us. We have to understand God's not going to play games with America much longer. *"Unto whom much is given, much is expected."*

There are some extraordinary women in the Bible, I've looked at their traits, they are amazing. For example, in Joshua 2:1-7, her name was Rahab. She was a harlot and ran a house of ill repute life. She was a woman of courage. Courage is one of the traits of an extraordinary woman. She hid two of Joshua's men at the risk of life. Remember Joshua at the battle of Jericho? The king knew these two men had been at her quarters, so he commanded her to produce them but she hid them. She was a believer and she said so, *"The Lord your God is in heaven above all and on earth beneath."* She was a woman of courage, Rahab the harlot. Then Ruth in the Bible, a whole book written about Ruth, a woman of virtue who followed her mother-in-law Naomi back to the nation of Israel from the land of Moab. Ruth 1:16 talks about her commitment. Then there's Esther, a woman of influence, a tremendous woman with amazing character who had the courage to speak up and expose the plot of Haman who intended to kill all the Jews. Esther 4:14, the Bible says, *"For if you keep silent at this time, liberation and rescue will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this."* Mary Magdalene, a great woman of concern, extremely loyal to our Lord. She was actually the very first person He appeared to after the resurrection. Then there was Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha, who was cognizant of her need for the Word of God over food. In Luke 10:38-42 she had her priorities right and Jesus said, *"The one thing is needful and Mary has chosen the good part which shall not be taken away."* Her sister complained that she wasn't helping her in the kitchen and the Lord said, "No, she's exactly where she is suppose to be." And then in John 4 the woman at the well who was confrontational and a gospel influencer who went back into her town and led many people to Christ. **An extraordinary Christian woman is going to have these six traits plus a few more. Courage [use of the faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God] commitment [never looking back, always pressing forward] character [unmovable, solid, a risk taker] concern [genuine empathy and support] cognizance [always having the right priorities] and confrontational [not afraid to speak the gospel, bold in her faith].** The real beauty of the extraordinary woman is her soul. Isaiah 32:9 gives a warning to the women of Judah. *"Rise up you careless daughters. Give ear to my speech, listen."* We need you to be this sort of woman, a woman that will stand up for your faith, have character and concern. God is looking for spiritual influencers and I pray it will be you. Unless the mothers of America get their eyes off political solutions and back on the Lord, we're not going to survive as a free, client nation much longer. Wives and moms are the backbone of the country and it can be their faith and encouragement that stabilizes the future of this nation. Are you getting this message? That's how ordinary ladies become extraordinary members of the pivot. ***"Strength and dignity are her clothing," Proverbs 31:25.*** It's my great honor to give you these thoughts and I pray that God the Holy Spirit will challenge you with them and that you'll come back next week. Until then, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Extraordinary Believer - Part 3

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 814 aired on March 28, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please stick around. Just a short time of motivation, inspiration, a whole lot of education, and absolutely no manipulation, no games, no gimmicks, no asking for money, no appeals for anything, just want you to listen up as I try to give you accurate information that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. The Bible says the real you is what you think, quoting now from Proverbs, *"As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is."* People can't see what you're thinking but you can't hide your thoughts from the Lord. The real you is what you think and it is my privilege to give you this information on the radio show, hopefully so you build a FLOT line in your soul, a main line of resistance in your soul, 10 unique problem-solving devices that you can learn and apply that will help you glorify God to the maximum in your life. That's the FLOT line. Rebound, problem-solving device number one, solving the problem of sin. What do we do when we sin? We rebound, 1 John 1:9, and then the filling of the Holy Spirit is problem-solving device number two. What do we do about our genetically formed sin nature? Well we learn to let the Holy Spirit control us so the sin nature doesn't control us and then problem-solving device number three, the faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God. That's how we have complete rest in God's plan and purpose for our life. Problem-solving device number four, grace orientation, learning to live by grace is a wonderful way to live. You were saved by grace, you live by grace, you'll die by grace, and you'll have surpassing grace in heaven. It's all God's wonderful grace plan for you. When you orient to grace it takes the monkey off your back and lets the Lord handle all the details. And then there's doctrinal orientation or Biblical orientation where you begin to have the mind of Christ, acquire the mind of Christ and that's divine viewpoint versus human viewpoint. 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 each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word."* Learning to think divine viewpoint, Scripture, that's doctrinal orientation, basing every decision you make on what the Word of God says. A personal sense of destiny is another problem-solving device. This is where you come to understand what you fit into, where you fit into God's plan, what spiritual gift God gave you, how you can use it, and where your life is headed, that's for sure. Then there's personal love for God, the greatest virtue you could ever possess. Personal love for God, the greatest virtue you could ever possess because that's what motivates you to obey God is personal love and that's why 1 John 5:3 says, *"If you love Me, you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard."* Then there's impersonal love for all of mankind, that's you loving others based on your character, not their character, based on your integrity, not their integrity because you're mandated in the Bible to love everyone, even love your enemies and you don't want to love them, you want to hate them. You want to get bitter and vindictive about it and you're not allowed to do this. Impersonal love is the way God loved you, *"God so*

loved the world.” Weren't you a jerk, weren't you a sinner before you got saved? God loved you with His character, His righteousness and once you came into the family, once you believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, you entered the royal family of God and now God has personal love for you because you're one of His children. But before this it was impersonal based on His character, not yours. And then there's sharing the happiness of God. The things that the Lord Jesus Christ told the disciples in John 15:11, *“These things I have taught you so that My joy might be in you and your joy might be full.”* Sharing the happiness of God is a wonderful asset. This means that there's never a time in your life where you have to be sad or depressed or angry or upset. You can always have the happiness of God in your life. And then there's occupation with Christ. This is, *“I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength,”* Paul said in Philippians and when you begin to orient and adjust to occupation with Christ, making Him Lord of your life, then you begin to re-present Christ to your friends. As they look at your life they see Christ in you. These are the 10 problem-solving devices. I just skipped over them like a rock skipping across the lake. I didn't get in the depth there, but that's what we want you learn. That's what this radio show is about. We have a book about this called *Christian Problem-Solving*. If you want to learn more about these 10 problem-solving devices just write to me, the book is absolutely free. We're not going to send you anything but what you request and will never contact you again. If you go to the website, rickhughesministries.org and just request it there and any other material we have, it's all free. We'll get it out to you right away. I want to continue a series of messages that I started a couple of weeks ago dealing with ordinary people, how God takes an ordinary person and turns them into an extraordinary individual that can do extraordinary things. The point is that God prepares His people in obscurity, no publicity, no public relation image, no fame, no success by human standards. **God prepares extraordinary individuals in obscurity.** An ordinary person living an unremarkable life is transformed and changed by an encounter with Jesus Christ. This is how you go from being ordinary to an opportunity to be an extraordinary individual, one that is exceptional, one that is remarkable. And we went through the ordinary individual. We went through women, the extraordinary women in the Bible and we want to go now into a study on extraordinary men in the Bible. Hopefully this'll relate to some of you guys that might be listening today. This verse may shock you when I read it to you but listen to Job 5:7, *“For man is born into trouble as sparks fly upward.”* That's thermodynamics right there, *“Man is born into trouble as sparks fly upward,”* and so we all have trouble. We have a sin nature. We have three enemies: the world, the flesh and the devil and these are enemies we must overcome or else we're going to be in trouble. And the Bible goes on to say, *“And to man God said, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that's wisdom and to depart from evil is your understanding,”* Job 28:28. You have the opportunity to be an extraordinary individual if you're not already or you have the opportunity to be a rather ordinary, mundane, go through life, not have much of an impact, just shuffle from job to job, place to place, wondering why you're even here. The only way that you can keep from self-destructing is for you to acquire some divine viewpoint under grace orientation because the Lord can take nobodies like me and like you and make us into

somebodies by His grace. There is no telling, as I'm speaking today on 80 something radio stations across America, there is no telling who's listening. I don't have a clue, but I know there are some nobodies out there that God is willing to make somebodies out of. There's a plan for your life and this plan is built around His Word. You know the Bible is full of men that God used, ordinary men who did quite amazing things full of His grace provisions, amazing things. There's no doubt that **God because of His omniscience, He is all knowledge, has decreed certain individuals for specific tasks.** And every man has an opportunity to achieve this task or self-destruct by means of bad decisions. **1 Corinthians 1:27, "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong."** What this means is the people that God uses are often people of obscurity, people that are not sensational heroes. **God shapes them and molds them and uses them to change the course of history.** *"The foolish things of the world to shame the wise."* There's not one of you guys listening to me right now, wherever you may be, from California to New York, there's not one of you listening that does not have the potential to become extraordinary by means of God's grace provisions. God raised up one ordinary man for an extraordinary task and this task was to rescue the remnant of humanity. His name is Noah. In Genesis 6:8, *"Noah found favor in the eyes of God."* Why? Because he was obedient the Bible says. Genesis 6:22, *"Thus Noah did according to all that God had commanded him, so he did it."* He was obedient, I'm sure. You probably are too. Noah was not expecting God to come calling. I'm also sure Noah was aware of what was going on around him at the time because here's what the Bible says. *"The wickedness of man was so great on the earth that every intent of his thought, of his heart was only on evil continually,"* Genesis 6:5. The world had slipped into a sorry state at that time, much like the way the United States is slipping today. Everything that we use to consider to be good is now considered evil and everything that use to be evil is now looked upon as good. And so in Noah's day the world had slipped in their intent, the thoughts of the heart were only on evil. Imagine the harassment Noah must have endured during this time, whatever time it took to build this ark, God's rescue vehicle. When I'm out on the lake fishing, if you break down you can call the Tow, a tow boat service to come rescue you. Well this ark was God's rescue vehicle for humanity. I'm sure that Facebook would have banned any pictures of this boat. Facebook would have banned any warning by Noah that you need to get on the ark. Twitter would have canceled his account for spreading lies about a flood coming, wouldn't have believed it. The rescue vehicle for you today is simply this. There is no ark floating around waiting on you to get on board. **The rescue vehicle for humanity today is the cross of Christ. Christ was lifted up for us. He paid our sin. He took our place. Our job is to proclaim it and warn of what's coming for those who reject it.** This will always vindicate the justice of God. Everyone had an opportunity for 100 years or more to get on this boat. Everyone had an opportunity to listen to what Noah was saying and they kept neglecting it. They kept not listening, they kept making fun of him. Can you imagine what it would be like building a boat in the middle of nowhere? It never rained, never flooded, never did anything and here is this old

weird man saying, "There's a flood coming. You need to get on the boat." God's justice was vindicated. No one died innocently. Every one of them had a chance. This was Noah's job, to vindicate God's justice and to rescue humanity. Another man in the Bible, ordinary man that God used to change the course of history is named Joseph. Joseph, a man of misfortune but a man of fame. A man that had tremendous cognitive ability, he is a tremendous hero in the Bible because everything that he touched would turn to gold. He had business acumen, he was an amazing man. This is what God does sometimes. The Bible says, "*All things work together for good to them who love God and are called according to His purpose.*" Remember, Joseph was thrown into a well. Joseph was sold into slavery. Joseph was put into jail. Joseph went through all sorts of things, seemingly unfair but it was all to shape and mold Joseph and all in the conversion box came out to good on the other side. This is what Joseph said to his brothers who came to see him later on and begged for mercy. **In Genesis 50:18, "You meant it for evil against me, but God turned it into good." God turned it into good and that's exactly what God can do with your life.** These bad things can be turned into good things. Another man who was a man of courage and an ordinary man was a grape smasher named Gideon, just an ordinary man doing an extraordinary thing. Judges 6-8, you can read it for yourself if you've got a Bible, Judges chapter 6 through chapter 8. Gideon ironically delivered Israel from the famous Midianite army in a nighttime maneuver that was directed by God, read about this in Judges 7:19, how he did it. Here are some facts about this ordinary man. An angel of the Lord who happened to be Jesus Christ paid him a personal visit in Judges 6:11. He in fact was the youngest in his father's house, Judges 6:15, and he received a direct commission from the Lord Jesus Christ, Judges 6:14. He was endued by the Holy Spirit in Judges 6:34. He [Gideon] operated by faith in Genesis 7:7 and God used him to usher in 40 years of peace, Judges 8:28. That's exactly what God did and God can use you as well if you will operate by faith because you are controlled by the Holy Spirit if you use rebound when you sin. God rescued the whole nation of Israel by means of this man, amazing. Then there's Sampson, a man of strength and a man of submission in Judges 13-16. God raised up Sampson to deliver Israel from the nasty Philistines. Listen to how this happened in Judges 13:3. "*The angel of the Lord appeared to the childless wife of Zorah, a Danite and told her, 'Behold, now you're barren and you have had no children but you will conceive and you will give birth to a son, and he will be a Nazirite to God from the womb and he will begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.'*" You can see here again how the omniscience of God decreed in eternity past a specific man [Sampson] for a specific task. You may be this man, I'm sure you are. I'm sure God wants to take your ordinary life and make you an extraordinary individual. I'm sure of this because I know He has a plan for you and I know what this plan entails and I know that if you will listen to me and learn God's Word, the sky is the limit for you. I'm not talking about riches and fame. I'm talking about being able to glorify God to the maximum because there's no doubt that God can take an ordinary man and do extraordinary things through that individual. Sampson was rather reckless and disobedient in regard to his Nazirite vows because we read in those passages, he couldn't handle women, that's for sure. He

got betrayed by his first wife and also by his girlfriend Delilah and the famous words of Sampson after the Philistine wife betrayed him were these, this is what he said. *“If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle.”* I found this amazing, Sampson was used by God in spite of his many failures. Here’s what we can learn from this. **God doesn't expect you or me to be perfect, no one is perfect, but God does expect us to be persistent in our spiritual life.** I know I'm not perfect. I know my failures. I know my weaknesses. I know you're not perfect either and may have the same failures and weaknesses I have, because you have a sin nature just like me. **God expects persistence.** You know, when I was playing football, I didn't make every block and I didn't get off every tackle. Sometimes I got blocked. But I got up, and got back in the game. Since when do you consider it okay to get out of the game and lay on the ground and wallow around and feel self-pity for yourself because something bad happened? You're going to just lay there and have a little pity party? Get up and get back in the game. Be persistent in your spiritual life. Sampson judged Israel for 20 years in the days of the Philistines, Judges 15:20. This means that there was peace in the land because the Philistines were afraid of him. This is a perfect illustration of freedom through military victory. Another ordinary person that God turned into an extraordinary individual was a shepherd boy named David. You remember David and Goliath and the slingshot, there's a lot more to this story than that. What kind of man are you? Are you a man of faith or are you a man of failure? You've got to answer this question. Here's a verse in the Bible, **1 Corinthians 16:13, “Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith and act like men, be strong.”** If we go into the original languages of the New Testament which is Koine Greek, we find, *“Be on the alert,”* alert is a verb. It's what we call a present active imperative verb in the morphology. It's the word *gregoreo* and it means to pay strict attention to or to be cautious or to take heed lest through remission and indolence or laziness, destructive calamity suddenly comes upon you. When you have an imperative mood verb in the New Testament, that's a command from God through the apostle Paul. The present tense is a durative which means there's never a time when you're not to be alert and the active voice says you produce the action of this verb through your positive volition. You must remain alert. Have you been alert or have you been indolent? Have you been lazy? Has your spiritual life been destroyed or distracted or discredited? Has some kind of calamity overtaken you? Is it possible it's discipline from God trying to get your attention? Vigilance and expectancy rather than laxity and indifference is what God expects from us. We must be alert. And the verse says, *“We must stand firm,”* another present active imperative again of *stayko*, **this means you must persevere in your spiritual life to be anchored.** You must stand firm, filled with the Holy Spirit, growing in grace, sitting under a well-qualified pastor, learning God's Word, applying it into your life, replicating the life of Christ through your own life. Listen to this, *“It was for freedom that Christ set you free. Therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to the yoke of slavery.”* The spiritual life frees you from the slavery to the sin nature. Have you allowed yourself to go back into slavery? Have you allowed your sin nature trends and lust patterns to take over again and find you keep violating God's standard and you're ashamed of it? You're not

standing firm, you haven't been alert. You must be strong this verse says. *“Be on the alert, stand firm, act like men, be strong.”* I'm talking to you men, be strong. The present passive imperative, another command, another present tense, but this time instead of the active, it's the passive. This means the subject receives the action of the verb and what does this mean? It means you receive the action of this verb, *krataioo*. **You receive strength from two sources: the filling of the Holy Spirit and the dynamics of the Word of God in your soul. This is an appeal for you to be in good spiritual shape, to be strong spiritually.** Don't be some sort of spiritual weakling letting Satan kick sand in your face. The only way to do this, it's going to require some discipline and some routine in your life. You know, a lot of men that I meet come and go through the doors of their church. Some have negative volition and some just get distracted and don't come back. Some die, but there's not one of these people that attended your church or some local church somewhere, my church included, that don't have an opportunity to be a preservative force of the client nation called USA, to be a member of this pivot. And some did the job and grew to spiritual maturity and some went AWOL. What about you? Have you gone AWOL spiritually? Have you abandoned the plan that God set out for you? Because it takes a lot of humility to admit that you failed. It takes a lot of humility to admit that you abandoned your post. But it's never too late to get back in the game before you're thrown away as useless, useless salt with no flavor. Has your spiritual life helped preserve this client nation? Have you been what we call a divinely appointed influencer that's had an impact on the visible or the invisible realm? I hope you are. I hope you are this spiritual man because I could go on for hours citing examples of nobodies who became somebodies due to their conversion and their spiritual growth. Men like Charles Spurgeon and Martin Luther and Billy Sunday and Billy Graham, all had an impact in God's plan and you can as well. I want to teach you a message our Lord taught to the disciples who had just heard Him teach the Beatitudes in Matthew 5 and now the Similitudes. A Similitude is a statement in present or future tense of what people typically do or don't do in a given situation. Here's what the Lord did, here's what He said to the disciples, *“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by people.”* Salt of the earth is a metaphor we can use to describe mature believers. **God wants you to be the salt of the earth, of great worth, someone He can count on.** There's a lot I want to tell you about this salt of the earth principle. My pastor taught me that salt is used in the Bible to season food in Job 6:6. *“Is tasteless food eaten without salt?”* Lack of seasoning is used to indicate a person who has no divine viewpoint, no taste for spiritual things. **You are designed to be salt, a preserving factor, something that tastes wonderful. It's an analogous metaphor for the believer who preserves his nation.** The Bible teaches us that *“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again?”* You can't. *“So have salt among yourselves and be at peace with each other,”* Matthew 5:13 and Mark 9:50. I'm going to come back to this next week. I tailored this message for some of you men out there. I know you heard it, I just don't know what you'll do with it. Contact me if you have questions. This is Rick Hughes signing off.

The Extraordinary Believer - Part 4

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 815 aired on April 4, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. The FLOT Line is playing all across America this morning on 81 radio stations from California to New York and I'm so grateful to have the privilege to do this. We believe by faith the Lord opened this door and we walked through this door by faith. We've been teaching a series on ordinary people become extraordinary believers. We've tried to demonstrate how God can take a person in obscurity with no publicity and no public relations image, no fame, no success, and turn him into an extraordinary individual and there are a lot of metaphors in the Bible about these sorts of people. We've taught a whole series on women that were extraordinary and men that were extraordinary. They started out ordinary and became extraordinary. Today we want to continue on in this idea but before I do, let me remind you we also have our shows on podcast platforms and you access them anywhere in the world. It's amazing to see the foreign countries where people have checked us out. I hope you will also because we're just teaching you the Word of God. I'm so impressed with people that are hungry to learn God's Word. Now today we want to continue on studying the ordinary man or woman who becomes extraordinary. Extraordinary, this is not just for the men, this is not just for the women like we did a couple shows on that, but this is for all people. **If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, God wants you to be the salt of the earth, that's your objective.** Salt of the earth is an analogy that the Lord Jesus Christ taught in Matthew 5:13. And what does this mean if God wants you to be the salt of the earth? Well number one, salt is used in the Bible for seasoning of food. Job talks about it in the book of Job 6:6, *"Is tasteless food eaten without salt?"* You can't eat tasteless food without putting salt on it. *"Is tasteless food eaten without salt,"* here's an analogy, a tasteless life is lived without salt. You may be the salt that seasons the life of someone else in your community, in your family. This is an analogy, it's a Biblical analogy and it means simply this, the lack of seasoning is used to indicate human viewpoint thinking, not divine viewpoint thinking. Human viewpoint thinking we know this as evil, it's the plan of Satan, it's the humanism that floats around in our country today, the socialism that is espoused everywhere as opposed to divine viewpoint, which is the plan of God. **When you have the Word of God in your soul it seasons your life and the way you think.** Anyone of us who lack salt have no taste for spiritual things in our life and you know, there's nothing worse than being a pitiful, wandering soul, maybe like you, who can never find your real reason for existing. I mean, is it just so you can gather things and more things and more things and then die and who get your things? There's more purpose to your life than this, you are to be salt. Salt is analogous to a mature Christian and this sort of person can actually preserve his nation. Salt is a preservative. Matthew 9:50, *"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves and be at peace with each other."* **The greatest thing that you and I can do is to have salt in us, the seasoning of the Word of God in our soul. Because if we have this, our life has meaning and we can bring blessing to our nation and to our family.** If we

are not salty, un-saltiness is analogous to a person who's in reversionism. Some people may say a person that's backsliding, a Christian who's gone and turned around and went the other way, or maybe a person that's never been a Christian but has turned away from the divine institutions of freedom and marriage and family and nationalism and has bought into the concepts of socialism and communism. Un-saltiness is analogous to this sort of person and it's used to portray divine discipline. Listen carefully, *"Salt is good [Luke 14:34] but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? [The answer is, it cannot.] If it is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile, it will just be thrown out."* So a person without salt, without Biblical view point in his life, without divine viewpoint, just living on human viewpoint, socialism, humanism, is cast aside as worthless. What a waste for your life to be. Listen, is your life worthless? No it's not, it's very meaningful. God created you. God gave you life. God gave you an opportunity. God gave you a choice and you're going to pay for these choices you make, I promise you that. *"As a man sows, so shall he reap."* So each one of us are responsible for our decisions and bad decisions limit future options. The worst decision you could make is to be saltless, to be cast aside, to be worthless. When Christ died for your sin and freed you from the domain of Satan and then you turn right around and march right back into the cosmic system as a deserter who went A.W.O.L. on God, you have no taste. In the Bible salt was used in the Levitical offerings to represent eternal security. In Leviticus 2:13, *"Season all your grain offerings with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offering and add salt to all of your offerings."* This is a wonderful thing about God. Once He gives you eternal life, He's not going to take it back. It's solid, it's sound, it's sealed. He said, *"I'll never leave you, I'll never forsake you. I give unto them eternal life and they will never perish, neither shall any man ever pluck them out of My Father's hand."* If you have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and you have received Him as your Savior, you are secure but your salt may have lost its effectiveness. This means simply one thing, you've gone through warning discipline and you did not listen. You've gone through intense discipline where you've hurt and you still did not listen and you may be facing dying discipline where God will bring you home way too soon. I know God intends for some of you to live a long, wonderful, fabulous life and you're not going to do it because you're going to turn and be a deserter and become saltless. In Genesis 19:6 the Bible describes how Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt and not the kind of salt you put on french fries either. It's useless salt that was tramped underfoot. Here's what the Lord Jesus Christ says about salt types. **Matthew 5:13**, *"You are the salt of the earth but if the salt has become tasteless, how could it be made salty again? It's no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by people,"* that's divine discipline. So the principle of this passage is this, when He taught this passage, Israel had turned away from the Lord, they had sinned away their usefulness in the plan of God. John wrote about it and said, *"The ax is laid to the root of the tree."* So divine discipline was coming. The whistle was blowing and the train wreck was Titus who came in 70 A.D. and destroyed Jerusalem. Our Lord had just finished teaching when He said this in Matthew 5:13. He had just finished teaching the Sermon on the Mount, just finished presenting the Beatitudes, His

first major public message to the disciples and the multitudes who followed Him, the *ochlos*, the Greek word. Note that He taught using what the Bible calls the rabbinic method meaning He sat down as He taught. In Matthew 5:1-2 He sat down on the Mount. In Luke 5:3 He sat down in the boat. In Matthew 26:55 He sat down in the temple. In Luke 4:20 He sat down in the synagogue. He taught these words, "*blessed.*" Blessed is the key word here I'm going to read to you, and blessed is the Greek word *makarios* and it means happiness. So when He sat down to teach the Beatitudes, this is what He was teaching, how to be happy. This was a Jewish audience who were looking for the kingdom of God on this earth but the Lord Jesus Christ had a different mission, a different message to proclaim. This message was His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. **Jesus Christ gave a seven point outline of the character traits of extraordinary followers, men and women, in Matthew Chapter 5.** Note it's impossible to obtain these by self efforts or religious traditions. These things are only possible for you if you are filled with the Holy Spirit and live under the concept of divine viewpoint. These seven character traits produce what the Bible calls happiness which we know as external joy, as it says, "*Blessed are you.*" This is not an in-depth study of the Beatitudes, not by any means. A lot of people are better at this than me, but this is just a small summary of the traits identified by the Lord Jesus Christ. Let me give you some footnotes from the *New American Standard Bible*. It says, "The Sermon on the Mount's call to moral and ethical living is so high that some have dismissed it as being completely unrealistic or have projected its fulfillment to the future millennial reign of Christ. But there is no doubt, they said however, that Jesus gave the sermon as a standard for all Christians realizing that its demands cannot be met on our own power. It's also true the Lord Jesus Christ occasionally used hyperbole to make His point. For example, in Matthew 5:29 He said, '*If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it away from you,*'" That's hyperbole. He didn't mean for you to tear your eyeballs out. So this is what He's teaching, "*Blessed are the poor in spirit.*" This is part of the Beatitudes and "not referring to financial poverty but to a spiritual dependence on the Lord, intellectually humbled as opposed to religious arrogance." "*Blessed are those that mourn,*" blessed is the word *makarios*. "*Happiness belongs to those that mourn.*" "*Happiness belongs to those that are poor in spirit.*" Those that mourn, *panther* is the Greek word meaning those that weep or lament. This happiness belongs to those who have a recognition of their failed condition in their nation or as individuals. If you can see yourself as you really are you have a chance. Most people through arrogance have unrealistic self-image and if they have an unrealistic self-image they have unrealistic expectations. Some of you expect God to bless you because you don't cuss, you expect God to bless you because you don't smoke, you expect God to bless you because you don't drink, you expect God to bless you because you don't cheat on your spouse. These are wonderful things that God does like for you to do but that's not where the blessing comes from. The blessing comes from the spiritual life of the individual. **What's wrong in America today is most of our churches are not teaching the concepts of the spiritual life.** Most people don't see what they really are. This is what arrogance does, unrealistic expectation, unrealistic self-image. It all comes to an end in Revelation chapter 20 at the Great White Throne

of Judgment where people will try to earn their way into heaven by opening the Books of Works and saying, "Look what I did, look what I did" and the Father will say, "I never knew you." Do you mourn for your country? Do you mourn for your neighbors? If you saw your neighbor's house on fire like if in my neighborhood, if I saw a house on fire in the middle of night would I just sit there and say, "Go get the marshmallows" or would I rush over to alert them? Lost neighbors, your neighbors and my neighbors, are all facing the flames of hell and we must wake them up. We must re-present Christ and replicate His life and give them the Gospel, the good news. *"Blessed are those that mourn,"* weep over the failed spiritual condition of a nation or of an individual. *"Blessed are the meek,"* that's the broken ones that have lost their arrogance and have some genuine humility. Not Mr. Wimp, not Mr. No Shoulders walking around, "I'm such a humble little person." This is not what that means. Genuine humility is characterized by respect for authority and the Bible says, *"The beginning of wisdom is to respect God,"* and you can't respect God if you don't have some meekness. You're not smarter than God. God was in business before you got here and He'll be in business when you're gone so it doesn't all depend on you. But unless you can see yourself as you really are, you'll never tap in to the happiness the Lord Jesus Christ is speaking about in this passage. *"Happiness belongs to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,"* well, what is this? That's a serious desire to learn the Word of God. That's what we call positive volition. It's a hunger, a spiritual appetite. It's very rare for me to meet individuals that really want to learn the Word of God. Most people are satisfied. They go to church to sing a few songs, to give a little money and they go home. Do Sunday school, do Wednesday night, whatever, do a little community service and that's fine, but they never really grow spiritually. They're like first-graders and they stay in the first grade their whole life. The Bible says in Hebrews 5:11-16, "I have a lot of things I'd like to tell you but I can't give them to you because you can't handle them. You still need a bottle," the writer of Hebrews said. "These things are too deep for you." I don't know how long you've been a Christian, but if you don't understand the 10 problem-solving devices, if you don't understand the essence of God, there are things you must understand about God's protocol plan and how it works. If you haven't learned these things, you're still in the first grade. Let me give you an analogy. If you went to the first grade an hour and a half a week, how long does it take you to get out of the first grade? That's 30 minutes on Sunday morning, 30 minutes on Sunday night, 30 minutes on Wednesday night, an hour and a half a week of sermons, you're never going to get out of the first grade. That's why there has to be the daily, daily intake of the Word of God. The way I do it is simply to sit down with my Bible, with my notebook, and my pastor makes available and other pastors that I know of make available studies that you can access on the internet or through DVDs or MP3s and you can study daily. **You're never going to grow spiritually until you begin a routine of daily intake of the Word of God and stay filled with the Holy Spirit.** When you know you've sinned, confess this sin, don't hide it. Don't try to act like you didn't do it. Just name it to God and move on, get up and keep going. So, *"Blessed are those that mourn."* So, *"Blessed are the meek,"* the ones that have lost their arrogance. *"Blessed are those that hunger and thirst for*

righteousness,” the Lord Jesus Christ said, spiritual appetite. *“Blessed are the merciful,”* those who extend mercy to others lest God judge, you forgive. Proverbs 11:17, *“The merciful man does himself good,”* those who extend mercy to others. And, *“Blessed are the pure in heart,”* those that are inwardly clean in fellowship, not having any hidden sins, free from all selfish intentions and free from self-seeking desires. *“Blessed are the peacemakers,”* this refers to reconciliation, the true sons of God, not the ones who propose war to achieve their goals. Listen to what Christ said about peacemakers. He said, *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you,”* John 14:27. Peace is a fruit of the Spirit. When Peter tried to defend Him and drew his sword and took a whack at those who came to arrest Him, wound up cutting a man's ear off, the Lord said, *“Put up your sword Peter.”* By the way, Peter was armed, did you get that? He was armed. It's not your job to propose war on the enemy, it's your job to be obedient, put up your sword. There is a way to fight and that is to let the Lord fight for you. Next in the passage comes a warning about persecution where He said, *“Be happy if you are persecuted for righteousness sake.”* What does this mean, happiness belongs to you and you are persecuted for righteousness sake? This is all out of Matthew 5. This means when there's social disapproval, social discrimination, and it's coming to America soon, this political disapproval where people don't like you because of who you voted for, because you are a Christian, and I'm going out on a limb here, but there is coming a time when Christians will be persecuted in this country as they are in other countries. Listen to **Matthew 5:11**, ***“Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely because of Me. Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*** This is almost a guarantee that you are going to be persecuted for your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. You're going to be persecuted because you believe the Bible and you have a Bible and you read your Bible and you push Biblical viewpoint on your community. Our communities have abandoned the Bible. We've become evil in a lot of places. So happiness belongs to you when men curse you, when they spread public lies about you because of your identification with Christ. John 15:20, *“If they persecuted Me, they're going to persecute you.”* *“Rejoice and be glad,”* the Bible says, *“Because your reward in heaven will be great.”* *“Rejoice and be glad, your reward in heaven is going to be great,”* Matthew 5:11-12. This is the sort of person that makes an impact on their world. The Lord uses these metaphors to explain the impact that they'll have, the impact of being a salt believer, a salty believer. He uses the impact of a person that has a light, like the light of the world. **If you are an extraordinary believer, if you're that salty individual, you're going to create a thirst for those who are in your area, your contacts. You're going to be a spiritual influencer. People will be attracted to you as you live under the precepts of the Word of God. As you learn it and you reflect Christ, they will be drawn to you just like a light.** People are drawn to a light in the middle of the night. As I drive down the highway on a dark night, I look across the field and see a light, I wonder who lives in that house? Who's home? What's it like over there? And if my car breaks down and I'm stranded, I'm going to go to the light. *“You are the light, you are the salt,”* Jesus said, right there, verse by

verse. The Lord Jesus Christ has preserved this nation and you can do your part as a member of the pivot. As a salty believer who is a preservative, as a believer who is a light and attractive, you can help preserve this nation. If the basic character of salt loses its taste, the Lord Jesus Christ said then it's only good to be walked upon, discarded, no purpose for its existence. So you as a mature Christian, I had a guy ask me yesterday, "What is a mature Christian?" What do you think of this? What's the answer to this in your mind? What is a mature Christian? I will tell you simply this, he's a person who stays filled with the Holy Spirit consistently using rebound. He's a person that operates under the faith-rest drill. He's a person that understands grace and doctrine. He has a personal sense of destiny. He has virtue love for God. He uses impersonal love for his brother. He has great happiness in his life and he's occupied with Christ. There are the 10 problem-solving devices. These are the character assets of the mature believer. So, as a mature believer you have a preservative effect in your client nation USA, a preservative effect in your family. It's called blessing by association. God blesses those you're associated with. Remember this, God would have spared Sodom and Gomorrah if there had been only ten righteous people in the land. Abraham got Him down to ten. He said, "*If I find ten, will You spare the land?*" And the Lord said, "Yes." I know there are more than ten righteous individuals in America but out of 300 million plus people, we've got to have more than 300 righteous people if we expect to survive. Saltless salt is worthless. This is a question I have to ask before we wrap it up. Have you sinned away your usefulness in God's plan? Have you been sucked into the cosmic system? Because if you have, you're going to be trampled. This is the salt principle, Matthew 5:13, where we are said to be the salt of the earth. **SALT, this is what God wants you to be. S, saved**, John 10:9, "*I am the door. If anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved,*" for by the grace of God, you're saved. That's what salt is, a saved person and he's anointed, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22. **A, anointed**, he's set apart for a specific task. He's a learner. **L, learner**, Matthew 11:29, "*Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me. I'm gentle and humble in spirit and you will then find rest.*" **An extraordinary believer is saved, anointed, he's been predestined, God's chosen him for a specific reason, and he's trusted. T, trusted**, trusted for what? Not to misrepresent God. The worst thing you can do is misrepresent God. Proverbs 14:58, "*A trustworthy witness will not lie, but a false witness utters lies.*" Can God trust you with His Word not to misrepresent Him because the Bible says, "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.*" If it's possible to rightly divide it, is it possible to wrongly divide it? Yes, and if you wrongly divide it then you misrepresent God. This is why pastors have a tremendous responsibility to shepherd and teach their flock how to replicate the life of Christ beginning with what they think. "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus,*" it's critical. My prayer is that you will go from ordinary to extraordinary. My prayer is that you will let God prepare you in obscurity and make a Biblical hero out of you. You can change the course of history by replicating the life of Christ. When people see you, they must see Christ in you. That's the light, the salt, the preservative, the salt we're talking about. This is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Supreme Court of Heaven

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 816 aired on April 11, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. My job is to verify and identify the plan of God for you and your job is to orient and adjust to the plan. It's always up to you. I promise you today will be an interesting show. These are times when believers like you and me we wonder if God really sits on His throne, don't you? I mean we see what's going on across this country and we have that thought, "Is He aware of this?" We yearn for God's justice to vindicate us and right the wrongs we've suffered as Americans. When we've been taken advantage of personally or even nationally, we want to seek revenge because as humans, we do this. We want to be vindictive and get even and seek revenge. I use to have a friend that would say, "I will put your name in the book and I'm going to get even with you." That's not ever God's plan. When whole groups of people such as Christians, you and me, when we're persecuted for our beliefs or maligned, insulted, condemned based on what we believe or don't believe, then it's time to put it in the Lord's hands. It's time to take a step back. If you're persecuted for what you believe, if you're being maligned or mischaracterized as evil, it's always hard to take especially if you're part of this group. So you ask yourself, "Does God really care? Is God really aware of these things that I'm facing in my life and the things I'm going through?" The things I'm speaking to you about on this radio show right now are so you understand you're not to take justice in your own hands. You're not to seek relief through any sort of violence or any sort of political disturbance. Proverbs 11:21 has the answer for us, *"Assuredly the evil man will not go unpunished but the descendents of the righteous will be delivered."* This verse means there's comfort in God's plan. There is always God's just retribution for evil people and this is a certainty. By way of application for you and me, all evil presents conspiracy. All evil, present and past, are conspiracies known to God. He knows the real facts. **God knows what's going on. So relax and apply the Word of God, apply this verse very seriously in the days to come, Proverbs 11:21, "Assuredly the evil man will not go unpunished but the descendents of the righteous will be delivered."** "Recognize God is at work in this world. Recognize that He is the punisher of the unjust and the deliverer of the just. Evil will not go forgotten and evil will not go unpunished by God." I'm quoting this from my own pastor R. B. Thieme III who said these words last Sunday morning after communion. I thought that was really great because it goes right in line with what I'm telling you today. I'm trying to give you comfort and boost your faith in God's plan for you at this time. So I want to tell you that **there is a court, it's an amazing court, called the Supreme Court of Heaven and it operates 24 hours a day.** So let's get some principles down for this so you can remember it. There is a Supreme Court of Heaven and this court is the highest court of appeals in all of human history. You can see it in Revelation chapter 20 and it's also the court for personal justice for the individual believer like you and me. It's a court where God administers both personal and collective justice. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24 hours a day. When you have a complaint, you can go to the Supreme Court of Heaven and present this complaint.

Who resides over this court? Who's in charge of the court of heaven? It is Jesus Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ to whom all judgment has been committed. You say, "Where does this come from?" **John 5:22 and 27, "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man."** **This Supreme Court of Heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ sitting on the throne fulfills the principle that Jesus Christ controls history.** He's well aware of what's going on in this country. He's well aware of what's going on in your life and He controls history. The Supreme Court of Heaven that we're talking about has the highest jurisdiction and it can overrule Satan's authority as the ruler of this world who we know he is. We know this is his world and we know he's the ruler of this world. He even offered to give it to the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 4, if He would just worship him and that didn't happen. So Satan is subject to this court as well as you and I. That's the reason that history continues. In spite of the fact that Satan is the ruler of this world, Jesus Christ is the court ruler of the Supreme Court of Heaven and He controls human history. As goes His desire, so goes history. Therefore, in the rise and fall of nations like Rome or Egypt or the Syrians or the Babylonians or the Persians, there are no accidents. There's no prejudice from God, no favoritism, only the function of perfect divine justice. Please remember this, what the righteousness of God rejects the justice of God judges every time, nothing slips by God. You may think it slipped by God, but it didn't. *"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro over the whole earth,"* the Bible tells us and nobody gets away with anything. Satan constantly brings accusations in heaven against believers. He may be accusing you before the Supreme Court of Heaven. You can read about this in Zechariah 3:1 where the Bible says, *"He showed me Joshua, [the high priest in the times of Haggai]. Then he showed me Joshua [this is a vision Zechariah had] standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at His right hand."* The angel of the Lord is Jesus Christ and there's Satan standing there trying to accuse Joshua. In Revelation 12:10, *"Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come. For the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.'" This is Satan's job, he's an accuser. He is always your opponent. He's always your adversary. I've got to remind you that he's not omnipotent and omnipresent. He's a created being. He can only be in one place at one time and when you tell people that Satan's trying to get you or Satan is after you, do not forget that you have three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. If you're not able to get victory over your own flesh and if you're not able to get victory over the lure of the world, why in the world would Satan even worry with you because he doesn't have time to come over to your part of town and bug you. He's going back and forth to heaven accusing and that's what he does. We have a defense attorney in these accusations. Whenever Satan goes to accuse someone, I'm sure he has a whole list in heaven, he goes to accuse someone before the Supreme Court of Heaven, the Lord functions as our defense attorney. Listen to 1 John 2:1-2, *"My dear children, I keep writing these things to you in order that you may not sin. However, if anyone sins we keep on having a defense attorney before the Lord. That's Jesus Christ the righteous one and He is the**

propitiation for our sin and not for ours only but also for the entire world.” There it is, when we sin, we fail. Remember sin comes in three areas, something we say, something we think, something we do. You may feel guilty about sinning but remember that the Lord Jesus Christ paid for all of your sins on the cross. This doesn't give you the right to sin because your sin will break your fellowship with God, but you won't lose your relationship. Satan in the Supreme Court of Heaven would like to use you as a witness for the defense and our Father uses you as a witness for the prosecution. We have our Lord interceding for you when you fail, when I fail and I fail a lot more than you, I promise you. When I fail the Lord Jesus Christ, if my name is brought up as an accusation, “Look at that Rick, look what he's doing. Look at him now. You call this a man of God? Look what a loser he is,” and the Lord Jesus Christ simply says, “No, he's one of Mine. He's believed in Me. I died for him. He's accepted My death, burial, and resurrection. You have no right to charge him.” So here's what you need to remember. If the Lord Jesus Christ is handling your complaints, you cannot come as a plaintiff yourself before the Supreme Court of Heaven if you have any bitterness in your soul. Bitterness is a sin, it's a terrible sin, it's a mental attitude sin and it's related to the order of all three of these arrogance skills that we call self-justification, self-deception, and self-absorption. So if you're bitter today, you might as well not go before the Supreme Court of Heaven with your complaint before the Lord because the problem is your own personal sin. You will wind up being judged rather than asking the Lord to clear the tablet off for you, someone judging you. **One of the hardest things for you and me to take, to accept, is injustice. This is one of the greatest challenges to our spiritual life.** Have you ever been accused of something that you didn't do? Injustice, and people in authority make mistakes. If you're a parent you may have judged one child for something they did not do when the other child did it. Maybe Mary did it and Sally got the whipping. Or if you're in school maybe someone else did it and you got in trouble for it because you wouldn't tell on him, injustice, and we get angry about our injustice. We get angry about how we're treated with injustice. It's our greatest challenge to our spiritual growth. If you're a Christian, you might not like what's going on in our political arena and you may think “That is unjust.” Well, these injustices are going to occur and what you and I must do is we must put them in the hands of the Lord and turn them over to the Supreme Court of Heaven. Do not, do not try to solve the problem ourself by trying to get even or trying to hurt someone. This means physical violence, it could be social character assassination, it could be political revenge, or even using the public lie, this is not our job. **When we are treated unjustly we go to the Supreme Court of Heaven, we leave it in the Lord's hand and we keep our mouth shut and don't complain, don't criticize, don't try to get even.** All decisions of the court of heaven are compatible with God's perfect righteousness. He's not unwise. He knows exactly what's going on. He's incorruptible, He's perfect, and He's fair. He is the one who judges and He's never, ever, ever rendered a wrong decision. In all the trillions and trillions of decisions that the Lord Jesus Christ has rendered, not one has ever been unfair or incorrect because it is impossible for perfect God to render a bad decision on our behalf. It's impossible for perfect God to render a bad decision as a judge. You

know sometimes men are thrown into prison, and women, for something they didn't do and 20 or 30 years later it comes up through some sort of test, it proves them innocent and they are let out. Well no one is going to the Lake of Fire because God was unfair and made a mistake. God doesn't make mistakes. He's a perfect judge based on His omniscience, He knows everything. There is nothing you can hide from God. So let Him handle all decisions because you don't have all the facts. If you don't have all the facts, you're liable to get angry, you're liable to get vindictive, you're liable to get bitter, and you're liable to run your mouth when you should have just kept your mouth shut. I'm going to show you in a minute where you bring discipline on yourself for criticizing and maligning people that treat you unfairly. God can administer all the penalties, all the decisions, everything demanded by His own perfect righteousness and that's taught in a lot of different passages in the Bible. So remember when the Bible says, ***“Vengeance is mine, I will repay,” says the Lord,*** **this means retribution is His.** If you want to have an unhappy life, all you have to do is to get in the middle of this. If you want to have an unhappy life all you have to do is seek revenge, be vindictive, be implacable and try to hurt somebody that hurt you and you'll wind up being the one that gets hurt because God's justice, the Supreme Court of Heaven, doesn't need any help in dealing with unfairness or in dealing with injustice that comes to us. Under no circumstances are you ever to assume judgment yourself. Matthew 7 talks about this, listen carefully, *“Do not judge or you too will be judged. For in the same way that you judge others, you will be judged and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you again. So why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there's a plank in your own eye? You are a hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”* This is called triple compound discipline. *“Don't judge or you will be judged.”* Here's what we're saying, when you stick your nose in the middle of God's business like the old proboscis monkey, a monkey that has a nose about two feet long, you're going to get it chopped off I promise you. Don't judge, don't pass sentence, don't assume, don't say, “I know why he did that, because he's like this.” No, you don't know anything. *“Don't judge or you will be judged. For in the same way you judge others you will be judged and with the measure you use, it will be given back to you.”* If you judge another person, even though they did a sin toward you or treated you unjustly, if you get in the way of the Supreme Court of Heaven, first of all you're going to be judged for your personal sin of bitterness or anger or implacability. Secondly, listen again to this verse, *“The same way in which you measured, it will be measured back to you again.”* This is simply telling you that whatever this person is guilty of, that sin and that punishment will be taken off of him and given to you and you will get it. And then the third thing is you'll have self-induced misery. So you're going to get discipline for your sin, you're going to get discipline for his sin that he should have got because you stuck your nose in the middle of God's business, and you're going to be miserable. That's why this verse says, *“You are a hypocrite. Take the plank out of your own eye first and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”*

If you can't see clearly, it's because you don't have any wisdom. You don't have any discernment and insight. Wisdom comes from knowledge of the Word of God in your soul, the wonderful problem-solving device called doctrinal orientation. If you don't have the mind of Christ, you don't have the wisdom to determine anything. So the plank in your own eye, the 2 x 4 board sticking out of your eye is your own prejudice and your own bitterness and your own failure to use impersonal love, problem-solving device number eight. Impersonal love, what this means is that you can turn it over to the Supreme Court of Heaven and you can love an individual based on who you are, not based on who they are. I mean, how are you suppose to love a guy that steals from you? How are you suppose to love a guy that fornicates with your wife? How are you suppose to love a guy that maligns you and criticizes you and puts you down then steps on your back to get to the top? You use impersonal love, you love him based on who you are not based on who he is. This is exactly what God did for you. When the Bible says, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,*" He loved you with impersonal love. He loved you based on His character, not your character. You were not lovable, but once you believed in Christ, once His righteousness was accredited to you, then God can now love you with personal love because you're now part of the royal family. You are now His son, His child. So keep this in mind, you have to use impersonal love as a problem-solving device so that you don't get yourself in a jam from judging someone else and getting angry and getting bitter. See this is what you can do in any situation, you can react or you can respond, it's really up to you. If you react with hatred and seek vindication and seek revenge, your hatred for that individual or that political party even, can lead you into mental attitude sins as well as malice. Malice, that's the desire to hurt someone to harm someone. The Bible tells you in Ephesians 4:30-31, don't do this. Hatred, this can happen if you take everything personal. Write it off, turn it over to the Supreme Court of Heaven, move on, don't dwell on it. I mean, do you actually think that you could do a better job judging than God did? Do you think you know more than God in judging the evil person or the evil organization and what they did or what they did to you? Just remember this, the Lord Jesus Christ died for everybody. He died for all races and for all denominations and for all political parties. He gave His life to atone for all, not just the people that we like. So we stand down, we confess our sin of bitterness, our sin of implacability, and as the Bible tells us, we pray for our enemies. You know self-righteous arrogance is blind. You won't see yourself as you really are, you'll see yourself as you think you are. Self-righteous arrogance is blind and fragmented. Therefore, when you go to the Supreme Court of Heaven to get justice and this justice results in what you wind up getting as the guilty party because you didn't keep your mouth shut. You ran this person down, you ran this organization down, you ran this party down. You got on the internet and sent out little nasty notes or said nasty things and now you're the one getting judged because you didn't keep your mouth shut. As a victim of injustice you must not become vindictive, you must not become implacable, you must not get bitter or seek revenge by trying to vilify someone because then you're in trouble. If you'll just go right to the Supreme Court of Heaven immediately, the Supreme Court of Heaven will handle it and take the monkey off your back. You don't worry about it and you

can relax. If we get angry, we get bitter, we should confess our sin first instead of going right to the Supreme Court of Heaven. **So if you're a victim of injustice, you have one of two options, the option of the faith-rest drill as a plaintiff to the Supreme Court of Heaven, standing on the promises of God, keeping your mouth shut.** Isaiah 54:17, *"No weapon that is formed against you can ever harm you, never hurt you. This is the inheritance of the Lord,"* that's a great verse. So you can use the faith-rest drill, there are over 7,000 promises in the Bible for you. **Or you can react with mental attitude sins, you can react with verbal sins, and you can give into the temptation to seek revenge and to get even. When you do this, you're going to be judged.** So before you react to any injustice you've faced, before you begin to slander somebody for their misrepresentation or maltreatment of you, vilify their character and assassinate them in some form because of what they said about you, remember there is a Supreme Court in heaven. You think you are the plaintiff and in reality you wind up being the defendant because you came before the Supreme Court of Heaven full of mental attitude sins and you wind up getting judged. Matthew 7:1-7, take your Bible and read it carefully. Pray over it and see what we're talking about. If you have to complain, do not complain to others, do not complain period, the Bible is clear about this. James 5:9, *"Do not complain against one another so that you may not be judged. Behold, the judge is standing at the door."* Philippians 2:4, *"Do not complain."* If you have bitterness in your soul, which is an arrogance sin, it will motivate you to complain and it will destroy you. **All people who habitually complain are bitter, self-centered and have no self-esteem.** Most people think you have a right to complain but you don't. Philippians 2:13-14, *"For God the Holy Spirit works in you both to will and to do His good pleasure. So do all things without complaining, [without whining, faultfinding, grumbling, dissatisfaction or irritation]. Do all things without complaining or without strife."* Why? *"So that you will prove yourself to be blameless and innocent children of God, above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you should appear as light in the world."* That's what our Lord said in Matthew 5, *"You are the light to the world."* Matthew 5:11, *"Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me."* **One of the reasons you're unhappy today is you haven't turned it over to the Supreme Court of Heaven, you tried to handle it yourself.** You're angry, you're upset because of something that's happened politically or personally or physically. Unless you get rid of this bitterness and mental attitude sinning, unless you turn it over to the Supreme Court of Heaven, you're never going to be happy and you're going to be disciplined by God for doing what is His job to do. Don't stick your nose into God's business, stay out of it. Let the Supreme Court of Heaven handle it. **God is perfectly capable of handling everything that is going on in America today.** He knows who's evil and who's not evil. He knows who's lying and scheming. He knows who's told the public lie. He knows all this and nobody will get away with anything. So relax, sit back, watch what God does. You can actually have a sense of humor and say, "These poor suckers don't have a clue what's coming their way." **God will not tolerate evil, evil will not win.** Until next week, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening.

Prayer Protocol

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 817 aired on April 18, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. FLOT is a military acronym for the forward line of troops. What we're trying to teach on the FLOT Line is how there are some wonderful problem-solving devices found in the Bible and if you will learn these 10 problem-solving devices, they will act as a main line of resistance in your soul a FLOT Line, so you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. **Adversity is inevitable but stress is optional because adversity is what circumstances do to you and stress is what you do to yourself.** We are in a lot of new radio markets, over one hundred stations across America are playing this show this morning, and some may be thinking, "How can this show benefit me?" Fair question and here's the answer. As I expand and add stations, I take comfort in God's grace provisions. He always provides what I need. My objective is to feed you the Word of God, not to make you wealthy financially. Listen to what the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 4:7, "*We have this treasure in earthly vessels so that the surpassing greatness of the power of God will be not from ourselves but of God.*" There is a treasure for you to learn, it's in the Bible. Treasure is the word *thesaurus*, you know this word. A thesaurus is a book you look up words and the treasure is a *thesaurus*, the Greek word meaning word treasure. There is a word treasure found in the Bible for you and if you learn God's Word, it will make you rich spiritually. Colossians 2:3 says, "*That their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love and attaining to all the wealth [there it is, wealth] that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in the true knowledge of the mystery of God that is Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*" The wealth I'm talking about is the treasure of wisdom and knowledge. Wisdom and knowledge give you insight and discernment that other people don't have. It's a wonderful thing to have Biblical wisdom. The Bible says in Proverbs 3:13, "*How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding, for the profit of wisdom is better than the profit of silver and the gain of wisdom is better than fine gold because wisdom is more precious than jewels and nothing can compare with wisdom.*" This is exactly what God said in Jeremiah. He said, "*I'm looking for people that know Me and understand Me,*" and understanding is one of the horsemen of wisdom. Wisdom, insight, understanding and discernment, God wants you to understand Him. **This means that God operates under a word I'm going to teach you today called protocol. Protocol simply means that a right thing has to be done in the right way or it's wrong.** When I played college football, I was given a playbook and I was told to learn these plays and if I did not know the plays, it didn't make any difference how big I was, how strong I was, how handsome I was. It didn't make any difference how fast I was. If I did not know the plays I was not going to get in the game and be able to perform. God requires you to know the plays. He requires you to understand protocol when you're dealing with Him. That's why the Bible says, "*Study to show yourself approved unto God,*" this means you could be a starter on God's team. "*Study to show*

yourself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.” The word study is a verb and it's not a request. It's actually a mandate that we are to grow, another verb, *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* You can't grow if you don't study. You can't grow by taking a Bible, going out and sitting in the woods, sitting under a tree, and contemplating infinity. That's not spiritual growth. If you're going to grow spiritually, you have to learn the Bible. Why is this necessary? Because here's what Jesus Christ said, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus,”* Philippians 2:5. We have to learn what He thought, how He thought, how He lived His life. The unique life the Lord Jesus Christ left us is called the Christian life. He was the first one to live it, no one in the Old Testament lived it. This Christian life is made up of these 10 unique problem-solving devices that we'll talk about. Now our Lord Jesus Christ never needed to use rebound, problem-solving device number one. He never needed to use this because He never sinned. He did not need to use occupation with Christ because He was Christ. These 10 unique problem-solving devices that we teach on this radio show are for you. They are designed for you so you can live your life with insight and understanding and discernment called the wisdom of God. And you will spare yourself a lot of trouble, you will spare yourself a lot of misery if you learn wisdom from the Word of God. One of the things that people need wisdom about is in prayer. I hear this, you hear it all the time as well. When something bad happens, people on the television or the radio will say, “Our thoughts and our prayers go out to you.” Well I hate to tell you this but probably, in my humble opinion, at least 90% of the prayers that are prayed never get answered because people do a right thing, which is prayer, but they do it in the wrong way and so it just seems to be a good luck statement. “Now we're praying for you,” or someone says, “I prayed about it and so I'm going to do it now because I prayed about it,” and it's like, “Okay, well what did God show you?” “Well, He showed me that I should do that anyhow, I prayed about it.” First of all, if God wants to speak to you, He's not going to do it out loud. He will do it through the Bible. He speaks through the Bible and when you read and study the Bible, you can hear God the Holy Spirit speaking to you. Verses come alive, you can relate to certain verses. That's why we're going to study what the Bible says about prayer, why sometimes your prayers never get answered. You may be doing the right thing, you may be praying, which you should do, but you may be doing it in the wrong way. If you do a right thing in a wrong way, it's still wrong. If you do a right thing in a right way, then it's right, it's correct. God wants your prayers to be answered, I can assure you of this. He said, *“Call upon Me and I'll show you great and mighty things,”* but if you don't do it in the right way, it's not going to get past the ceiling of your house or past the roof of your car, or past the foot of your bed, it's just noise. **Let me give you some reasons why prayer might not be answered. Here's one, if you're praying and you have known sin in your life, your prayer will not be answered.** Now let's determine what sin is. Sin can be something you think, sin can be something you say, or sin can be something that you do. A mental attitude sin would be worry, fear, bitterness, jealousy, implacability, irritability, a sin that you think. These are sins in the mind. You can think sin. You don't even have to get out of

your chair, you can sin in your chair. You can lust in your chair. Then there are sins of the tongue like gossip, slander, maligning, criticizing, backbiting, lying. And then there are overt sins like stealing, murder, fornication, adultery. When you commit a sin you break fellowship with God if in fact you are a Christian. **But if you're not a Christian, you will never get a prayer to God until you go through Christ because He said, "I am the way, I am the truth and I am the life and no man comes to the Father but by Me."** If you aren't a believer in Jesus Christ, the first prayer that you can ever pray that will be answered is Romans 10:13, "*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" Anyone who's not a Christian and who prays this prayer, "Heavenly Father, I know I'm lost. I know I'm not a Christian. I'm willing to receive Christ as my Savior," when you pray a prayer similar to this, according to this verse, "*Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" You are brought into the royal family of God by faith alone in what Christ did alone. It's faith alone in Christ alone and you demonstrate this faith in prayer, that's how you do it. That's how I became a Christian and that's how everybody becomes a Christian, we pray and ask God to save us from our sin which He's done through Jesus Christ on the cross. Now that I'm a Christian I have the opportunity to pray and communicate with my Heavenly Father but if I have unconfessed sin in my life, this prayer is not going to be answered. Psalm 66:18, "*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*" Let's assume you have a mental attitude sin. You were driving home on the interstate and somebody made you angry, somebody cut you off, somebody shot you the bird, somebody called you a dirty name, and you got all bent out of shape and your blood pressure went up and your ears started blowing out steam and your hair stood up on the back of your neck and you got really angry. You ran up beside him and shook your fist at him and yelled stuff at him and then you went home and got the food on the table that your spouse prepared and you bow your head and you say, "Thank You for our food today Heavenly Father." This prayer is not being answered because you broke fellowship with God back in the car when you got angry and lost your temper. You see what I'm saying? It can be in a church service. If two people hate each other in the church and the pastor calls one of them to pray, he may pray an eloquent prayer. He may pray a great prayer, and he may sound really spiritual but it's not going to go any higher than the roof of the church building if he has unconfessed sin in his life or hatred and bitterness and animosity toward another person in the congregation. If you can't forgive this person, the prayer is not going to be answered. Anytime you get sin in your life, if you don't deal with the sin, the prayer will not be answered. So how do I deal with the sin? It's very simple, 1 John 1:9, it's the rebound process, problem-solving device number one. "*If we confess our sin,*" if is a third class condition, maybe you will, maybe won't, "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to purify us from all wrongdoing,*" 1 John 1:9. When you know you've sinned, you don't promise God you'll never do it again. That's ridiculous, you'll probably do it another hundred times. You just go to the Father and admit what you did and don't try to cover it up. Don't lie about it. Don't act like you didn't do it. Go tell God what you did because if you do not go and admit the sin, you will come under discipline. It's called warning discipline, intense discipline,

and maybe, maybe even dying discipline. In Hebrews 12, the Bible says, *“Those that I love, I chasten and sometimes I scourge them with a whip and sometimes we’ve had earthly fathers that have disciplined us and we gave them respect. Shall we not much more respect God and live?”* As a child of God, if you are a child of God, He's not going to tolerate you as His child breaking fellowship with Him through your own arrogance and not admitting your sin. He will discipline you for this unless you deal with it yourself. So my suggestion, when you know you've committed a sin, if you want your prayers to be heard, then go and admit the sin to God first. *“If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and then to purify us from all of our wrongdoing.”* There is another issue here. **Before every prayer you must make sure there's no unconfessed sin in your life and then you must use God's process for prayer when you're praying.** I was with a friend the other day and he said, “Can I pray for you?” And I said, “Sure, yeah,” and you know what he did? He yelled out “Jesus, oh Jesus,” and I kind of opened one eye and looked at him like, “What’s going on over there?” When he got through praying I said, “That's great, but that prayer is not going to be answered,” and he looked at me like; “Well, what do you mean it’s not going to be answered?” I said, “Because you don't pray to Jesus. You pray to God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ.” Where does it say this in the Bible? Well, exactly where the Lord said this is how you pray. *“Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.”* He prayed to the Father. We pray to the Father in the name of the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit. Don't be praying to Jesus or the prayer is not going to be answered. Pray to the Father. In John 15:16, *“Whatever you ask in My Father's name, He will do it.”* That's the process for prayer. Then you have to use faith. If you don't have faith, what are you praying for? What are you asking for if you don't have faith? Listen to Matthew 21:22, *“All things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive,”* and that's faith. Believing is faith. Faith is a noun, believe is a verb, same word, *pistis* in the Greek or *pisteuo* in the Greek. One's a noun, one's a verb. So when you pray by faith, you believe God is going to answer the prayer unless you pray for something stupid and I've done this before. I bet you have too. Don't be praying to win a new Corvette at the lottery. **Don't be praying for something that's ridiculous, it's not going to get answered.** You don't need it and see a lot of people do this. I've had friends that were big lottery players and they've told me, “If the Lord will let me win this lottery then I'll give 10% of what I win to the church.” Well first of all, God doesn't need your measly 10% and He's not going to cut a deal with you to let you win the lottery so quit praying to win the lottery. If you want to pray for something, I'll tell you what to pray for here in a minute. **Wrong motivation is a reason prayer won't be answered.** In James 4:3, *“You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motivation,”* you ask for the wrong reason and that's not going to be answered. Listen to this, *“They cry out, but He does not answer because they're arrogant and God won't listen,”* Job 35:12. You can't cry out in arrogance, this means you want to do something your way, and be heard. Listen to me for a minute. Arrogant people justify why they're right and everybody else is wrong and arrogant people get self-absorbed. They're deluded because they don't see themselves as they really are, they see

themselves as they think they are. If you're arrogant and you're upset about something and you go to the Lord and you pray and you say, "God, show this person over there he's wrong. God show him that I'm right. God, show Him..." It's not going to be answered because you're praying out of your own arrogance. God was in business before you got here, God will be in business when you're gone. He didn't send you to straighten the world out I assure you. Handle your own business, don't judge people, don't stick your nose in someone else's process. Leave them alone, let the Lord handle it. **This prayer is not going to be answered if you're praying in arrogance, assuming that you're right and everybody else is wrong, because that's what the arrogant person does.** There's also another reason prayer doesn't get answered and this hits home, lack of domestic tranquility. The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:7, "*Honor each other so your prayers will not be hindered.*" If you're married and if you fight and you argue and you yell and you scream, you can forget about your prayers being answered because you're sinning when you do this. **Your prayers will not be answered if there is no domestic tranquility.** I hear it all the time, wives who hate their husbands, husbands who are jealous of their wives, husbands who hate their wives, husbands who treat their wives like dirt, wives who treat their husbands like dirt, say nasty things, and then want to pray and ask God, especially if they get sick. You know, they get sick and have to go to the doctor and then they start sending out letters like emails and Facebook and Instagram, "Pray for me. Pray for me that the Lord will heal me." It's not going to happen because there is no domestic tranquility. You're asking for other people to pray for you. Nothing wrong with doing this, I mean it's legitimate for me to pray for you, but if you pray for yourself, you've got to learn how to deal with your own sin and your own hatred and bitterness toward your spouse. **Here's another reason your prayer will not be answered, you're not growing spiritually so as a result of this you don't even know what to pray about.** The Bible tells you, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to Him be the glory.*" If you aren't growing spiritually, if that's not a priority in your life, you cannot expect God to give you what you're asking for, okay? We have a card I want to send you. It's a bookmark, it's not very big. It will fit in your Bible. It shows 10 reasons why your prayers are not answered and basically what I've been dealing with right here. If you'd like to have it, just contact us. There's no charge, it's free. Don't send money, we're not asking for money. We will be happy to send you this and on the backside of the card, there's the protocol of prayer that I want to give you before we close out today because protocol in prayer is important. This is what you need to understand if you're going to pray. God designed prayer to be done the correct way. He has a protocol for how to come to Him in prayer, how to enter His throne room of grace. **If you don't follow God's protocol, your prayer won't be answered.** Number one, make sure you're filled with the Holy Spirit by confessing any of your known sins to God the Father, 1 John 1:9. Then when you pray, pray to the Father not to Jesus, not to the Holy Spirit. What should I pray? **The prayer of gratitude is where you give adoration and thanksgiving to God for His daily grace provisions.** The Bible says in Colossians 4:2, "*Devote yourself to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.*" Have you ever prayed and thanked God for saving

you? Have you ever prayed and thanked God for giving you life, giving you an opportunity to represent Him, to know Him by His Word? Have you ever thanked God for His justice and His righteousness and His grace? I mean if you don't know God, how could you thank Him? This is what's important. God said, *"I want people to know Me and understand Me,"* and a lot of people know God but they don't understand the God they know. Do you understand who God is? Do you understand He's omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, immutability and veracity? Do you even know what this means? If you want to give some gratitude, thank Him that God never lies, He's veracity, He's absolute truth. Thank Him for His immutability, He never changes. He's the same yesterday, today and forever. Thank Him for His omnipresence, that He's with you wherever you may go. That's gratitude and thanksgiving and that's a wonderful way to pray. **You can also intercede for others. You can pray for other people, pray for your nation, pray for the leaders of our nation.** 2 Chronicles 7:14 is a very famous verse that says, *"If My people that are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their sin, then I'll hear their prayer and heal their land."* The solution to what's going on in this country today, the chaos, are the believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. It's not a politician that you can elect. I don't care who's in office, he can't handle the problem. People have sin natures. But once a person believes in Christ he can change the way he thinks. This is 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."* God wants you to change the way you think, to divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint. This means you acquire the mind of Christ, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus,"* 1 Corinthians 2:16. You acquire the mind of Christ by learning from a well-qualified pastor teach you the Bible and applying it in your life. Listen to what Christ says, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it."* Intercessory prayer is praying for other people. Pray for me please, pray for our radio shows. **There's also the prayer of petition and supplication. This is where you can pray for yourself and pray for the food that you're about to consume.** Ask the Lord to sanctify your food, 1 Timothy 4:4-5. *"Father, sanctify the food before I eat it. Set it apart, protect me"* You can pray for yourself, Hebrews 4:16. There is nothing wrong with praying for yourself, for your needs, that you would understand what's happening in your life, understand His will and direction for your life, praying that He will give you the ability to communicate with your children, with your spouse. Why do I pray? To get help when I need it. The Bible says, *"Let us draw near with confidence to the throne room of grace so that we can receive mercy and find grace in time of need."* God is waiting to help you but you're going to have to ask. He's not going to overrule your volition. If you want wisdom, you must decide to learn the Bible to understand God's will for your life. *"Pray without ceasing,"* 1 Thessalonians 5:17, and *"Call upon Me and I will show you great and mighty things,"* Jeremiah 33:3. The Bible says turn it over to God, let Him handle it. **Be patient, be persistent in your prayers and God will answer in His timing,** maybe not your timing but in His timing. If you want our prayer bookmark, contact us.

Christ's Joy in You

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 818 aired on April 25, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. You're responsible for your own life. We say, **bad decisions limit future options**. Of course the worst decision anyone could ever make is to reject Christ as Savior because there's no answer to this if you reject the free gift of eternal life that God gives to you. A few months ago, I talked with you about a lesson that Jesus Christ our Savior reviewed with His disciples the night of the Last Supper. You might remember John 13 where He had the Last Supper and then He got up and disrobed and began to wash the disciples' feet and went on to teach them some major doctrines. He taught them at least 18 different important lessons that night, between the time they had the Last Supper and the time that He was arrested. This was to give them comfort and encouragement. They were going to need to apply these things in the days ahead, in the years ahead as they faced unbelievable adversity. The Lord Jesus Christ called them "*These Things*" in John 15:11. He said, I'll quote it to you, "*These things are spoken to you so My joy might remain in you, and your joy might be full.*" **During the Last Supper the Lord Jesus Christ taught His disciples, and He teaches us by the Word of the Scripture, how to have God's joy. This joy produces two things. It produces happiness and contentment in your life.** We have the opportunity to have the joy of Jesus Christ in us, and that's pretty amazing, but we have to learn a few things just as the disciples did. How can you have *My joy* if you don't know what He told them? It's imperative that you read John 13 through John 15:11 and you will see what *These Things* relate to. **You can have the joy of Jesus Christ in you.** This means the very same comfort He had in those last hours before He went to the cross, the same encouragement He had, you can have as you live your life. There's going to come a time in the future, very near future, when you're called to need this comfort and this encouragement because we're facing a train wreck in this nation. We've been saying it for quite a while now and I think if you look at the trends of history you can see it coming. It may not be roaring down the tracks 100 miles an hour but it is coming. Everything that use to be evil is now good, it's okay now, and everything that use to be good is now evil. We can't continue this way. America has kind of flip-flopped and inverted values and the wrong people are running the show right now. Unless believers like you and like me, unless we get our act together, we're not going to have a free nation much longer. I'm not a political person who's trying to promote political overthrow of the government, I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about your spiritual life. As goes your spiritual life, so goes the future of this country. You are critical because you must be part of the pivot, the core group of mature believers that sustain God's grace in the nation. How can you do this? How can you have Christ's joy in you? I want to tell you how, listen up, this is how. It starts first of all by becoming a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. **You can't possess what Christ possessed if you don't have Him. The Bible says in Acts 16:31, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."** You must **Be Saved**. This was what Paul told the Roman jailer. Then in John 14:6 listen to this, "*I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life. No one comes*

to the Father except through Me.” This is pretty evident and pretty clear. As He told the disciples, the only way to come to the Father is through the Son which is the Lord Jesus Christ. So many people try to get to God on their own and God says in Jeremiah, *“I wish you understood Me and knew Me.”* He's looking for people that know Him and understand Him and it's very possible that you may know God, but not understand the God you know. We've talked about that many times before. What the righteousness of God rejects, the justice of God judges. I will say this again, what the righteousness of God rejects, the justice of God judges. Very clearly the Bible says, *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God by means of Him.”* The only way we can ever have a relationship with God is through Christ because the Bible says, *“There are none that are righteous, not even one.”* So in spite of all of your good deeds, in spite of all of your human efforts to be rewarded with eternal life, it will not work because the Bible says, *“Our righteousnesses are offensive to God. They are like a filthy rag in His eyes.”* The only righteousness that God will accept is the righteousness of Christ and again I repeat the verse, *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us so we might be made the righteousness of God by means of Him.”* When you put your faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross, then His righteousness is given to you. When He says, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me,”* this is what He is referring to. If you want to have the joy that we are talking about, the happiness and the contentment that the Lord Jesus Christ had, the comfort that He had in His life, it starts with knowing Him as your Savior. Now, once you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Savior, this doesn't mean you're going to be perfect, not by any means. I remember when I accepted Christ, it didn't take me but a couple hours to sin again. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are perfectly capable of sinning. I had a man tell me one time, “I don't sin anymore,” and I thought really? By the time we got through talking, he was so angry he could have broken my neck. He was sinning and he wouldn't admit it. He was angry, bitter because I challenged his false belief. You and I can sin and probably the last time you sinned was on the interstate, I know, or even with your family. We sin, mental attitude sin, sins of the tongue, overt sins, they're all there. And so when we sin, we must be sure that we are cleansed from our sin and this is what the whole illustration in John 13 is about. The foot washing illustration when Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, He was cleansing them of their temporal sins. Peter misunderstood and asked for a whole bath and Jesus said, “You don't need a bath. You just need your feet washed.” Anytime you and I use the rebound technique, which is problem-solving device number one found in 1 John 1:9, we are in effect having our dirty feet cleansed. The Bible says, *“If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all wrongdoing,”* but it's a third class condition. It says if, if, if, if we confess. The verb is confess and it's potential, it's subjective, maybe you will and maybe you won't. But *“If you will name your sin to God, He is faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness,”* this is how you are filled with the Holy Spirit. It's not some second blessing that you sit under the apple tree and the apple falls out and bonks you on the head and now you're filled with the Holy Spirit. You are

sealed with the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 1:13, the day you get saved. You're indwelt with the Holy Spirit the day you get saved. You're filled with the Holy Spirit the day you get saved until you commit your first sin. Then you don't lose the indwelling and you don't lose the sealing but you certainly lose the filling because you quench and grieve the Holy Spirit. **Therefore, if you're going to have this joy that we're talking about, you must Be Cleansed on a consistent basis in your life, moment by moment, day by day, by using rebound when you sin.** Don't wait until you go to bed at night and get down beside your bed and say, "Dear Lord, at 8 o'clock this morning, I got angry, lost my temper," because the Bible says, *"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another but if we walk in darkness, we lie and the truth is not in us."* Here's the illustration. If you sinned at 8:03 this morning, you got into the darkness and you lived all day in the darkness which means you lived out of fellowship, quenching and grieving the Holy Spirit and now, before you go to bed you want to ask God to forgive you for the sins you did today, which means you go to sleep in the light. Why would you want to sleep in the light and walk in the darkness? This doesn't make sense. So whenever you sin, whenever I sin, I admit the sin immediately to the best of my ability. Sometimes there are sins I may do that I don't remember, but the Bible says, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness,"* all unrighteousness, even the ones I don't remember. If you're going to have this joy, you must be cleansed consistently every day, moment by moment. **Then you must Be Faithful, it's critical. God is looking for people that are faithful, people that learn and pay attention to His Word.** Listen to John 14:24, *"Anyone who does not love Me, you will not obey My teaching, [that's a lack of faithfulness] these words you hear are not My own, they belong to the Father, the One who sent Me."* All God expects out of you is fidelity, that's it, fidelity, faithfulness, faithfulness to obey His Word. In 1 John 5:3, *"If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard."* That's a great virtue in your life, having personal love for God. In 2 Peter 3:18, here is a command. If you love God, listen to this commandment, *"But grow in the grace of the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever,"* wow. Okay, so I am commanded, grow is a verb and it's an imperative verb in the Greek New Testament. I'm commanded to grow in grace, to understand living grace, saving grace, dying grace, surpassing grace. I am to have grace orientation which is problem-solving device number four in the FLOT line on your soul. When you understand grace, live by grace, appreciate grace, celebrate grace, then you understand how God's plan works. *"For by grace are you saved through faith. It is a gift of God not of works lest any man should brag about it."* Being faithful means you learn God's Word, you pay attention to God's Word, you obey God's Word on a consistent basis. **Then you must Be Compassionate in your life toward others.** The disciples were a lot of type A personalities and they had a lot of issues. They argued among themselves about who was the best and who was the least. Here's what the Lord Jesus Christ said in John 13:14, *"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet."* They never practiced foot washing. You won't find this in the New Testament as a Church Age practice. It was because it was a metaphor, an illustration of

forgiving each other for sin. Sometime or another you are going to be sinned against by a Christian in your church, in your home, in your community. Some Christian is going to say something about you or do something to you that is a sin and you can react and be bitter. You can be like this guy that I know in Georgia who said, "I'm putting your name in the book brother. Your name's going in the book and I'll get even with you." We don't put names in the book. We forgive as God forgives. It's a good thing God doesn't write your name in the book and come back and whop you in the head every time you do wrong. **We have to learn how to be compassionate for one another, forgive one another.** Listen to Colossians 3:12-13, "*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourself with compassion and kindness, humility, gentleness and patience and bear with each other and forgive one another and if any of you has a grievance against someone, forgive them as the Lord forgives you.*" It is very clear. How can you get around this? If you're listening to me today and you're bitter and angry toward an individual in your church or in your family, you are sinning, you're disobeying this mandate. The Bible says, "*Bear with each other and forgive one another,*" and this is not asking you, it's telling you. **Compassion requires humility, that's your personality profile, especially of a mature believer. You must Be Humble.** In John 15:4 the Bible says, "*Remain in Me as I remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself, you must remain in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me.*" Humility is you orienting to occupation with Christ, it's critical you understand this. Jesus Christ your Lord lives in you. Your body is now the temple of the Holy Spirit according to 1 Corinthians 3. The Shekinah Glory of the Old Testament that they worshiped now lives in you. You are the temple of God and you must have humility to understand. In Romans 12:3 for example, the Bible says, "*Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think. Think in terms of humility as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word.*" Your greatest enemy is arrogance. Most people never tell you this. Most people just say, "Don't sin brother, don't sin brother," but arrogance is the number one sin that we do. It's identified with self-justification. For example, if you justify why it's okay to do sin, you're arrogant and this self-justification leads to self-deception. You deceive yourself into thinking you're right and then self-deception leads to self-absorption. It's a three-step process. Arrogance includes self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption and this always inevitably leads to self-destruction. **You cannot afford to be arrogant. This is exactly what Satan will appeal to, your arrogance, to get you to try to justify why it's okay to commit some sin, justify why it's okay to be disobedient to God.** You can't do this. If you're going to have the happiness that we're talking about, if we're going to have the joy that Jesus Christ promised the disciples so they could have happiness and contentment, then you must remain filled with the Holy Spirit and you must have this humility profile. This doesn't mean you're weak and a wimp, this means that you orient to authority. If you can't handle authority, you're arrogant. Authority, you've got to be able to handle the police officer. You've got to be able to handle the authority of the school, the parents, the teachers, the principal, the police officer, the pastor. These are authorities in your life you must orient and adjust to including the

authority of the Word of God. It's "*Alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword,*" the Bible says, "*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.*" The authority of the Word of God, you must be obedient to this, stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance and self-justification. "I don't have to do this. That's written for somebody else, that's not written for me." You may try to justify your acts and say, "Well, if you knew what I was going through then you would understand why I'm doing what I'm doing." No, you're justifying why you're doing what you're doing. Arrogance is your number one enemy, my number one enemy. It was the thing that got Moses in trouble in the Old Testament at the rock of Meribah when God told him to simply speak to the rock and He would give the water, not get up and slap the rock with the rod of Aaron and give a long speech and call them a bunch of rebels, no. You must have humility, you must be compassionate, you must be in fellowship, you must be faithful. **Above all you must Be Confident, have confidence in God, that's a demonstration of your faith.** In John 15:7, "*If you remain in Me and if My words remain in you, then you can ask what you wish and it will be done for you.*" That's a great confidence factor. This doesn't mean you can ask for something stupid, a lot of people do this. They ask for stupid things and they don't get this answer. Whatever the will of God is, if you have confidence in Him and asked for it, He'll give it to you, maybe not in your time because you don't have the capacity to handle it yet. That's the key to it. There are a lot of things God would like to pour into your life but you can't handle it yet, it would destroy you and so He waits until you have the capacity or the contentment. You know what this means? It means it doesn't matter one way or the other. Paul said, "*I've learned to be content, whether I have a lot or a little, it doesn't make a difference.*" When you have contentment, then you're like a cup. God can fill your cup up and it can overflow and like David said, "*Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life. My cup runneth over.*" What a wonderful thing to be in the periphery of someone whose cup runs over and these blessings splash over on you. "*If you remain in Me, if My words remain in you, you can ask what you will and it will be done for you.*" Now listen to this verse, Isaiah 40:31. "*Those who have confidence in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles and they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*" That's the demonstration of confidence in your life, confident expectation. We call it hope in the Bible. The Greek word is *elpis* and it's confident expectation. You can, through God's Word and by the filling of the Holy Spirit, soar above any circumstances in your life. You can run whatever the race is and not grow weary and if you can't run, you can walk and not be faint. You know, you might not be able to run. You might be older now and you may have some ailments and you can't run but you can still walk. Walk and not faint, run and not be weary, soar above the circumstances, it's all related to your confidence and your trust in God's plan for your life. You know, this is why you can be an extraordinary individual. God takes nobodies and makes somebodies out of them and I hope He's done it with you. See, the Lord Jesus Christ said in John 14:12, "*Verily, very truly I tell you, whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing and they will do even greater works than these, because I'm going to the*

Father.” In Romans 1:16 Paul wrote, *“I’m not ashamed of the gospel of Christ because it’s the power of God to bring salvation to everyone who believes it, first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.”* **To Be Extraordinary, to be an extraordinary believer requires you to know God’s Word, to apply God’s Word, stay filled with the Holy Spirit, and to have confidence and faith in God and this makes you an extraordinary individual.** It gives you the opportunity to seize your mission. And what is your mission? Has God assigned the mission to you? Yes, that you re-present Jesus Christ to your friends and your family, that you re-present Him. This is why He said, *“You will do greater works than Me.”* Jesus Christ never travelled very far. He stayed in one central location around Caesarea and Jerusalem, but you can go all over the world. With the internet you can give the Word of God all over the world. With our podcasting, the podcasts of our radio shows are available in many, many different countries. We present our radio show on over 100 radio stations across America. That’s doing more than He did. He had to walk around but we have the electronic means, the electronic ability to re-present Christ. As we print material and print books and distribute these things from our ministry, then that’s what we’re doing. We are using the grace assets that God has provided us to make them available to you and we’re able to do greater things than what the disciples did. Jesus Christ telling them they would do greater things than He shook them up a little bit. *“How can we do more than the Lord’s done?”* Because He said, *“I’m going to leave and you’re going to be here behind Me, and you’re going to have to keep going and pick up the cross and follow Me.”* Then He said they needed to **Be Prepared.** You know, Satan’s world and his system are evil. Christ said in John 14:30, *“I’m not going to say much more for the prince of this world is coming, and He has no hold over Me.”* This is as He got to the end of His teaching message from John 13 to John 15:11. He knew He was going to be arrested and crucified. Satan is coming for you too. You have three enemies, the world, the flesh and the devil. Quite honestly, Satan’s not going to bother you if you can’t get victory over the flesh and over the world. However, if you learn enough of the Word of God to get victory over your flesh and to ignore the lures of the world, then he’s coming for you. Ephesians 6 says, *“Be strong in the Lord [your strength] and in His power.”* Then we have the mandate, *“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For we don’t wrestle against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of the dark world, against spiritual forces of evil, even in heavenly realms. So because of this, put on the full armor of God so that when the day of evil comes, you will be able to stand your ground and after you’ve done everything, to keep standing. Stand firm with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, the breastplate of righteousness, feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Picking up the shield of faith where you can extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. Put on the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word and pray on all occasions.”* Ephesians 6:10-18. Is your mandate. God provides the unique resource of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. **John 14:16, Jesus promised, “I will give you a Comforter. He’s the Spirit of truth and you will know Him because He will dwell in you, and abide with you forever.”** There’s so much more I’d like to tell you, I just don’t have time in a short radio show.

Whose Fool Are You

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 819 aired on May 2, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. We promise we won't lead you astray or bore you or mislead you. God has some wonderful problem-solving devices. If you learn and use them, they act as a main line of resistance in your soul because they 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 however, stress is optional. Adversity is what circumstances do to you but stress is what you do to yourself. This radio show teaches these 10 unique problem-solving devices such as rebound. How do we handle the problem of sin? We rebound, we confess our sin, 1 John 1:9, problem-solving device #1. Then we move to the filling of the Holy Spirit. This solves the problem of our genetically formed sin nature that is within us where the Bible says, *"There is a war going on within us, the flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh."* That's why some days you feel like a nut and some days you don't. That's why you can't always do what you wish you could do. Paul even put it the same way, *"I'd like to do what I want to do, but I don't always do what I want to do,"* Romans 7, you can read it for yourself. We have this battle going on within us and it's the sin nature versus God the Holy Spirit. As a Christian you have to decide which one you're going to let control your life. Then we have the faith-rest drill, problem-solving device number three. It's standing on the promises of God, tremendous promises of God, over 7,000 of them in the Bible, all for you just like a check you can cash in and depend on God to finance this cash. When you cash this check, He will back it up. Then there is grace orientation, Biblical orientation, having a personal sense of destiny, having personal love for God, having impersonal love for others, sharing the happiness of God, and then eventually occupation with Christ. Ten unique problem-solving devices. We have a book called *Christian Problem-Solving* that describes these in detail. We can supply this free of charge and you can read about it for yourself. We are currently broadcasting in all 50 states across the United States of America and this is a real test for us. This is the step of faith because we believe if God's in it, He will pay for it so I appreciate your prayers and your encouragement. Thank you for listening. Today I want to talk to you about a topic that is very interesting. It's called, "Whose Fool Are You?" The Greek word for fool, you've heard it before, it's *moros* and we get the word moron from this. You know, you remember when you were a kid, the little moron jokes? So the Greek word for fool is *moros*. That's a descriptive adjective of a foolish person who's dull, a sluggish individual. In Matthew 5:22 the Lord Jesus Christ said these words. *"But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without cause shall be in danger of the judgment. Whosoever shall say to his brother, 'raca,' shall be in danger of the council. But whosoever shall say, 'Thou fool,' shall be in danger of hell fire."* The scribes and the Pharisees said that a person who referred to another person as a *raca*, meaning an empty headed person, was in danger of being sued for libel before the council or the Sanhedrin. On the other hand, the Lord Jesus Christ said that whoever calls another person a fool will have to answer to God.

That's not saying that if you call someone a fool you're going to be condemned to hell, that's not what it is saying. But rather, Jesus is telling us that to utter such words is to place oneself in a worse condition at the time of judgment. Our Lord Jesus Christ is inferring that murder does indeed bring judgment but also anger, insolence, contemptuous speech which is just as evil, just as nasty, and will be punished just as greatly in time but not in eternity. Now when you get to heaven you're not going to be lined up and whipped because you did some bad things on the earth. That's not what this verse is saying. He is saying that these sorts of sins are punished in time, especially for a believer. When you break fellowship with God, you get angry, you lose your temper and you call somebody a fool - this is you blowing off steam, "You fool." You get angry driving down the interstate, someone cuts you off and you yell out to yourself, "You fool." You get out of fellowship with God when you do this. You break fellowship with God and by doing this, you quench the Holy Spirit and you grieve the Holy Spirit. He is not able to help you and when you break fellowship with God you get under control of your sin nature. As long as you're under control of your sin nature you're going to sin repeatedly and that's why God brings in discipline to straighten us out. Hebrews 12 talks about it, *"Those that He loves He chastens and sometimes has to scourge with a whip,"* so the Lord will discipline you for your mental attitude sins and your sins of the tongue. Now our Lord Jesus Christ gave this statement right after the Sermon on the Mount which we call the Beatitudes and it's right here that He put a significant importance on mental attitude sins and sins of the tongue, sins that people don't even realize they're doing sometimes. What He's not saying is that if you call someone a fool, you won't go to heaven, that's not what He's saying. What He is saying is we should be very careful when we accuse others of sin simply because we don't agree with them. Does the Bible talk about fools? Certainly it does. Listen to Ephesians 5:17, *"Wherefore be you not unwise,"* and the Greek word there is a fool, *"but understand what the will of the Lord is."* The word unwise is *aphron*, A.P.H.R.O.N. and that's an adjective meaning foolish or stupid or lacking common sense. The word is most often translated foolish although it's translated unwise here. In a modified expanded translation of this verse, I could put it like this to you. ***"Because of this, stop becoming fools"*** which essentially is letting your emotions rule your spiritual life. This is a challenge to the church at Ephesus to redeem the time since the days were evil. There's never been a more relevant statement for today. The brief periods that you go to church or attend worship are designed for you to learn something, not to get emotional. That's why we have a local body of believers in a local church. It's not a lonely hearts club. It's not a cruise ship. It's a classroom where you learn the Word of God. That's why the Bible says, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."* The teacher is the pastor, he has a spiritual gift called in the Greek New Testament the *poimen kai didaskalos*, the shepherd and the teacher. His job is to instruct you clearly what the Bible says and your job is to learn it and apply it into your life. If you don't have a local church, contact me. Maybe I can help you find a good one near you where there is a well-qualified pastor and if not, we can at least tell you where to order some information from people that I know that

are good. **The foolish believer does not redeem the time nor does he or she ever come to understand the will of God for their life because they never take time to learn it.** The plain truth is as Ecclesiastes 7:17 says, *“Do not be excessively wicked and don't be a fool. Why should you die before your time?”* God has appointed each one of us a certain amount of days. He knows the time and the manner and the place of our departure, but you can shorten this by getting out of fellowship, living under control of your sin nature, and coming under what we call the sin unto death. Let's get some principles here. Again the verse Ecclesiastes 7:17, *“Do not be excessively wicked and do not be a fool. Why should you die before your time?”* Excessively wicked relates to the arrogance complex of emotional sins. This verse implies that since God is responsible for our time on earth and the manner and place of departure that He always takes the wicked and the foolish first. These are the ones that go before they should go and there are a lot of people that checked out way too soon because they were stupid and did something stupid. There is timing for you both in life and in death. If you're out of sync with this timing, that's a disaster because it's probably the greatest disaster you can ever face in this life, to be out of sync with God's timing, to be ahead of Him or behind Him and not listening to Him. **The quickest way that you can become a fool is to feed your own arrogance.** Let me remind you about arrogance. Arrogance comes in four stages: self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption, and eventually self-destruction. An arrogant person will justify why he's right and maybe God is wrong. An arrogant person will not only lie to others but lie to himself and eventually become completely self-absorbed with whatever he's doing by justifying it. He may, if he's a believer, he may go under the sin unto death. Romans 1:22, *“Although they claim to be wise [they're really arrogant] they became fools and they change the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and the birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things, and because of this, God gave them up to the uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts. They dishonor their own bodies themselves, those who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, the One who is to be blessed forever, Amen.”* If you read that Romans 1:22 passage and read it completely through, you'll be shocked about what it's talking about. It's not my subject today, but this is what arrogance can do. It can take what's evil and make it sound like it's good and it will take what's good and turn it into evil and that's the genius of Satan. Arrogance is something you've got to avoid. When you get into arrogance you live like a fool because you justify why you're right and other people are wrong. Anger is an emotional sin of the fool. The Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes 7:9, *“Be not hasty in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of a fool.”* We see in **Proverbs 13:20 wise people don't associate with fools. “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of a fool will suffer misery.”** I advise you if you've got some friends that are stupid fools get away from them, they'll shorten your time on earth if you hang around them, I promise you. **The Bible says in Proverbs 17:25 that a foolish child is grief to their parents.** Proverbs 17:25, *“A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to the woman who gave birth to him.”* What's the profile of a fool when we study whose fool are you? *“A fool despises wisdom and instruction,”*

Proverbs 1:7. “A fool dies for lack of understanding,” Proverbs 19:21. The fool is wise in his own eyes, Proverbs 3:7, “Be not wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and depart from evil.” Be not wise in your own eyes. Respect the Lord and depart from evil. Here's another profile of the fool. Not only does he despise wisdom, not only does he die for lack of understanding, not only is he wise in his own eyes, but he's naïve. **The fool is naïve, Proverbs 1:22, “How long all you naïve ones will you love being stupid?” And Proverbs 12:25, “The way of the fool is right in his own eyes but he that will listen to counsel is wise.”** Finally, the human viewpoint of a fool is called human viewpoint, not divine viewpoint. He thinks in terms of human realms, not spiritual realms. Proverbs 29:11, “*A fool expresses his own emotions, but a wise person controls them.*” The Bible talks about atheistic fools in Psalm 14:1, “*The fool has said in his heart, there is no God.*” An atheistic fool has a mind with finite limitations that does not perceive God and therefore now he proclaims, “God doesn't exist.” Without faith he will never find God to start with because it's not through empirical data that one finds God, nor is it through rationalism, it's only through faith. The atheist, the Bible says, is a fool. The rich fool is found in Luke 12:16-20, “*And the Lord Jesus Christ spoke a parable unto them saying the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plenty and he thought to himself saying, ‘What shall I do with all this? I have no room to store up my fruits.’ And he said, ‘I know what I'll do, I'll pull down my barns and build bigger barns and I will store all my fruits and all my goods in these bigger barns.’ And then I'll say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have much goods laid up for many years so take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry.’ But God said unto him, ‘You are a fool because this night your soul will be required of you and then who shall all these things belong to?’*” This man has a false sense of values because wealth does not solve the problem of your eternal future. You know the Latin phrase, *sic transit Gloria mundi*, the glory of the world fades away. **In Mark 8:36, “What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?”** The fool we're talking about here is in trouble, he's the rich fool. Then there's the shameless fool in Proverbs 14:9 that makes a mockery of sin. He feels no guilt of sin. Sin always brings a barrage of God's judgment on us every time. He has to because His justice will judge us, Romans 6:23, “*The wages of sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” **Then there's the Christian fool, my favorite kind of fool. “We are fools for Christ sake,” 1 Corinthians 4:10.** Written by the apostle Paul after meeting the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus. Paul's days as an apostle were met with a lot of suffering, a lot of hardship, beaten by the Romans, stoned by the religious Hebrews, shipwrecked, robbed, cold, naked, exhausted but willing to suffer all of these hardships for Christ's sake. **In 1 Corinthians 3:18 Paul wrote, “Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seems to be wise in this world, let him become a fool so that he may be wise.”** This is interesting, Paul is saying you want to be wise, you've got to become a fool. This means you can't live by human viewpoint thinking. In Ephesians 5:17, again I remind you of this verse. “*Wherefore, be ye not foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is.*” So if you want to be wise, come to understand what the will of God is. This is a personal sense of destiny for you. Can I ask you a question? What is God's will for your life?

Where does He want you to be? What does He want you to do? What does He want you to say? There's His geographical will, there's a place God wants you to serve Him. Do you know where this is? There is something God wants you to say if you represent Him. Do you know what this is? I mean there is so much to understanding the will of God. We've done a series on it and I guess we're going to have to do another series on it, how to know the will of God. You can't afford to be unwise. You must understand what the will of God is. The fool is never interested in this. He's only interested in his own plan. You can be a fool for Christ if you wish, I hope you will be. You can be a fool if you want to be that rejects everything we've been talking about today or be a fool for Christ. There is a famous comedian that said, "You might be a redneck if you do these things." You might have heard him, Jeff Foxworthy. Here's something I'd like to run by you. You might be a fool for Christ if you believe some of these things I'm about to tell you. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the anointed Son of God? Do you believe this? In the Bible, in John chapter 13 going through John 15 as the Lord Jesus Christ instructed the disciples after the Last Supper, He said these words. He said, "*You believe in God, believe also in Me.*" He said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life and no man comes to the Father but by Me.*" Do you believe this? Are you foolish enough to believe that Jesus Christ is the anointed Son of God and it is only through Christ that you can have eternal life? Because there are a lot of people that would tell you you're a fool if you believe this. Do you believe it? Are you willing to be called a fool, are you? Are you willing to stand up in front of your friends and to testify that I believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to God and the only way to get to heaven is through Christ? Here's another question, do you believe the Bible is factual or literal? Do you believe that it's real? I mean some people don't believe it. Some people think it's just make-believe, it's full of stories. I hear it all the time, "Oh, there's other books, there's other Scriptures and why should I believe what's in there? It's written by men." Do you believe when it says, "*The Word of God is alive and powerful and 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?*" Do you believe, "*All Scripture is God breathed and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction, for correction in righteousness that the man of God might be mature, thoroughly furnished unto all good works?*" Do you believe this? Because the Bible is the inspired Word of God and "*The Word of God lives and abides forever.*" So even when you get to heaven the Bible's going to be there. The Word of God will be there. If God wants to speak to you, He will speak to you through this Bible, through the verses that are in the Bible. That's how you discover God's will for your life, through the Bible and hopefully you've got a well-qualified pastor to help you understand it. See, it was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, the *koine* Greek dialect of the New Testament. When we take the Bible and break it down line by line, word by word, verse by verse, it helps if you've got someone who understands the Greek language that it was written in and can help explain what various words mean. Do you believe the Bible is factual? Do you believe it's literal? Then you're a fool for Christ's sake, great, I'm proud of you. Do you believe in a literal hell and a literal Lake of Fire? If you do, you're a fool for Christ's

sake because there is a literal hell and there is a literal Lake of Fire and the Bible says, *“Whoever's name is not found written in the Lamb's book of life will be cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death,”* and here's the truth about it. You're either going to be born twice or die twice. The first death is physical and the second death, you are cast into the Lake of Fire, Revelation 20. The first birth, you're born physically. The second birth, you're born spiritually, born into the family of God through faith alone in Christ alone. Do you believe this? Do you believe in a literal hell and a literal Lake of Fire as the Bible talks about? Then you must be a fool for Christ's sake. Do you believe you can live a life free of worry and a life free of fear? The Bible says, *“Cast all your burdens upon Him for He cares for you.”* There are over 7,000 promises in the Bible I mentioned earlier. Do you believe they're there for you and you don't have to be afraid? *“Fear not, for I am with thee.”* When Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior told the disciples, *“I've told you these things so that My joy might be in you and your joy might be full,”* He's telling them there's a way to live free of worry. Even though He was leaving, there's a way to live, in spite of the adversity of what was coming, it was a way to live free of worry and free of fear. If you believe this, you might be a fool for Christ's sake. **Do you possess an objective optimism based on the promises of Scripture?** Because there are a lot of them there for you, a lot of promises right there in the Bible. God will never lie to you, we know this. This is what the Bible teaches us in 1 John 5, God would never lie. He's truthful, He's immutable, He doesn't change, and so if you have this faith, objective optimism, that's faith to the 10th power we call it, based on the promises of God. One of these promises is that when you die you will go to heaven. You will have eternal life. *“There will be no more pain, no more tears, no more sorrow. The old things will be passed away and all things become new.”* Do you believe this? Do you possess this faith on the promises of the Scripture? You might be a fool for Christ's sake. Do you believe God hears and answers your prayers as the Bible says He will? Then you might be a fool for Christ's sake. What can a fool for Christ expect from the cosmic system, from the world? Well, in Acts 5:40-41, *“They called the apostles in and had them beaten and they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus and they let them go and the apostles left the Sanhedrin rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the name of Jesus Christ.”* As a fool for Christ you may face this in your life too. **Would you be willing to “be counted worthy” to suffer for the name of Christ?** Then you might be a fool for Christ. **“I count it a joy to be a fool for Christ's sake,” 1 Corinthians 4:10.** I pray that you will too because the life that God has for you cannot be measured in human terms. It's an amazing life that starts with faith alone in Christ alone and as you grow and learn God's Word and apply it into your life, it's amazing the things that He has for you. I hope you're listening. I hope you're learning. I hope you stay in touch. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you now for listening to the FLOT Line.

Grace Transmitters

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 820 aired on May 9, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. The FLOT Line plays in 110 different cities this morning across America and in the Philippines. I hope you'll learn something today. We thank God who has given us this wonderful opportunity to do this. It is a step of faith on our part to broadcast on the 110 radio stations across this country because it's not free, I promise you. If the Lord's in it, He will pay for it, He always has. All of these radio stations that we broadcast on this morning are aired by use of what's called transmitters. You've got to have a transmitter or you can't transmit the radio waves. What's a transmitter? Well, it's some sort of equipment they use to generate and transmit electromagnetic waves carrying messages or signals. But it also can be a person or thing that transmits something. If you'll let me use this analogy of transmission, I want to show you how God will use you to transmit His Word to other people. How God will use you to communicate His plan and His purpose. The Christian life is about this. **Our spiritual lives are about conductivity, not activity, conductivity. It's through this conductivity that God's grace flows which is then converted into productivity.** Let me say it again, it is through conductivity that God's grace flows which is then converted into productivity. **We are the transmitters of God's grace provisions through Jesus Christ our Lord. That's our job, to be spiritual influencers in the devil's world.** The job of the mature believer, hopefully that's you, is to communicate and motivate those in your sphere of influence, your family, your friends and your associates. You know, my job is to locate positive volition, to find those of you that might be hungry and want to learn truth, that want to get this down and get it to where you can apply it into your life. So many people that I meet go to church and they know God, but they don't understand the God they know. It's really a tragic thing because God said, *"I'm looking for people [in Jeremiah] that know Me and understand Me."* And the objective of my radio shows is to locate those of you who want to understand the God you know, those of you that may be hungry, those of you that may have an intense hunger for knowledge. This knowledge, when you gain it is called wisdom. Biblical wisdom is phenomenal because it gives you insight and discernment that other people don't have, it's like having what I call spiritual x-ray vision. So we're playing this radio show in your city, wherever it may be from Detroit to California, hoping to find positive volition, hoping to find those of you that are hungry to learn the Word of God, hopefully from a well-qualified pastor because that's the way the program is set up in the Bible. That's the way God set it up. He gives men the gift of communication, pastor-teachers, their job is to communicate the Word of God on a consistent basis to their flock, to their congregation. I am not a pastor-teacher, I'm an evangelist and my job is to communicate the gospel and basic information to you. If you'd like to know where there is a well-qualified pastor in your area, then get ahold of me through our website. We'll try to link you up. Now let's move on. Here is God's thinking, clearly written, about you being a transmitter of God's grace. 2 Peter 3:9, *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some men count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us*

not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” We know right away that God doesn't desire for anyone to perish and go to the Lake of Fire. If you're listening today and you've never made a decision to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and the finished work that He did on the cross for you, His death, His burial, and His resurrection, then maybe you don't have eternal life. It's a fair question for me to ask you. If you died today do you think you'd go to heaven? That's a fair question, come on, answer the question. If you died today would you go to heaven? You may say, “Can anybody really know it for sure?” The answer is yes. The Bible says in 1 John 5:12-13, *“These things are written that you might know that you have eternal life, he that has the Son has life and he that has not the Son of God, hath not life.”* These are the words recorded by John in John 14:6 when the Lord Jesus Christ said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by Me.”* There's no way you can ever have a relationship with God unless you go through Christ Jesus. He said in John 6:29, *“This is the will of the One that sent Me, that you believe in Me whom He hath sent.”* The grace of God is very long-suffering, very patient, very slow to anger. Our Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross, paid for the sins of the world on that Roman cross, the cross that was meant to humiliate Him, meant to kill Him. It didn't. Everyone who's ever lived has had the opportunity to have redemption from the penalty of sin. Now when I say the cross didn't kill Him, the Bible says He willingly gave up His spirit. I mean, He could have called 10,000 angels to destroy the world and set Him free, isn't there a song like that? “He could have called 10,000 angels to destroy the world and set Him free but He died alone for you and me.” They didn't kill Him. He gave up His spirit, *“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit,”* He said, and so our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross physically, yes, but not by the hands of the Romans. By His own will He gave up His physical life. Spiritual death was His association with our sins when He cried out, *“eloi eloi lama sabachthani”* which was, *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”* When God the Father poured out all the sins of the world, my sin, your sin on Him, it was agonizing. The Father turned away, three hours of darkness, and on that cross the Lord Jesus Christ paid for our sin. They put Him in the grave. They said, “It's over. Everybody go home, that's the end of this.” But it wasn't the end of it, it was just the beginning because three days later He walked out alive. Alive and here's the most wonderful thing of all, He will come and live in you. *“Christ in you is the hope of glory,”* Paul said in Colossians 1:27. Jesus Christ will live and *“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* When I did this, it was the most significant decision I could ever make and at the age of 22 when I prayed and I asked God to save me and I told God that I was believing in Jesus Christ. A grace transmitter told me about the grace of God. A grace transmitter gave me the message of salvation and I responded to it. Everyone who's ever lived, you and I, we have the opportunity to have redemption from the penalty of our sins. Listen to Romans 3:23, *“For all have sinned and all fall short of the glory of God and all are justified freely by His grace,”* there's the grace I'm talking about. *“Justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus as God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement through the shedding of His blood, to be received by faith,”* Romans 3:23-24. The grace of God

demonstrated is Christ on that cross. *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life,”* that love is grace. **If you are going to be a grace transmitter you’re going to have to communicate this information to all in your periphery. Proverbs 11:30 says, “He who wins souls is wise.” Your job is to be a grace transmitter, to replicate the message, to put it out there. But to transmit grace requires some grace provisions.** You can't do it without grace provisions and the first one is the wonderful provision of the filling of the Holy Spirit. We get this by rebound, problem-solving device number one on the FLOT line of your soul. When you sin you have to be cleansed from your sin and the Bible says, *“If we will confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* That’s 1 John 1:9. When you rebound, you are filled with the Holy Spirit. When you sin, you quench the Holy Spirit and you grieve the Holy Spirit so when you rebound you reinstate the Holy Spirit in control of your life. This is a wonderful, wonderful provision that God gives. John 14:26, *“The advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I’ve said to you.”* This is what the Lord Jesus told the disciples after the Last Supper. *“The Holy Spirit is going to come and He will teach you and remind you of everything that I said to you.”* This is in John 13 through John 15:11 where He said, *“These things I told you.”* The filling of the Holy Spirit is a grace provision for you. And God provides you with the Bible, the Word of God a wonderful resource. I bet you have more than one. Hebrews 4:12, *“For the Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even to the dividing of soul and spirit and the joints and the marrow and is a critic of thoughts and intents of the heart.”* We have a Bible, a canon of Scripture, the written Word of God, it *“lasts and endures forever,”* and it will be in heaven with us I assure you. Then we have grace protection. First of all, all the information we need is in the Bible and we are told to, *“Study to show our self approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* The Bible is the Word of truth. We are told to *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* Growing in grace means we grow by what's in the Bible. We understand divine viewpoint as opposed to the evil of human viewpoint. There’s a lot of evil in the world today, human viewpoint thinking, and you may know it as socialism, progressive ideology, communism, and that's not what the Word of God teaches. The Word of God teaches faith alone in Christ alone and the Christian life is so much greater than all these other human ideas for equality. **The grace protection that God gives you is available to you as you transmit His Word.** You are told in Ephesians 6:11, *“Put on the full armor of God so you can take a stand against the devil's schemes.”* Satan has a strategy to defeat you, get you discouraged, put you on the sidelines. The Bible goes on to say in Ephesians 6:12-13, *“Because we don't struggle against flesh and blood. We struggle against rulers and against the authorities, against the powers of the dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places. Because of this put on the complete armor of God so that when the day of evil comes to you, you can keep standing your ground and after you've done everything, keep standing. [And then the challenge] Stand firm*

with the belt of truth buckled around your waist. Stand firm with the breastplate of righteousness in place. Stand firm with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace and in addition to all of this, take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.” There are so many problem-solving devices in there. The faith-rest drill is in there, *“Take up the shield of faith,”* there it is. *“The breastplate of righteousness,”* that's the righteousness of Christ given to you at salvation, unbelievable. *“The helmet of salvation,”* eternal security. *“The sword of the Spirit,”* the Word of God, there it is for you. This is your grace protection in the devil's world. You live in the devil's world. You live in the middle of the Angelic Conflict. If you ever intend to be a grace transmitter, let me assure you, you will wade into the conflict. A.K.A. the devil will not sit silently by and let you become a transmitter of the grace of God beginning with the information concerning Christ Jesus. There's another grace provision that God has for you, a well-qualified pastor. This changed my life once I found a well-qualified pastor that could teach me the Bible and not play games with me. Then I began to grow. Ephesians 4:11-17, *“Christ Himself gave apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastor-teachers, to equip His people for the work of the service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith.”* Unity is a big word today, I see it written everywhere, unity, but the unity that we are talking about is unity in the faith, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. When we become believers in Christ, we become members of the royal family of God and we are all equal in God's eyes, equal privilege, equal opportunity. You have the privilege to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you have the opportunity to become a winner believer in time. You have the opportunity to become a loser in time by not learning the Word of God, not paying attention to your spiritual life. Winding up in heaven, yes, with eternal life, but not hearing, *“Well done My good and faithful servant.”* We are to reach *“Unity in the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature believers, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, no longer tossed around by the waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching that comes up by cunning and craftiness of men who are deceitful in their schemes. Instead, speaking the truth in love we grow to become in every aspect the mature body of Christ Jesus, who is the head, that's Christ, and from Him the whole body is then joined together and held together by every supporting ligament and it grows and builds itself up in love as each part of it does it's work,”* Ephesians 4:13-16. That's a metaphor for the human body comparing it to the family of God in Christ Jesus. **There are two critical thought processes we have to learn to be grace transmitters. You and I must orient our lives to divine viewpoint which is doctrinal orientation, that's problem-solving device number five, and we must learn to operate under the concept of grace orientation which is problem-solving device number four.** We have rebound, number one. The filling of the Holy Spirit, number two. The faith-rest drill, number three. Grace orientation, number four. Doctrinal orientation, number five. A personal sense of destiny, number six. Personal love for God, number seven. Impersonal love for all mankind,

number eight. Sharing the happiness of God, number nine. Occupation with Christ, number 10. Now, if you'd like to have a book on these it's called *Christian Problem-Solving*. If I took time to teach them in detail which I've done on this radio show over the past 15 years, it could take several weeks to go through each of these. I want to focus right now on grace orientation, problem-solving device number four, grace orientation. Our Lord's disciples had to learn that their future ministries would be funded by grace and here's a principle I want you to always remember. This will help you, this will save you some money here. Grace ministries don't make an issue out of money. If someone's in the ministry and they're trying to sell you something, look out because if God's in it, God will pay for it and they don't have to raise money. 2 Corinthians 2:17, listen to what Paul said, *"We are not as so many who peddle the Word of God but as of sincerity as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ Jesus."* Peddling the Word of God, the biggest selling book in the world is the Bible, people peddle it. You've got The Hunter's Bible, The Lover's Bible, The Father's Bible, The Mother's Bible, The Student Bible, I mean come on seems every guy in the ministry writes a book and gets a contract with some publisher to publish his books, make a lot of money and there's a lot of famous preachers that publish a lot of books. **Stay away from people that sell the Word of God because God's plan is based on God's policy and that's always grace. Grace, free, free, it's free. Grace is God's system of administration for the body of Christ and grace is the means of conveying the power of God into the life of the ordinary believer like you and me.** That's why 1 Peter 5:5 says, *"Clothe yourself with humility toward one another because God makes war against the arrogant but gives grace to the humble believer; so humble yourself under the mighty hand of God that He may promote you at the proper time."* God gives grace to the humble believer. The arrogant believer is involved in self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption, eventually self-destruction. If you're in the ministry and you get into this concept of justifying why it's okay to sell your articles or sell your books, you say, "Well, we just want to get a little money to help pay for it," forget it. If God's in it, don't sell it, give it free. You got it free, you give it free. **Grace is all that God is free to do for mankind like you and me without compromising any of His divine essence.** By the way, do you know the essence of God? Do you know He's sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, immutability and veracity? Those ten things I just quoted, do you know any of these? You should. A well-qualified pastor would sure be teaching them to you. God's essence is what God is like. When God said He wants you to know Him and understand Him, He wants you to understand His assets. God cannot compromise His righteousness, it's impossible for Him to do. That's why the Bible says, *"He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we might be made the righteousness of God by means of Him."* That's why the Bible says, *"There are none that are righteous, not even one. All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag in God's eyes."* So there's no way that you can satisfy the justice of God by your own righteous deeds. That's why it says, *"For by grace you are saved through faith and not of works."* So if God accepted your works, He would have to compromise His righteousness. He will not compromise His righteousness. Here's a

principle you should remember. The justice of God is the guardian of the righteousness of God and what the righteousness of God rejects, the justice of God will judge every time. Grace is everything God's free to do for all of us without compromising His essence. There's pre-salvation grace, what a wonderful thing. That's the work of Christ on the cross being judged for our sins, Christ as a substitute. This happened before you ever accepted Him. That's pre-salvation grace, that's laying the groundwork for your salvation. Then there's saving grace, Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace are you saved through faith, it's a gift of God [as I've quoted already] not of works.*" And then there's post-salvation grace, 1 Peter 5:12, "*I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.*" Listen to 2 Peter 3:18, "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,*" that's post-salvation grace. The grace lifestyle is unbelievable. **The grace lifestyle is the most attractive thing the unbeliever can see.** When he sees somebody that's grace oriented, he's blown away with this sort of person who's grace oriented. **You can be the grace transmitter that transmits the wonderful Word of God to him but you've got to live by grace. You've got to understand the grace assets and grace provisions that you have.** There's nothing more fun for me than to grace somebody out. To pay for something they didn't earn, to give them something they don't deserve, to grace someone out just like God graces you and me out. We don't deserve to go to heaven and have eternal life, but He graced us out. Pre-salvation grace, saving grace, post-salvation grace, and then there is dying grace. Dying grace is for the winner believer and it's the divine vehicle for the transferring of an invisible hero from earth to heaven. Dying grace is the mature believer passing over the high golden bridge traveling from grace through grace to grace. **As a grace transmitter God has entrusted you with all of these divine truths. They are not for you to hide. They are for you to proclaim. This is your mission and why Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth,"** in Matthew 5:13. Salt. You're saved, S. You're anointed, A. You're a learner, L. And you're trusted, T. **You are salt: saved, anointed, a learner and trusted, and that's what God wants from you. He wants you to be the salt of the earth that acts as a preservative.** If there's ever any nation that needed salting today, it's us, America, client nation U.S.A. Mother's Day 2021. You need to be the salt of the earth, the preservative that holds this nation together, the extraordinary woman of Proverbs 31 with courage and character. Women and men - communicators of the grace of God. **Jesus said, "You are salt... You are the light of the world."** Don't put your light under some sort of bucket and hide it. Let it shine. **Let your light shine so that others can see Christ in you.** You are the light of this world and this light will take away the blackness of sin. If you will stay filled with the Holy Spirit, if you will learn and apply God's Word into your life, if you will reflect the thinking of Jesus Christ, if you will glorify God to the maximum, you will be indeed a grace transmitter but this won't happen with a one-shot decision. This is a day by day, moment by moment recognition of your need to stay filled with the Holy Spirit, take in the Word of God, grow in grace, and replicate the life of Christ. This is what you're here for. I hope this is clicking with you. If you like our radio show, let me know. This is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening.

Mental Dynamics

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 821 aired on May 16, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'd like to make you aware of our tremendous resource material, all free, including bookmarks. One we've had a lot of interest in lately is called *10 Reasons Your Prayers Aren't Answered*. Contact us if you'd like to get the free material. Let me give you a Scripture verse this morning before we dive into what I want to cover. Here's Proverbs 3:13, "*How blessed is the man [this means happiness] How happy is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding, for her profit [that's wisdom] is better than the profit of silver and her gain [that's wisdom] is better than the fine gold. She [that's wisdom] is more precious than jewels and nothing you desire compares with her.*" The wisdom of God is unbelievable and when you have the wisdom of God, you have an unbelievable wealth in your soul. What I'd like to try to share with you this morning is something I haven't heard many people talk about. I would like to talk to you about how you think, the mental dynamics of your soul. **The plain truth about your spiritual life, if you're a Christian, a believer in Jesus Christ, is that you are what you think, not what you think you are.** Proverbs 23:7 says, "*For as a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.*" The real you is the thought content of your soul, your motives, your intentions, your desires and when the Father wants to look at you, that's what He looks at. He's not concerned with your image and your style, what you're wearing or how you walk, what you look like. He's concerned with how you think. **Scripture tells us that once we become believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are to change the way we think.** We're not suppose to think the same way anymore. In Romans 12:2-3, "*Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind [this means changing the way you think] so that you may now be able to prove what is the will of God which is good and acceptable and perfect. For through the grace given to me, I'm saying to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to have sound judgment as God has allotted to each one of us a measure of faith.*" What Paul is saying there is, "*Stop thinking in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think,*" and this is a mandate for believers in Rome to quit being so self-centered. This is where the problem comes in. Listen to me very carefully, I want to give you some insight. Everything you do starts in your mind, everything you are is sourced in your mind. **Your mind is where you live the spiritual life.** What comes out of your mind is what comes out of your body. The body is a slave to the thoughts of the mind so to say and we have an enemy in the body, the sin nature, we know this. But we have victory in the mind through the Holy Spirit and the living Word of God. You've got to understand this, you are a product of what you think. Your mind is essential - not what you do, not how you act, not how holy you sound running around saying, "Brother this, Sister that, Praise God this and Holy God that." All this phony baloney stuff doesn't count. I know you may be sincere and you may be real about it, but it doesn't mean anything until you're thinking right. So this verse that I just gave you in Romans 12:2-3 is a mandate for those believers in Rome to quit being so self-centered.

The lure of the world is very, very strong, and that's called the cosmic system. It promises things it cannot deliver to you such as happiness and contentment, offering to find them in people or circumstances. **You can't find happiness and contentment in people or circumstances.** This is how the world lures you, it lures you through your emotions and your emotions are not thoughts, they are feelings. You're not designed to let your emotions run your soul because, I want you to understand, there is a constant appeal to your emotions every day through television, social media, friends and family. Somebody is always appealing to your emotions and **you have to learn not to let your emotions dictate your spiritual life.** The emotions have no place in the spiritual life except capacity to appreciate what God has done. There's nothing wrong with appreciating a sunrise, nothing wrong with appreciating a sunset, nothing wrong with appreciating something that God created but this is not how we worship God, in our emotions. **We worship God by what we think, by understanding Him.** That's why this passage says, *"Wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver and more precious than jewels because nothing can compare with her."* God wants you to have His wisdom and this verse tells you not to think in the way the world thinks. Don't conform to their way of thinking. The word conform is a verb in the New Testament pronounced *suschematizo* and it is the imperative mood which is a mood of direct spiritual command from God through the writing of Paul. Do not think like the world thinks, ***"Don't be conformed to the world,"* that's a command from God in Romans 12:2 and it simply means don't follow the patterns of the world or conform to the world's standards.** Politically this infers a lot to believers today who are assaulted with progressive ideology daily. Don't buy into this stuff. We've got several generations of young Americans who have been hammered daily with satanic viewpoint which is evil to the core and will eventually result in the destruction of this client nation if they continue to believe the false narratives they hear every day. They get it every day through social media, the influence of the news media, movies, television, music. Our young people are being assaulted every day to change the way they think, to line up with satanic viewpoint, the cosmic system of thinking. This verse tells a believer there must be a renewing of his mind. This is an adjustment of your moral and spiritual compass to be more like the thinking of Christ. That's why Philippians 2:5 says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus who humbled Himself [or who assumed a humility profile] that resulted in obedience."* If you're going to be obedient to God, it takes some humility. Arrogant people justify why they don't have to be obedient. Arrogant children justify why they don't have to obey their parents. Arrogant students justify why they don't have to obey the teacher. Arrogant citizens justify why they can revolt against the police and this is a lie. **You have to change the way you think and humility is required. A humility profile such as our Lord Jesus Christ had is required. And when we do this it is called taking on the mind of Christ, learning to think like He thought, having His mind. 1 Corinthians 2:16, "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him, but we have the mind of Christ."** The mind of Christ for you and me is called, and I'll give you a word I like to use, Bible doctrine. Bible doctrine refers to His instruction to His disciples and those disciples recorded it and passed it on to us in the New

Testament Scriptures. Here's what Jesus told the disciples in John 15:11, *“These things I taught you, so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”* *“These things”* refers to a lot of various doctrines He taught between John 13 and John 15:11. **The threat that you and I face from the devil's world is mental distractions.** That's our threat, mental distractions, trying to take charge of your mind so that they manipulate the way you think. Satan would like to manipulate your thoughts. **Satan wants to manipulate you by manipulating your thoughts and you must not allow this to happen.** You must not allow mental distractions to steal your thoughts because his objective as far as you and I are concerned is to frustrate the will of God in our lives mentally, geographically and operationally. And the devil often appeals to our own arrogance to lure us into his sort of cosmic thinking. For example, one of his favorite ways of doing this is to get you thinking you're doing something good to assuage your guilt complex or you're helping God, to get you involved in the improvement of the devil's world. These humanistic activities, becoming occupied with solutions to man's problems, advocating systems to improve man's environment, socialism, social activism, the welfare state, the social gospel, the whole bit, all of this is part of Satan's system. And if this doesn't work, then the inculcation of fear regarding death is the way he will go at you, that's his trump card he will play with you. So he wants to get you thinking away from Bible doctrine into helping the world and improving the world and it's his world. He's the god of this world the Bible tells us this. We don't even belong here, we're leaving, we're going somewhere else. But if he can get you involved in cleaning up his world, that's what he'll do and you'll waste your time. We do have a way to protect ourselves from these tactics and these schemes, but it really all depends on your humility. It all depends on your obedience. **It all depends on whether or not you're willing to learn and apply God's Word into your life** and that's what I've been hounding for 16 years on this radio show. Grow up, learn God's Word, apply it and glorify God. *“Study to show yourself approved unto God,* 2 Timothy 2:15. *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,”* 2 Peter 3:18. Two verses that are key. That's what it depends on, whether you will take the time to learn God's Word in your mind, put it in your thoughts, store it in your stream of consciousness, and use it when you have to. That's called application. But you know, I'm not naïve. Some of you may be just too lazy to spend the time necessary to renovate your thinking. You may think a simple, you know like “God help me” prayer will sustain you in times of adversity and that maybe God will miraculously give you an answer or miraculously give you the strength to handle the situation that you're going through, even though you neglected to prepare yourself for what was coming. You didn't learn God's Word, you didn't cycle it into your soul, you didn't put it in your stream of consciousness, you don't use it under the faith-rest drill. Then when you get into a situation, a problem, you're going to run and ask the preacher, “What should I do preacher?” Or you're going to call up one of your friends, “What should I do?” Or you're going to do the worst, “What would Jesus do?” What Jesus would do is He wouldn't think the way you're thinking, I can tell you that right now. He would use the faith-rest drill. So this is what I'm concerned with. Some people are just too lazy to *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord*

and Savior Jesus Christ.” Grow requires some effort, it requires you eating something nourishing for your soul and that's the teaching of the Word of God. It's foolish thinking that you can get by with just a simple prayer, a “God help me,” prayer. That's foolish thinking. You have to train your mind to spot evil. You have to train your mind to avoid distractions. And you must know when you're being manipulated by the world, being manipulated by the flesh, or even being manipulated by satanic forces. If you don't know this, I mean then you're going to go through life being a loser, never glorifying God to the max, never reaching your true spiritual potential because you wouldn't take the time that it requires to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I know you've got excuses, “My kids take a lot of time and I work and I don't have time to come home and study and I don't have time to listen to that pastor teach me the Bible and if I go to church for an hour a week, that's all I need.” You're kidding yourself. This is why your spiritual life is going nowhere. This is why you're still stuck in a rut spiritually because you won't put learning God's Word and applying God's Word under the filling of the Holy Spirit priority number one in your life. You're just not going to do it, you've got too many other irons in the fire don't you? All of this is taught in Ephesians 6:11-18 and I would like to try to explain how each one of our resources are related to what we think, because it's our mind that we have to transform. **Our minds must be transformed into thinking divine viewpoint over human viewpoint.** Human viewpoint is prevalent today, it's everywhere. And we have to learn not to buy into it. We have to learn how to think divine viewpoint and not be manipulated by this human viewpoint stuff. We have to train our minds so that we don't fall into the traps of the devil, so we don't get caught in his snares that lead to confusion and distraction or even failure spiritually. You don't want this to happen and I don't want this to happen. I want my audience to grow in the grace and the knowledge of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I want you to replicate the life of Christ. I want you to reflect Christ in you and you only do this by reflecting what He thought, not how you act, not acting all holy and acting like you're some kind of saint which anybody knows you're not. Let's look at what Paul taught about our resources, the resources we have to combat satanic attacks in our lives because these attacks are not the only attacks you'll face. We actually have three adversaries called the world, the flesh and the devil. The devil will use the world to lure you and he will use the flesh to ensnare you in your lust pattern. Let's take a look at the passage found in Ephesians 6:11-18. Here's where we get to the meat of what I want to teach you. We start off with the words, “*put on the armor of God.*” I'll read this passage to you if you'll let me, it's a lengthy passage so please bear with me. “*Put on the full armor of God so that you'll be able to stand firm against the strategy of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of darkness, and against spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything to stand firm. Stand firm, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. In addition to all of this, taking up the shield of faith with*

which you shall be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. With all prayer and all petition, pray at all times in the Spirit and with this in view be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for the saints.” I know I read a lot, but it's important because we're going to break this down for you. This will take a couple of weeks and if you hang with me, you're going to learn this. You're going to learn what the words “put on” mean. “Put on the full armor of God,” what in the world is put on referring to? I mean is it something you can literally pick up and wear? Can you go to the store and buy it and purchase it? No. **“Put on” is a mental attitude dynamic. It is you putting on the mind of Christ.** It is you preparing yourself mentally to go into war, to go into battle because we are facing the angelic conflict. We live in a war. The Bible says, “*The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh and they're contrary one to the other,*” so there's a war right there. We know that Satan hates you. We know that Satan would love to destroy you, defeat you and we know that Satan doesn't want to go to the Lake of Fire. There's the angelic conflict, Satan trying to vindicate himself and get out of God's just judgment. “Put on,” is an imperative mood and the verb in the Greek New Testament is the word *enduo*. It's an imperative, this is not a request. This is not Paul saying, “Hey guys, would you listen to me? You know, would you consider doing this?” No, this is Paul saying, “Put it on now, put on the armor of God.” This imperative mood means to clothe yourself, and it is not a literal change of clothes, but is an illustrative analogy to a Roman soldier putting on his uniform before he goes out to do battle. When it says “Put on” it's referring to you doing this mentally, mentally by use of these 10 problem-solving devices I've been teaching you for 16 years. These are your spiritual resources in the daily arena of contention. Do you know them? Do you understand the 10 problem-solving devices? Do you understand rebound? Do you understand the filling of the Holy Spirit? Do you understand the faith-rest drill? Do you understand grace orientation or doctrinal orientation? Do you understand a personal sense of destiny or personal love for God and impersonal love for others? Do you understand sharing the happiness of God or occupation with Christ? These are the 10 unique problem-solving devices. If you haven't heard them, write to me and I'll send you the book, *Christian Problem-Solving*. I'll send you a bookmark with all of them on it. This is not something I discovered. It's something my pastor taught many years ago. This has been in the Word of God forever. **These are unique problem-solving devices and when the Bible says, “Put on the armor of God,” this is what it's referring to. You do it in your mind.** It's not a physical act, it's a mental recall of all of the doctrine you've learned and possess. It's not a call to go to the quartermaster and be issued a uniform, you must already have it to put it on. It's called “*The whole armor of God,*” the Greek word *panoplia*, and it refers to every divine asset God provides you. These assets are in your thoughts if you've learned them. How can you use assets that you don't know? How can you put on something you don't even know you possess? That's why it's critical to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This takes place in your mind. **Your life, every day, is a battle for your thoughts and you can think divine viewpoint or you can think human viewpoint.** You can

think the mind of Christ or you can think the lure of the world, the deeds of the flesh. You're always thinking something. From the time you woke up this morning your mind kicked in gear. It might have been in gear in your subconscious last night, maybe you dream, then you're awake. Now what are you thinking? "I hate going to work. I hate this. I hate that." You're not thinking, you're emoting. You're letting your self-pity get in charge and your emotions are kicking in. This is not the spiritual life. The spiritual life is the whole armor of God and all these assets you've got are of God and from God. Put on the whole armor from God or literally supplied by God, from the source of God. This is a direct reference to Bible doctrine available to you through the pages of the Scripture and accessed by the filling of the Holy Spirit, hopefully taught to you by a well-qualified pastor. Again, these assets are called divine wisdom since they give you insight and discernment if you understand them. **If you've learned God's problem-solving devices and use them in your thoughts, then you will be using the mind of Christ and you won't be a Christian casualty in the arena of contention we call the angelic conflict.** We have a purpose clause in this passage, *"Put on the whole armor of God so that."* Why does Paul want you to put on the armor of God in your mind, in your thoughts, be prepared by the way you think? So that you will be able to stand against the strategy employed by the devil to defeat you. This refers to you succumbing to Satan's deceptive strategy that diverts you from reaching spiritual maturity and from ever glorifying God to the maximum. Maybe you should have already been a mature believer and you're not. You haven't spent time in the Word of God. You've been totally distracted and every now and then the Holy Spirit will tug at your heart, you'll say, "Oh, I'm going to do better," and you don't. Off you go down the My Way Highway again. If Satan can distract you, he will discourage you and he will defeat you. And he'll boast to God about your weakness and your failure. He's called an accuser in Revelation 12:10, *"Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ has come for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, the one who accuses them before God day and night.'" Yes, he has a dossier on you. 1 John 2:1-2, "Thank goodness for this my little children, I'm writing these things to you so you'll understand and won't sin. If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father which is Jesus Christ the righteous One and He Himself is our propitiation for our sins and not for ours only but for those of the whole world."* Your defense attorney is the Lord Jesus Christ and He can say, "Nope, this is our child. He [or she] has accepted Me as Savior, Satan has no right to them." This is wonderful. **Failure to learn and execute this spiritual life is a grievous sin and it's being committed by Christians in America on a daily basis.** Those who substitute ritual for reality, wonderful, kind Christians, maybe just like you, who settle for milk toast teaching and blundered their way through life, self-centered, discouraged and defeated. Christians who never glorify God because they cannot defend against the tactics of the enemy. I've tried to challenge you today to be the person God designed you to be, not to be some loser that doesn't ever get with it spiritually. Think about these things, pray over these things, consider them, and if you need to contact me, feel free to do so.

The Armor of God - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 822 aired on May 23, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, meaning you've trusted Him for your salvation, God has designed a unique way to live without stress. It's called a Christian mental attitude, having the right mindset. We've seen in the Bible, where we are to *"Let this mind be in us, that was also in Christ Jesus."* *"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."* **The Christian life is about training the way you think, changing the way you think, thinking divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint.** Most people have a tendency to think the Christian life is lived on the outside in the way you express yourself, how you dress, the way you talk, but the real you is the way you think. The Bible says, *"As a man thinks in his heart, so he is,"* (Proverbs 23:7). I want you to learn how to train your mind to spot evil, avoid distractions and to know when you're being manipulated by the world, the flesh, or even the devil. **You are what you think. Everything in your spiritual life goes on between your ears. As you think, so you do.** When God wants to check you out He looks at your motives, your intentions and your desires - your thoughts. That's the real you and where you really live. All of this is taught in Ephesians 6 about putting on the armor of God. **The armor of God is a mindset.** You have to transform the way you're thinking into divine viewpoint. Let's get this word straight, divine viewpoint. How did the Lord Jesus Christ think? *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus,"* this is divine viewpoint. If you ever hope to escape traps and snares that lead to confusion, distractions, spirituality failure, you have to train your mind. You have to look out for the way you think. This is some review. Ephesians 6:11-18, Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, ***"Put on the full armor of God so that,"*** that's a purpose clause, so that what? ***"You will be able to stand against the strategy of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of darkness, against spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places."*** It's because of this that you need to take up the full armor of God *"so you will be able to resist on the evil day [that's the day you're tempted and attacked] and having done everything [done your part in being prepared] you can stand firm. Stand firm having girded around your loins the belt of truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness, having shod your feet with the gospel of peace and in addition to all of this, taking up the shield of faith with which you be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one [we're going to study this piece by piece]. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. And with all prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for the saints."* I want to go back to the verb *enduo*, put on, it's an imperative mood verb. This is not Paul requesting you to do this. This is a divine command to put it on, cloth yourself. This is not a literal change of clothes, it's an illustrative analogy to the way the Roman soldier put on his uniform when he went to do battle. **For you it's a mind game, it's you**

changing the way you think. It's you changing the way you look at things. It's you changing the way you have desires and motivations. **Change the way you do this. "Put on" is referring to you doing this mentally, mentally by use of those 10 unique problem-solving devices that I teach called the FLOT line.** Problem-solving device number one, rebound. Problem-solving device number two, the filling of the Holy Spirit. Problem-solving device number three, the faith-rest drill. Problem-solving device number four, grace orientation. Number five, Biblical orientation and so forth, there are 10 of them. This is what I'm talking about, putting on, learning, using, applying these into your life, into your spiritual resources in the daily arena of contention that you live in. **This is a mental recall when it says put on. You can't put it on if you don't have it. You have to have learned it somewhere and already possess it.** It's not a call to go to the quartermaster and get issued a uniform that you don't already possess. Put on your uniform, every piece of the armor, the whole armor. The *panoplia*, the Greek word for armor is referring to every asset you've been provided by God during your time in the devil's world. That's what these 10 problem-solving devices are. They are your divinely provided assets and you must learn how to use them. Some people are not even aware they have them. The whole *panoplia*, put on the whole *panoplia* supplied by God the verse says, from the source of God. This is a direct reference to Bible doctrine available to you through the pages of the Holy Scripture and accessed by you being filled with the Holy Spirit, hopefully taught to you by a well-qualified pastor. These assets are called wisdom in the Scripture since they give you insight and discernment if you understand them, and if you learn them, and if you use them. **That's why the Bible verse says you can stand against the strategy of the devil if you put on this armor. You will have discernment, you'll have insight, you'll have understanding if you learn God's problem-solving devices and use them in your thoughts. Then you will be thinking like Christ thought and the end result will be you won't wind up being a Christian casualty in the arena of contention called the angelic conflict.** *"Put on this armor so that you will be able to stand against the strategy employed by the devil in order to defeat you."* This simply refers to you succumbing to Satan's deceptive strategy, the strategy that would divert you from ever reaching any spiritual maturity in your life or ever glorifying God to the maximum. Because if Satan can distract you, if Satan can discourage you, then he can defeat you and go to God and boast about your weakness and your failure. That's why he's called an accuser in the Bible in Revelation 12:10 and in 1 John 2:1-2. Don't make any mistake about what I'm telling you. If you fail to learn and fail to execute the spiritual life, it is a very grievous sin and it's being committed today by Christians in America on a daily basis because so many people substitute ritual for reality. You have to understand that God requires protocol. You can't make the rules up as you go along. You have to follow protocol. People say, "I'm going to pray for you." Well, wonderful, is your prayer going to go any higher than the ceiling? Because if you don't do a right thing in a right way, then it's going to be wrong. I told you last week, the week before too, we prepared a bookmark for you called *10 Reasons Why Your Prayers Might Not Be Answered*. You need to order this, it's free, no charge. Just give us an email, give us an address and we'll ship it out to

you. People have to understand God requires protocol. You can't make your own rules up. **You can't live the Christian life without the filling of the Holy Spirit, that's protocol. You don't glorify God without the filling of the Holy Spirit and the residence of wisdom of Bible doctrine in your soul, that's protocol.** The ones who settle for anything else, that settle for some milk-toast type teaching are the ones who blunder their way through life, usually self-centered, defeated, depressed, discouraged Christians who never glorify God because they can't defend against the tactics of the enemy. They're not ready. You have to understand, you have to get this down in your head. Hebrews 5:11-16, whoever wrote it, talked about those sort of people. People that were just milk-toast Christians, people that didn't want any in-depth study, they'd like to go do a little praise and worship, sing a few songs, go home, head to Luby's, head to the McDonald's, get a meal and go play golf. You know, that's the extent of their Christian life. Hebrews 5:11-16, *"I have a lot to say to you, but it's hard to explain to you because you're dull of hearing. Because by now you ought to be a teacher but instead you need someone to teach you again the elementary principles of the oracles of God [that's the protocol of God] and you have come to need milk not solid food. For anyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness he's an infant still. Solid food is for the mature believers who, because of practice have their senses trained to spot Satan's genius called good and evil,"* the genius of Satan. Are you one of these people? You've been saved a long time now. Can you teach the Word of God? Can you describe the Word of God? Can you work your way around through the Bible? Do you understand the protocol plan of God? That's why we're talking about these satanic forces in Ephesians 6:12, *"Because we wrestle not against flesh and blood."* I mean you've seen World Wrestling Entertainment on television, but this is the real unseen enemy that will attempt to throw you to the ground and stand over you laughing if you're dumb enough to let him defeat you. **To the extent that you ignore the filling of the Holy Spirit, to the extent that you ignore learning the Word of God, to the extent that you don't use the 10 problem-solving devices, you will be laughed at by the angelic forces of God.** Yep, the angelic conflict is real and going on. They are trying to attack you, fallen angels called demons, satanic forces, anything to keep you from glorifying God, anything to impugn the name of God. Your failures, your weaknesses, your flaws, Satan immediately goes to heaven and says, "Look at this great Christian, look what he just did, look what she just did." Thank goodness we have an adversary, the Lord Jesus Christ, that stands with us. He stands with us and says when Satan goes to accuse us, He says, "Wait a minute now. This is My child. I know he's done some dumb things but he's saved," 1 John 2:1. We don't wrestle against flesh and blood, these are angelic creatures, fallen angels that we fight against. The first is identified as principalities which is a reference to the organized structure of Satan's military forces. It's called an *arche*, A.R.C.H.E., beginning with the leaders, the ones that are about to be identified. Satan has a complete military force lined up just like God does in heaven. God has angels. God has different ranks among angels: four wings, six wings, no wings. It's the same thing, these are fallen angels. So Paul said, *"We wrestle against powers,"* *exousia*, the ones who have the power or the authority to carry out Satan's orders. These are the officers in

Satan's demonic forces. These are the colonels and the captains and the majors, you've got to understand Satan is much smarter than any of us and he has a complete demonic army at his command. They are one third of the host of heaven that fell out with him. Do you remember Revelation 12:7-9? *"There was war in heaven and Michael and his angels waged war with the dragon. The dragon, [Satan, a.k.a. the devil] and his angels waged war with Michael and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown out of heaven, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world and he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels thrown down with him."* 2 Peter 2:4, *"For if God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them into hell and committed them to the pit of darkness reserved for judgment."* These fallen angels have rank and order as explained in this passage that we're looking at now. They are *arches*, they're rulers, rulers of darkness, *kosmokrator* is the Greek word there, darkness, rulers of darkness. It's a combination of two words *kosmos* is the world, *krateo* is a master of the world, a master of the darkness of the *skotos*, the darkness of the world. The word *skotos* means blind. It's used as a metaphor for those that are ignorant of any divine things or any human duties that result in ungodliness and immorality, along with their own consequences. They're the rulers of the darkness of this world, the *kosmokrator* of the *skotos*. **Without the Word of God you are walking in darkness. Without understanding and knowing the Word of God, you have no discernment, you have no insight, you are faking it through life.** As they say in the military, "Fake it until you make it." That's what you've been doing for a while. Are you not tired of this? Are you not ready to get with the program and grow to be the person God wants you to be? Why do you think the Bible says in 2 Peter 3:18, *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?"* Why do you think Jesus said in Matthew 11:29-30, *"Take My yoke and learn of Me. My yoke is easy, My burden is light?"* He wants you to grow up. He wants you to be a mature believer because it's here that you glorify God to the maximum. When I'm saying mature believer, I'm talking about the believer that understands these 10 problem-solving devices, that understands the protocol plan of God, that consistently learns and applies God's Word to his life. Because the Lord Jesus Christ said, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and who keep it,"* Luke 11:28. The message that the Lord Jesus Christ gave to Paul at his conversion is a very simple message. He commissioned Paul to be an apostle to the Gentiles. Acts 26:17, *"Rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I'm sending you now to open their eyes so they may turn from darkness to light, turn from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sin and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."* Who are the people living in darkness? The people that have no light, who are they? The people that don't know the Word of God, they don't know the gospel, the saving message of Jesus Christ. That's why Christ said in Matthew 5:14 and 16, *"You are the light of the world."* *"Let your light shine."* In darkness there is no light. **So if people are living in darkness, they have no light to see the truth. The Word of God brings light to the darkness or insight to their soul.** Listen to 2 Corinthians 4:6, *"For God who said,*

'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the One who is shown into our hearts to give us the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Wow. The gospel is a bright light and it attracts people, it brings people, and it shines into our hearts. What does it do when it shines? It shows us our sin. It opens our eyes to who we are. It lets us see what we really are because when we're walking in darkness, we don't know what we are. The knowledge of Christ's sacrifice and redemptive work on the cross is a light to man walking in darkness. And if you'll notice the word knowledge, again, *"For God who said, Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the One who has shone in our hearts to give us the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."* **The knowledge of Christ's sacrifice, the knowledge of His redemptive work on the cross, is light to man who walks in darkness. Knowledge is the source of the light. It enlightens the mind.** Satan's objective for the lost is to keep them from gaining any knowledge of the cross, to keep them in the darkness, all the while exposing them to his evil schemes in the angelic conflict on a daily basis. **Without the Word of God in your soul you will never see what's happening to you. You'll be walking in darkness.** You're not going to have much light if you just go to church once a week on Sunday morning and play the little game, you know, the Christian caricature game. You know the conventional Christian, "Hello God, goodbye God, see you next week God. Don't bug me the rest of the week God. I put my 10% in the plate God. Didn't you see what I did God?" If that's you, you're living in a bad state brother. Paul tells you, you must be aware of Satan's objective. He wants to keep you out of the light. He doesn't want you to know these things. Why? Because you will be victorious in Christ Jesus, you will expose him, you will expose Satan's flaws, you will expose Satan's objectives once you get in the light and see it for yourself. It starts with believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, that's the first step into the light. Once you make this decision to believe in Christ and receive Him as your Savior, then the next step is learning God's Word and more light, more light, more light. I do a lot of night fishing. I love to bass fish at night and I have flashlights, I'm a flashlight personified person, I know all about flashlights. My wife has a couple of flashlights she uses walking the dogs at night so they won't step on a snake. They don't have much light. I tried to get her a brighter one, you know one that has 1,000 lumens or 2,000 lumens, a bright light so it shows everything. It'll show down the street half a block away. That's what the Word of God is. It's not a dim light, it's a bright light, bright enough to show what's in the crevices, what's in the cracks of your mind. It will expose the evil schemes of the angelic conflict. So as Paul says, you've got to learn the Word of God. You've got to put on the armor of God so that you will not continue to walk in the darkness. Satan's objective for lost people is to keep them from gaining any knowledge of the cross, all the while exposing them, as I told you earlier, to the evil schemes in the angelic conflict on a daily basis. The next enemy Paul identifies in this passage in Ephesians 6 is called, *"Spiritual wickedness in high places," pneumatikos poneria en ho epouranios.* You are born with a dead human spirit. That's why you have to be born again. Not your body, that's where Nicodemus got confused, it's your spirit. You're spiritually dead and when you believe in Jesus Christ, you're born again or made spiritually alive. The human spirit is born dead at physical

birth due to identification with Adam's original sin. Thus, we need to be born again. When we accept Christ as our Savior, God the Holy Spirit enters our dead human spirit and indwells us and seals us until the day God calls us home. In Ephesians 1:13 the Bible says, *"In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."* You have the Holy Spirit living in you. **The filling of the Holy Spirit is essential if you're going to put this armor on.** You can't change the way you think without the filling of the Holy Spirit. When you know you've sinned, use the first problem-solving device, rebound, 1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* We quench and grieve the Holy Spirit when we sin and we start operating in the flesh. The Bible says we get carnal. You can't live the Christian life in carnality. You have to live the Christian life under the filling of the Spirit. Satan's organization includes those who are in places of command, colonels, majors, even higher rank than this, higher rank than normal demons or fallen angels. Angels rank is identified by wings. True angels, God's angels, ones that didn't get cast out, have rank. Archangels are identified as Michael and Gabriel. Then there are seraphim and cherubs and rank-and-file angels and even guardian angels. **All children, the Bible says, have guardian angels watching over them.** Maybe you didn't know this. Matthew 18:10, *"See to it that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their guardian angel in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven."* There are ranks of angels in heaven and fallen angels have rank. We have archangels, seraphs, cherubs, rank-and-file angels. Seraph angels have six wings, Isaiah 6:2, *"Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings. With two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, with two he flew."* Cherub angels have four wings as rank or insignia. Satan was called the anointed cherub, the highest ranking angel in eternity past. Ezekiel 28:14, *"You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God, and you walked in the midst of the stones of fire."* He was a cherub angel, but he wasn't a seraph and he certainly wasn't what Michael and Gabriel are, archangels. The angelic messengers, they are wingless angels who are messengers from God as well. The angelic messenger who spent the night with Lot and then destroyed Sodom was a personal light messenger, Genesis 19:13. The destroying angel of 2 Samuel 24:16, the executioner of the city in Ezekiel 9:11. There are all kinds of rank in heaven and in satanic forces. That's why Paul identified this for us so we understand there's order in heaven and in Satan's army. **The fallen angels who followed Satan's revolt in heaven were cast out along with him. It is Satan and his followers that try to lay siege to your thinking, capture your thoughts, and discourage you from ever becoming witness against them in the angelic conflict.** Remember, they don't want to go to the Lake of Fire. These fallen angels are in high places and command and coordinate demonic armies in the arena of contention which we call the Church Age. Our thoughts are the invisible armor we have to defend against these attacks. It has to be in your soul to keep standing in the day you're tested. The armor is listed in Ephesians 6:14-17 and this is where we will start next week. There's so much to teach and you can tell I'm enthusiastic about it.

The Armor of God - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 823 aired on May 30, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. This show is about giving you accurate information, not human speculation, because we take our information from the Word of God, the Bible, which is *“Alive and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword.”* It does indeed cut into our souls when we understand it. **Concentration is always the key to learning anything.** I'd like to speak about this as we get started. You can't understand the Word of God unless you can concentrate. When I became a Christian my concentration span was not long, maybe fifteen minutes at the most. After getting under the ministry of a great pastor and beginning to study, I got to where I could pay attention and concentrate for an hour without my mind wandering. If you can't concentrate, you can't learn and understand God's Word. God says, “I'm looking for people that know Me and understand Me.” How can you understand God if you can't concentrate long enough to learn about Him? **It is possible for you to train your mind to concentrate and it starts with being filled with the Holy Spirit because it is His job to help you recall information.** So problem-solving device #1 is rebound, *“If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us.”* If you're going to learn God's Word, you must concentrate which means you must get rid of all distractions. You can't be sitting in a room where there's a lot of people talking, doing something else and you're trying to learn, it doesn't work this way. **The key is to retain what you hear.** If you can't concentrate, you can't comprehend. If you can't comprehend, you can't retain what you hear so concentration and comprehension go hand-in-hand together. Are you with me on this? Let's try to concentrate, try to comprehend this information of the armor of God as listed in Ephesians 6:14-17. **The reason we have the armor of God, as Paul said, is because we're at war. There is an unseen army that battles you.** It has rank-and-file, those that Satan has with him, the fallen angels. They came out of heaven with him. The Bible tells us a third of the host of the angels fell from heaven along with Satan, believing that he could replace God and this didn't work too good. **Paul said with this unseen angelic conflict going on, you must prepare yourself and you must put on your armor.** This means that he expects you possess it already, but you're not wearing it. So pick it up and put it on and stand shoulder to shoulder with other mature believers. Shoulder to shoulder we call this and shield to shield, that was an old Spartan tactic, shoulder to shoulder, shield to shield. So listen as Paul says in Ephesians 6:14-17 about the armor, *“Stand therefore, having belted.”* Stand, not lay on your back, not be a Christian casualty, not be wounded on the battlefield, stand, stand, stand your ground. Hold your place, *“Having belted your waist with truth, and then having put on the breastplate of righteousness and having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace. In addition to all of this, taking up the shield of faith with which you shall be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one, and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.”* What you have here in this passage is a military analogy of a Roman soldier in his battle array and Paul is using this to liken believers doing battle with

satanic forces. **What I want you to notice is that each piece of this armor that he talks about is actually something you think, something that you comprehend in your mind. This means you concentrated and learned it because you can't comprehend if you can't concentrate.** If you have learned the Word of God under a well-qualified pastor by sitting and taking notes and concentrating and then comprehending what's being taught, and by faith believing it and applying it in your life, you have a uniform. It's time to put it on. It's time to put on the uniform of God. **This is where you live the Christian life, in your soul.** It's in the mentality of your soul. It's the mentality of your soul that must learn and use the Word of God if you hope to succeed in the Christian life. That's you simply having an impact in the devil's world, not being some sort of battlefield casualty, some believer that's wounded, scarred up, defeated, completely ineffective as a witness for God. That's not what God wants. God wants you to stand firm and be a faithful follower and faithful witness of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ said He wanted you to be the salt of the earth and the light to the world in Matthew. This verse starts off with a mandate. The verb "stand" is an aorist active imperative in the morphology of the Greek language and the word is *histemi*. Now we use an English word antihistamine to stand against the runny noses and the allergies and this is stand, *histemi*. The imperative mood means this is a command. This is not Paul saying, "Come on boys, now let's behave and let's do the right thing. Y'all get together now and everybody do it right." No, this is like a military drill sergeant, "Attention, stand up, face me, forward march." Stand, that's what he's telling you. Stand, you've got to understand this. Stand means to hold your place, to be immovable, to have a steadfast mind. **This is where you win the battle, in what you think. Because if you don't know what to think, you don't know how to operate. If you don't know how to operate, you're going to be a victim of circumstances.** You'll be maligned and tricked and the next thing you know, you'll be a casualty. **There is only one way you can accomplish this and that is to have a solid spiritual foundation based on the Scripture you've learned and metabolized in your soul. You cannot stand if you haven't learned and metabolized the Word of God.** The only way Satan and his forces can knock you off your feet, cause you to stumble with doubt or fear or simply lure you into arrogance, causing you to buy some sort of false narrative like organized religion offers, you know, spirituality by works. "You'll be a good Christian if you don't smoke." "You'll be a good Christian if you don't drink." "You'll be a good Christian if you don't say bad words." That may be some things good Christians certainly do but that's not what makes you a good Christian. What makes you a good Christian is you, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" You stay filled with the Holy Spirit and you stay consistently faithful to God's Word. If you follow Paul's instruction, you must put on the belt of truth around your waist. **The first article is the belt of truth. We must learn what Jesus said in John 14:6. "I am the way, I am the truth, and I am the life and no man can come to the Father but by Me."** Everything that Jesus Christ spoke when He was on this earth was truth. He was undiminished deity and true humanity in one body forever. He's in heaven now in a resurrection body and He is the essence of truth. Jesus Christ is the essence of truth. What we have in the Word of God recorded in the New Testament

is called, *“The mind of Christ.”* He thought truth. He lived truth. Why is that important to you? Because **John 8:32** says ***“You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”*** Truth breaks the chains of addiction. Truth breaks the chains of bondage in your life. Truth breaks the chains of arrogance that cause you to not see yourself as you really are because truth from the Word of God as spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ is a reflective mirror into the components of your soul. That's why the Bible says, *“The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit and the joints and the marrow, and is a critic of thoughts and intents of the heart.”* That's what truth does. This Greek word truth, *aletheia*, is a direct reference to the authenticity of God's Word. **Satan's objective always is to exchange the truth of God's Word for a lie and thus deceive the world into thinking that what he is projecting is truth, not what God is projecting.** Listen to Romans 1:25, *“For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie and they worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator who is blessed forever. Amen.”* This was the horrible practice of the phallic cult, a horrible practice of the worship of Baal where men loved men and women loved women and they exchanged the truth of God where it said it's not right and they said, “Oh, it's really okay.” That's kind of what we've done today where everything that use to be evil is now okay and everything that use to be okay is now evil, it's called judgmental. You better believe God is going to be judgmental. You better believe the Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24 hours a day, nobody gets away with anything. Satan's lie, and we see it today in a progressive society such as ours, it's called evil and it is the perversion of any truth and that lie called evil is destroying America today and causing many people to reject the truth which is the gospel message. By rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ they're putting themselves in danger of eternal damnation. You must listen and must be careful about this. **We must strap the truth of God's Word around our waist. The reason it is a belt is that all these other articles attach to the belt.** That's what the belt was worn for, it was an anchor for the other articles. The other articles of protection can be securely attached to the truth. *“You must know the truth and the truth will set you free,”* John 8:32. Let me ask you some questions. What is the truth about salvation? Salvation, yes, that's right, are you saved? Do you know for a fact that you're going to heaven? Some people say, “There's no way you can know this for a fact.” However, the Bible says, *“These things are written that you might know that you have eternal life. He that has the Son has life and he that hath not the Son of God, hath not life.”* Yes, you can know it. The truth is Jesus said you can know it. *“He that believes in Me shall not perish but have everlasting life.”* Those are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan would cause you to doubt this. The evil would cause you to say, “If I tried my best to do good and I don't do bad things, maybe God will let me come into heaven.” That's not true, no one gets into heaven. God's righteousness can never be compromised and your righteousness is not enough. Where the Bible says, *“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did I not prophesy in Your name and in Your name cast out devils and in Your name do many wonderful things?’ He said I will tell them, ‘I never knew you.’”* If you don't live by the truth you will not be recognized by the truth. Remember this. Satan's lie is called evil

and it's the perversion of truth and it's destroying America today and causing many people to reject the gospel message. **We must strap on the truth of the Word of God in our soul. How do we do this? What are the mechanics? Study, grow, learn or you're going to be a casualty on the battlefield of life, it's just this simple.** Study, grow, learn. "Where did I get this?" "*Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of truth,*" 2 Timothy 2:15. "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge and wisdom of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,*" that's a Bible verse, 2 Peter 3:18. "*Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me. My yoke is easy and My burden is light,*" that's a Bible verse from the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 11:29-30. How do we do it? Study, grow, learn or we are going to be a casualty on the battlefield of life. The way that you stand firm, your spiritual strength, is in the mentality of your soul, in your mind. If it's in your mind, the only way it gets there is through understanding, and the only way you can understand is to comprehend, and the only way you can comprehend is to concentrate. If you've concentrated and if you comprehended the Word of God as taught to you by a well-qualified pastor and you have by faith applied it into your life, it's called wisdom, **Biblical wisdom. This is what must be acquired if you hope to have any insight or discernment into Satan's scheme toward you. Wisdom gives you insight and discernment.** Do you have this? Are you able to pick out the phony and the false narrative from the truth? Because false narrative is floating around America a lot today. What is the false narrative and what is the truth? Now I'm not talking political. I could talk about this, but I'm not a politician. I'm not running for office. I'm an evangelist and I'm talking to you about your salvation and your relationship with God through Jesus Christ. You must hear the truth and the truth is what Jesus told Nicodemus. "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by Me.*" "You need to be born again Nicodemus," and Nicodemus was shocked. "How is this possible? How can a person go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" The Lord Jesus Christ explained it's not a physical birth, it's a spiritual birth. Without a spiritual birth you will not go to heaven. You're either going to be born twice or die twice, it's that simple. The first birth is your physical birth when you were born into this world and the second birth is your spiritual birth, when your dead human spirit is born again by faith alone in Christ alone. Your first death, "*It's appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment,*" Hebrews 9:27. And the second death is found in Revelation 20:15, "*Whoever's name was not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death.*" You're either going to be born twice or you're going to die twice, that's the truth. **Now you attach to the belt of truth the breastplate of righteousness covering your vital organs. Your breastplate of righteousness, this is a reference to two things: the imputed righteousness of Christ given to us at salvation and capacity righteousness from growing to spiritual maturity.** The Bible says, "*He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we might be made the righteousness of God through Him.*" The only way you can acquire equal righteousness with God is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ because the Bible clearly says, "*There are none that are righteous, no not one. All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag in God's eyes.*" So the

best thing you could do, the most noble thing you could do, it's still like a cow patty in front of God's eyes. The only righteousness God can accept is the righteousness of Jesus Christ. *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him."* When you come and believe in Christ, He gives you His righteousness. He took your sin on the cross. He paid for your sin. Your sins are not an issue now. The issue now is, will you believe this? Will you accept this fact? If you do, then you are on the same page with God. You have equal righteousness, not because you earned it, not because you generated it on your own, but because Christ gave you His righteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:21, *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God by means of Him."* That's imputed righteousness and this gives us equal standing with Jesus Christ in our position, maybe not in our experience. I mean our position and our experience are two different things. In my position I'm eternally saved. In my position I have the righteousness of Christ. But in my experience, I still have a sin nature. That's why Paul said in Romans 7:15, *"I don't understand myself at all because I want to do what's right and I keep doing what's wrong, it's sin in me."* Yes, we have a sin nature. Nobody sat you down and taught you how to lie. Nobody sat you down and taught you to be jealous. You didn't learn these things. It's inherent in you. So even though you're a Christian, you still have a sin nature. That's why the Bible tells you, *"The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh. They're both contrary to each other."* They both want to control your thoughts. God the Holy Spirit wants to direct your thoughts toward the mind of Christ and the sin nature wants to direct your thoughts toward the world, the flesh. That's the cosmic thinking that these are where happiness is. This imputed righteousness is your equal standing, equal standing with Christ in your position, but maybe not in your experience. **Wearing this protective piece of armor stops Satan from causing you to doubt your salvation.** Remember, you can't earn God's forgiveness, it's a free gift as Ephesians 2:8-9 says, given because John 3:16, God loves you. *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."* God loves you, I don't care what a jerk you are, God loves you. He loved you in eternity past and He loves you now. The question is, do you love Him? Some people say, "Yeah, I love God, yes I do." 1 John 5:3 says, *"If you love Me, you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard."* At salvation God the Holy Spirit enters us into union with Christ and we now share His righteousness and that's our wall of fire, that's our protection. That's the lesser blessing and divine protection carrying us during lag time between the time we get saved and the time we start to learn God's Word and apply it into our life. If we're going to be blessed with greater blessing in our post-salvation experience, we have to have a righteousness which comes from the spiritual life. **This righteousness is your capacity righteousness and it's attained by the filling of the Holy Spirit plus the application of the Word of God into your soul. When you do this, you receive the greater blessings of spiritual maturity.** That's what God's waiting to do. He's waiting to pour out His blessing on you but He's looking for you to have the capacity righteousness to receive it. He wants you to have the capacity to appreciate and enjoy the blessings that He's giving to you. 1 Peter 2:24, *"And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the*

cross so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.” There it is, “*For by His wounds we are healed.*” “Live to righteousness,” the breastplate of righteousness. Next comes the footwear. I’m not talking about Nike, I’m talking about something else. **Ephesians 6:15, “Having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace.” True peace comes through Christ since it’s actually peace with God.** Therefore, the Bible clearly says, “*Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ,*” Romans 5:1. After I received Christ as my Savior, I went back to my apartment that night and laid in my bed and in my mind, in my thoughts, the spotlight of sin was out. The spotlight wasn’t going around anymore showing me the horrible, wretched things I had done. There was no spotlight, I had peace with God. I slept great that night knowing that I had been saved and my sins had been forgiven. It is a wonderful thought, peace with God. The footwear that I’m talking about, “*Strap on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace,*” true peace comes through Jesus Christ since it’s His peace we’re talking about. Listen to Romans 5:1 again, “*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.*” The Bible says in Isaiah 48:22, “*‘There is no peace for the wicked,’ says the Lord.*” **Those who are caught up in the schemes of Satan cannot have peace.** They’re looking for something that’s not true. Like a mirage in the desert, it’s not really there, and this is what Satan is good at, putting up an illusion, getting you to chase the illusion thinking that people or circumstances will make you happy and it will not. Our mission is to reveal the finished work of Christ on the cross and how that brought peace between God and man. Listen to Colossians 1:20, “*And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself whether things on earth, things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of the cross.*” **Explaining the way of salvation requires us to know the Scripture and how to accurately present the plan of God.** Once again, this is something we must have learned, something we must have in our mentality, something you must concentrate on and comprehend until you can make the application. It has to be learned. If you don’t learn it, you can’t know it. **The next piece of the armor is called “The shield of faith,” and this is a direct reference to problem-solving device number three, the faith-rest drill.** This problem-solving device, the faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God, goes back to the promises you’ve learned or you can access quickly. It’s simply a matter of how you think, that you’re not doubting, you’re not afraid, that you have confidence, you have courage based on God’s promises found throughout the Scripture. How many of them do you know? We have a book of promises, we’ll be glad to send you free. Learn some of these promises, believe them, apply them into your life, claim them, live by them, and you won’t be controlled with fear and doubt. You will have confidence and courage based on God’s promises found in Scripture, because these promises shield your thoughts from being captured by Satan’s illusion and you being deceived by his attacks. These attacks come like fiery missiles, a continuous barrage all designed to distract you and get you preoccupied with self, causing you to have self-pity. **The last two elements mentioned are the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.** We’ll come back and cover this next week. Are you concentrating?

The Armor of God - Part 3

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 824 aired on June 6, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. God provides the inspiration for these messages and the objective is to make you wealthy, not financially, no, but spiritually. In 2 Corinthians 4:7 the Bible says, *“We have this treasure in our earthly vessels so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.”* The treasure is the Greek word *thesauros*, a word treasure. The word treasure in our soul is the mind of Christ, the Word of God living inside of you. The Bible says, *“The Word of God is alive and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword.”* Paul wrote in Colossians 2:2-3, *“So that their hearts may be encouraged having been knit together in love and attaining all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is Christ Himself in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”* Understanding, treasures, wisdom, knowledge, attaining all the wealth, that's learning and understanding God's Word, developing it into wisdom in your soul so that you have insight and discernment. Listen to Proverbs 3:13-15, *“How blessed is the man who finds this wisdom, and the man who gains understanding. For the profit of wisdom is better than the profit of silver, and the profit of wisdom better than fine gold. Wisdom is more precious than jewels and nothing you desire can compare with her.”* **The wisdom of the Word of God is what I offer you and if you will learn it and apply it into your life, you will be wealthy beyond measure.** Wealthy in the way that you live your life, happiness in spite of circumstances, not being dependent on the details of life to provide anything for you. Because Paul said, “I've learned in whatever set of circumstances I'm in to be happy. It doesn't make any difference if I have a lot or a little, that's not the issue.” The issue is and always has been this amazing life called the Christian life. We started this study a few weeks ago about how you must put on the armor of God, as the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:11-18, because we are in a war for your thoughts. We are in a war that Satan wants to win by distracting, discouraging and defeating you. He wants to impugn the name of God. He's trying his best to get out of going to the Lake of Fire by using you as an example. Are you willing to become a mature believer? **Are you willing to strap on the armor of God and stand in the war against Satan in the angelic conflict that you face every day in your life?** In Ephesians 6:11, *“Put on,”* the aorist active imperative of *enduo* in the Greek, which is a command from God. *“Put on the full panoplia,”* the full armor, the *panoplia*, the Greek word says, every piece of the armor. Why? *“So that,”* is a purpose clause, *“So that you will be able to stand against the strategy of the devil. For the struggle that we fight is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers,”* that's *arche*, that's demon rulers, *“against the powers, against the world forces of darkness, against spiritual forces of wickedness, even in heavenly places. Because of this [Ephesians 6:13] you need to put on every piece of the armor of God so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything to continue to stand [not be a casualty], Stand firm [lock and loaded, brace your feet] therefore, having your loins girded about with truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness*

and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. In addition to this, take up the shield of faith, with which you shall be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one,” and verse 17 where we will pick up with today and move on. This is our third lesson on the armor of God. We do have transcripts if you'd like to read them or we can supply you the MP3. You can get it on our podcast through Apple, through Spotify, through Breaker, through Anchor. You can get it on our website, rickhughesministries.org if you would like to listen to it again, just go to rickhughesministries.org and look at the FLOT Line, F.L.O.T., forward line of troops. It's all there for you and this information is for you to give you spiritual wealth, to keep you standing in the face of adversity. We're going to begin with verse 17 now in Ephesians 6 and pick up where we left off on the last show. In verse 17 begins a new sentence because the former sentence was between verses 14 and 16, and now we have a new mandate in verse 17. Listen to this, “*And take,*” take, the Greek word *dechomai*, means to take hold of, to accept what is offered, and it is an aorist middle imperative. The morphology of this verb is important because again, it's an imperative mood. It's not asking you “Please do this.” It's telling you “Do this.” The aorist tense is a perpetual aorist which means **there's never a point in time as a believer that you're not to have on the armor of God, and the middle voice here says, you will be benefited by this.** This is to your benefit to have this happen to you. It's a deponent verb we call it and the subject receives the action of the verb by means of God the Holy Spirit and the living Word of God inside of you. **This is how you strap on the armor, being filled with the Holy Spirit and having the living Word of God inside you.** That's using problem-solving device number one, rebound, because you will sin, you will fail, but you can get up. You're not a casualty yet if you'll simply go to the Father in 1 John 1:9 and name your sin. As the Bible says, “*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all wrongdoing.*” That's a big if, that's the subjunctive mood. If, maybe you will, maybe you won't but if you will do this, you can maintain the filling of the Holy Spirit because there's a battle within you. Not just this battle, we're talking about now with Satan, but also the battle of the flesh. Because the Bible says, “*The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh. They are contrary to each other.*” What they're trying to do is control your thoughts, control your thinking. The flesh wants you to live by your emotions. The Holy Spirit wants you to live by the wisdom of the Word of God that's circulated into your soul, into your stream of consciousness. You have a choice to make. Either you can put on the helmet of salvation or you can continue to bounce around, never knowing really what you're doing. The helmet of salvation in verse 17, this new sentence, “*And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.*” This last sentence, *dechomai*, means to take hold of, to accept it, and you do this by being filled with the Holy Spirit and by learning and living in the Word of God. **The Helmet of Salvation goes on your head and protects your thoughts. The first thought you have to protect is called eternal security because Satan will seek to cause you to doubt your salvation.** Satan would love for you to doubt, to not trust God's Word. Some people say, “How can I really know for sure I'm going to heaven?” Because the Bible says so. “*These things are written so that you might*

know that you have eternal life. He that has the Son has life. He that hath not the Son of God hath not life,” 1 John 5:11-12. If you have believed in Jesus Christ, you have eternal life. The Lord Jesus Christ said in Hebrews 13:5, *“I will never leave you, I will never forsake you.”* John 10:28-29, *“I give unto you eternal life and you will never perish, neither shall anybody ever pluck you out of My Father's hand.”* That's amazing, that's a promise for you. And if you don't have on the helmet of salvation, Satan can attack these thoughts in your mind. Let's get this straight, have you trusted in Christ? Have you made a decision to receive Him as your Savior? If you have, you're saved. Saved from what? Saved from the second death, the Lake of Fire, saved for eternal life. You'll have a resurrection body, you'll spend eternity with the Lord where the Bible says in XX *“The ear hasn't heard, the heart hasn't known, no one's ever even seen the amazing things God has for you.”* It's yours so don't let Satan steal these thoughts away for you. Put on the helmet of salvation, that's an act of your volition where you decide to be filled with the Holy Spirit and you decide to consistently take in the Word of God and it reinforces your thoughts. Sometimes one person of influence in one generation can go wacky and then several generations later, everybody is wacky. That's how Satan works, he works further down the road than you realize. It's not just today. He's not just trying to influence you today. He's trying to influence the next generation. You can see this in politics today, good grief. Who knows what's going on? Satan is well at work in our nation and he's well at work toward you. He doesn't want you ever to glorify God in your life in any way, shape, or form so you must strap on this helmet of salvation. Let me give you some principles here. The helmet protects the head where your thoughts circulate in your stream of consciousness. Again, we're back to where you live your spiritual life. It's in your head, between your ears, in your brain. This is where you live the spiritual life and that's why God said, *“As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.”* **The real you is what you think and that's where you have to learn to have the victory over what you do. Everything you do starts with a thought and it becomes a decision and then it moves into an action. Everything starts with a thought.** What do you think? How do you think every day of your life? Do you have a FLOT Line in your soul? Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? Do you use the faith-rest drill? Putting on the helmet of salvation is watching what you think, putting the Word of God in your soul, staying filled with the Holy Spirit. **Satan's objective is to distract you in several ways: using the lure of the world, using the lust of the flesh, or even using satanic viewpoint which is the machination of the cosmic system called evil.** I do a lot of fishing and I know about lures. I went fishing the other day and caught some bass using a spinner bait as a lure and it tricked the bass. It allowed me to catch them. I always like to kid I do CPR on every fish that I catch, CPR. No, I don't blow into their mouth. CPR stands for catch, photograph, and release. You can trick a fish by buying a false lure, a false bait, it's not the real thing. This is what Satan is very good at, to distract you and trick you in many ways using the lure of the world. You know, money will make you happy, marriage will make you happy, people can make you happy, circumstances will make you happy, a new job will make you happy, a new school will make you happy, a new husband, a new wife will make you happy. That's wrong,

those are lies. His objective is to lure you into the flesh, into the lust of the flesh, and if this doesn't work, to lure you into the cosmic system which is evil. **God's system is called grace.** It always has been grace, it always will be grace. *"For by grace are you saved through faith and it is a gift of God, not of works lest anyone should brag about it."* **Evil is the opposite of grace. What evil does is it takes God's Word and twists it so that you think you're doing the right thing and you're not.** Evil is put a chicken in everybody's pot, love everybody, be sweet and kind to everybody. Certainly Christians should love everybody and help but that's not the spiritual life. The spiritual life is much greater than what the world can come up with. The most evil thing in the world is religion. Organized religion because it's you trying to approbate God with your good works, trying to tell God how great you are and the Bible says, *"There are none that are righteous, not even one. All of our righteousnesses are like filthy rags in God's eyes."* That's why Christianity is not religion. Christianity is a relationship. It is Christ living in you through faith. *"Christ in you the hope of glory,"* the Bible says in Colossians 1:27. So again, Satan's objective is to distract you by several ways, using the lure of the world, the lust of the flesh, or even satanic viewpoint, which is the machination of the cosmic system called evil. If you establish consistent momentum in your spiritual life then you will be guarding your thoughts and less likely to wander astray. Consistent momentum. What is momentum? Momentum is you always advancing in spite of temporary setbacks. It's you picking up speed as you advance to the high ground of spiritual maturity which is where God wants you to be. Hebrews 5, we quoted this in one of our earlier studies in this passage says, "You've been saved a long time and you ought to be teaching others but you're not. You still need a bottle. You still need milk, you're still a baby." He came down hard on Christians that had been saved a long time and still don't know their way around the Bible, still don't know what God's protocol plan is even all about. **Momentum is you picking up speed as you advance to spiritual maturity.** That's what God's plan is about. He wants you to grow to be a mature believer and give Him maximum glorification in your life. You cannot do it if you're just a baby Christian. If you're getting knocked down every time you try to stand up, "Boom," down you go. If you're not advancing spiritually, you're not moving toward the high ground and this means you are not learning, maintaining, and using God's Word on a consistent basis in your life. That's what momentum is, sitting under a great pastor who's teaching you the Bible and you writing a few notes down, going home, looking at your notes, and applying it in your life. **What you are seeking to obtain is poise, the ability for you to be able to think under pressure, not to emote under pressure.** To think, not to get into self-pity, not to have a pity party, but to think. Outside adversity can create a lot of stress in your soul if you let it, by worry or bitterness or some other mental attitude sin that will get you out of fellowship really, really, quick. Satan loves this. He just laughs at you when you do this. When you go into your little pity party he just takes a laugh at you. We all have our things we can feel sorry about, our health, our finances, whatever it is. When you start focusing on this and forget the issue, *"Christ in you the hope of glory."* When you forget what Paul said, "It doesn't make any difference whether I have a lot or whether I have a little, that's

not the issue.” When you forget this and you focus on yourself and you have your little pity party, then Satan laughs at you. It's time for you to grow up. It's time for you to quit letting bitterness or some other mental attitude sin control your life. **Every day the believer with momentum seeks to increase his inventory of Biblical knowledge by learning and applying the Word of God into his soul.** You can't learn if you can't hear. *“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God,”* the Bible says. If you're not listening to the Word of God being taught, you're not growing. It's just this simple. Oh yeah, you read your Bible, you took your Bible in the deer stand with you this year and you read your Bible. That's not growing. Growing is sitting under a pastor listening to him teach the Bible to you, in the privacy of your own priesthood, taking notes, reading over your notes, praying over your notes, applying your notes into your life, and moving forward. You saying, “Oh, I just go out into nature and I sit under a tree and I commune with God.” You're kidding yourself, you're not communing with God. You're communing with the woods, the crickets, the birds, whatever is out there, but that's not God you're communing with. If you want to commune with God, get into His Word because that's where He is and if God wants to speak to you, He will speak to you from His Word. You won't go out in the woods and hear some audible voice going, “Yoo-hoo, it's Me, God. I'm over here.” That's not the way it works. If you heard this, you need to see a doctor because that's not right. What you want to obtain is you having momentum in your life. It's you increasing your inventory of Biblical knowledge. Through spiritual growth, you acquire the mind of Christ and develop occupation with Christ, that's problem-solving device number 10. The more you know about Him, the more you're occupied with Him. The more you're occupied with Him, the more you reflect Him. The more you reflect Him, then you glorify God because you're re-presenting Jesus Christ to your family, to your friends, to your generation. Thus, if you will strap on the helmet of salvation, then you will be able to demonstrate patience with people, patience with circumstances, as well as maintain a proper perspective of not being lured into some short time fix in your Christian life because there's no such thing. You can go to some camp, you can throw a stick on a fire, and promise God you're never going to sin again and that's ridiculous. The Bible doesn't say to promise God you're never going to sin again. The Bible says name your sin and forget it and move on. You probably will sin again, you're human. We have flesh, we have a human nature. That's why we have rebound so we can recover from our sins. The second part of this passage says we are to ***“Pick up the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.”*** This word sword is the word *makhaira*. The *makhaira* was the Roman sharp two-edged sword that they conquered the world with. I've got several *makhaira* replicas in my office, an amazing piece of work, about two feet long with a cut to the left, cut to the right, and straight ahead. It's a double-edged sword. It's not like a Zorro sword where you fence somebody and just have to stick him. It's not that kind of sword. It's not a *rhomphaia* which is a giant sword like Goliath had. It's a two-edged sword that the Romans used. When they stood back to back and fought shield to shield and shoulder to shoulder, they conquered the world with that *makhaira*. So this is what Paul is using. The sword is a common weapon of war and thus you see by this analogy that we

are at war with satanic forces. Do you hear me? Now this is not the first time the sword has been used in the Bible. In Genesis 3:24 cherubim angels guarded the way back to the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve were kicked out and they stood there with a flaming sword to keep them out. Cherubims guarded the way back into the Garden of Eden keeping Adam and Eve out and not allowing them to access the Tree of Life. In 1 Samuel 17:51 David used the sword of the giant to decapitate Goliath. This was that big rhomphaia sword, Goliath's battle armament. David went into battle armed with what? Faith. He had a slingshot, a few rocks, and he had faith. He believed God. He didn't chicken out and cower down like the rest of Saul's army and his brothers up on the hill watching all of this. Nobody was willing go out there. For 40 days and 40 nights the giant insulted, slandered, maligned God, did everything he could to try to make them angry and nobody would come out and fight him until finally the shepherd boy showed up, the future king of Israel. It was in fact the sword of the giant that David used to decapitate him, to cut his head off with. Now in Ezekiel 21:3 God's judgment on Israel is sometimes called His sword. In Ezekiel 21:3, *"Say to the land of Israel, thus saith the Lord. Behold, I'm against you. I will draw forth My sword out of its sheath and cut off from those the righteous and the wicked."* The sword is a Biblical word used for combat. God's judgment is the sword coming out. The Greek word is *makhaira*. Jesus told His disciples, this may shock you, in Luke 22:36 that they should sell their cloak and buy a sword due to the impending crisis they were about to face. "What? Are you telling me the disciples were armed?" Yes, I'm telling you the disciples were armed. Peter pulled a sword out of his pocket when he cut off that guy's ear when they came to arrest the Lord Jesus Christ and the Lord had to put the guy's ear back on and tell Peter to, "Put your sword back in the scabbard. It was not time to fight." The disciples had to be armed, they were traveling in perilous times. Is it wrong to arm yourself? Not according to Luke 22:36. **Paul used the sword as a symbol of his ability to defeat Satan using the sword of the Spirit, the weapon of the Holy Spirit. What is the weapon of the Holy Spirit? It's the Word of God.** Another figurative use of the *machaira* is found in Hebrews 4:12. *"For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword [there's the word machaira again] piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit and the joints and the marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* The cutting effect of God's Word in your soul is brought out here. God's Word, when you learn it and use it, will show you your flaws, it will show you your failures, and by use of the application, the sword of the Word of God will cut out the destructive trends of your flesh. **The Word of God is truth, alive and powerful.** Nothing can overcome it. If we use the Word of God we can defend ourselves. *"The day that you're tested. Keep standing,"* don't be a combat casualty. How about it? Are you being defeated by circumstances, by adversity? Are you upset over the politics? A lot of us are but you handle it with the Word of God and taking things to the Supreme Court of Heaven. Relax, let the Lord handle it. **Using your sword means you go to the Scripture, recall a relevant verse, use the faith-rest drill and apply the Word of God to cut away the difficult circumstances in your life.** I hope you're listening and learning.

The Armor of God - Part 4

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 825 aired on June 13, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. When I first became a Christian, I had a hard time concentrating. Here are some thoughts. **One cannot understand the Word of God unless he or she is capable of concentrating.** Any child with attention deficit disorder has a hard time concentrating. That was me in school, maybe you too. Many Christians have the same inability to focus, to be able to concentrate for long periods of time. This is why we had this series on putting on the armor of God. **If Satan wants to make a casualty out of you he does it by affecting your thoughts.** This is why you are encouraged by Paul to *“Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the strategy of Satan.”* Let’s review. **Satan’s objective is to frustrate the will of God in our lives - mentally to doubt what we’re doing, geographically to get us in the wrong place at the wrong time and operationally to get us to do the wrong thing in a wrong way.** Remember that God has protocol. If you’re going to operate within the protocol plan of God, a right thing must be done in a right way. You can't make the rules up on your own. That's why we have those 10 unique problem-solving devices beginning with rebound, how you deal with sin and how you stay filled with the Holy Spirit. We’ve dealt with the filling of the Holy Spirit, how it overcomes the lust of the flesh. We dealt with the faith-rest drill, how you stand on the promises of God. Without using these 10 problem-solving devices you're a sitting duck in the angelic conflict, in the arena of contention, and that's why one of Satan's favorite techniques is to get you thinking that you're doing something good when you're really not. It just assuages your guilt complex. You think you're helping God and you cannot help God. The only thing you can do is to reflect Christ, glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. That's exactly what God expects you to do, to begin to think like He thinks and that's why the Bible says in Philippians 2:5, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”* Think like He thinks, that's why the New Testament is called the mind of Christ. We have to protect ourselves from his tactics and that's why Paul wrote this about putting on the armor of God, protecting ourselves from the tactics and the schemes that Satan has to sideline us, and it all depends on one simple thing. **It all depends on humility. Whether you have enough humility to obey what the Word of God says, and are willing to learn what the Word of God says and apply it to your life. Some people are just too dang lazy to do it.** They're not willing to spend the time necessary to renovate their thinking. Remember 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.”* God's got something He wants you to think. He wants you to think divine viewpoint. Why? So that you're not overcome by the strategy of the devil which would divert you, distract you, defeat you and eventually get you into thinking you're doing something good when really you're not. If you are one of these people that says, “All I really need to do is pray that ‘God help me prayer’ then God will miraculously give me answers,” you're kidding yourself and you're not prepared. **You’ve got to learn and apply**

the Word of God so it becomes wisdom in your mind, or in your heart the Bible calls it, wisdom in your heart, so that you are ready for whatever comes your way. It's foolish thinking that you can just pray a simple prayer and God's going to make all your problems go away, God will miraculously give you the answer, miraculously give you the strength to handle the situation that you're in even though you personally neglected to prepare yourself for what was coming. **You've got to train your mind to think correctly. You've got to train your mind to spot evil and avoid distractions and know when you're being manipulated by the devil.** This is what Paul is teaching in Ephesians 6:11-18, **putting on the full armor of God so you can defend yourself against the strategy of Satan.** This strategy is to conquer what you think because if he can control what you think, he will control what you do and if he controls what you do, then it's not going to glorify God. It may be some kind of human good but essentially it's going to be cosmic vortex thinking or getting into evil thinking it's good, you know, trying to improve mankind. You can't improve mankind. The only thing that can improve mankind is the gospel and the way a person can be saved and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. You're not going to straighten anybody out. The only thing that can straighten us out once we believe in Christ is to walk in the filling of the Holy Spirit and take and apply the Word of God into our life so that we become witnesses in this arena of contention called the angelic conflict. Paul challenged us to *"Put on the full armor of God so you would be able to stand against the strategy of the devil,"* and he told you in Ephesians 6:12, *"We don't fight against flesh and blood."* We're fighting against angelic process powers in the high. Therefore because of this we are told to *"Put on every piece of that armor so we can resist in the day that we're attacked."* There will be a certain day that Satan will test you, try you. He'll run it by you to see if you'll bite. He'll run like a fisherman will run a false lure, artificial lure in front of a bass. Will he bite it? Will he fall for this? Think about your life, think about the times you fell for the gimmicks, you fell for the temptation when Satan ran it by you. That's what you're not suppose to do, you're suppose to stand firm. *"Resist him on the evil day, and having done everything to keep standing,"* not be a casualty in the conflict. *"Stand firm having the breastplate of righteousness, and having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel, taking up the shield of faith, having on the belt of truth."* My gosh, we need to run back through this again for you so you'll get it because there's a reason why all this is here, the whole armor of God, the *panoplia* of God, every piece of it. The reason is this is the wisdom of God because *"We are not fighting against flesh and blood, we're fighting against powers and spiritual wickedness in the high places."* Let's run over some of this one more time for you so you'll be sure you understand what the armor of God is. I want you to get this. The armor is listed in Ephesians 6:14. *"Have your belt around your waist, the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having your feet strapped with the preparation of the gospel of peace. In addition to this taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit."* This is a picture of a Roman soldier in full battle array and Paul used this military analogy to liken believers doing battle with angelic forces. **Each piece of this armor is**

actually something that you think. Each piece of it concerns your mind. Each piece of it helps you comprehend truth in your mind, that's where you live the Christian life. You have a mentality in your soul and the mentality is where your stream of consciousness is. This is where you operate. This is where you store the Word of God. You have to learn it and use it and apply it into your life to be successful, if you're ever going to have an impact in the devil's world and not be defeated, wounded, be a casualty. **We have this mandate to put on the belt of truth. This means we must learn what truth is. This begins with Jesus. He said, "I am truth."** In John 14:6, *"I am the way, I am the truth, no one can come to the Father but by Me,"* and in John 8:32, *"If you know the truth, the truth will set you free."* This belt of truth is *aletheia* and it's a direct reference to the authenticity of the Word of God as truth. The objective of the devil is always to get you and your mind to exchange the truth of God for a lie and thus worship not true God but to worship Satan, what he throws your way, the deceit. This happens in Romans 1:25, listen to how Satan was able to get them to change their mind. *"They exchanged the truth of God for falsehood, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, the One who is blessed forever."* If you read on in this you'll find out what that's talking about. I'm not here to get into this, not to address this, but start at Romans 1:25 and read to the end of the chapter. You will see what the false is, what the lie is. "Everything that is evil is now good and everything is good has turned into evil." What are the mechanics of this? How do I strap on this belt of truth? I grow, I learn, I apply. I've given you several verses in the past like, *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."* Even Jesus said, *"Take My yoke and learn of Me. My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* **The way you put on the belt of truth is to study, learn, grow spiritually, so that you develop wisdom.** Wisdom in the compartments of your soul is unbelievable wealth, we've talked about this before. This is how you are wealthy, based on what you know of God's Word. The wisdom of the Word of God gives you great wealth and great strength and great insight, sort of like I call it, spiritual x-ray vision. You have insight and discernment that other people don't have but you have to acquire it. You don't inherit it. If you don't acquire it, if you don't sit under a well-qualified pastor and learn the Word of God and quit going to church and just raising your hands and singing for about an hour, you're never going to learn anything doing this. You've got to be taught. *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God,"* and who is doing the hearing? If you're singing you're not listening, so come on, let's get with it. Let's find a pastor that teaches God's Word, sit under that man and learn the Word of God and apply it to your life. We developed this belt of truth that holds everything else in place. Then we attach to this the breastplate of righteousness and that's a reference to imputed righteousness. **When we get saved, the Bible tells us clearly that we have the righteousness of Christ given to us, it's imputed righteousness.** It's our equal standing and it's what God gives us. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, *"He [God] made Him [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we could become the righteousness of God by means of Him."* That's imputed righteousness. So at the moment of your salvation God the Holy Spirit enters us into union with

Christ and we now share His righteousness. This is an amazing thing to get blessings from God because of the righteousness of Christ in our life. We have divine protection to carry us during the time that we get saved until we become mature believers. **This is what God wants you to do - develop capacity righteousness, grow in grace, stay filled with the Holy Spirit, metabolize the Word of God you hear, use the problem-solving devices, glorify God to the maximum, reflect Christ in your life. This is what it's about.** Please listen. Put on the belt of truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness, put on the footwear that God's talking about. The footwear, yes, the gospel strapped on your feet, *“the preparation of the gospel of peace,”* Ephesians 6:15. True peace comes from knowing Christ, that's where it comes from. *“There is no peace for the wicked,”* the Bible says in Isaiah 48:22. And in **Romans 5:1, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we can have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace, there is a way to have peace. There is a way to have contentment. There is a way to have capacity for life and it all comes as you are growing and maturing in Christ so that eventually you can be this sort of person, so that you can do what Paul said in Philippians 4:11, *“I’ve learned whatsoever shape I’m in, to be content.”* You can't have capacity for life until you're content. If you're not content with what you have, no matter what God gives you, you won't be happy. But if you're content with where you are, then God can pour more capacity in your cup. He can bless you over and over and over again because it won't distract you or destroy you. If God gave you what you wanted right now, it would destroy you. He's actually protecting you because He's not pouring out the blessings that you want. The next piece of the armor is the shield of faith, and we have to remember that's a reference to problem-solving device number three, using the faith-rest drill. You must understand how to use the faith-rest drill. **You must understand that your strength comes from the promises found in the Word of God, and there are over 7,000 of them. Learning God’s promises, living by promises, claiming promises, this is the strength in the believer's life during time of testing because the promises will shield your thoughts from being captured by Satan's illusions and Satan's deceptions.** These attacks will come to you like a barrage of fiery missiles, a continuous barrage designed to defeat you if you get preoccupied with yourself and if you get into self-pity, which is exactly what happened in Matthew 8 where the disciples were in the boat with Jesus. The storm came up on the Sea of Galilee and they freaked out and they woke Him up and they said, “We are going to die, can You not get up and do something?” The Lord Jesus Christ looked at them and called them “short time trusters.” “You trust Me as long as everything's good but as soon as things go south, you quit trusting Me.” He spoke and everything got calm and they were amazed. See, they still had not begun to comprehend yet that Jesus was God. It took a while for them to understand this. **Understand this, we have to strap on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation and use the sword of the Spirit.** The helmet of salvation, this protects our thoughts and this is something that Satan tries to do again to cause doubt and thus lack trust in God's Word. This is what God wants you to do. He wants your thoughts to be protected. He wants what’s circulating in your stream of

consciousness, the Word of God you learn, to be normal, for you to live a normal spiritual life and not be preoccupied with disaster and testing and not be preoccupied with politics. Look at the politics of today. It's easy to get preoccupied, it's easy to talk about what we like or don't like and that's one of the ways that Satan can distract you from the spiritual life, getting you into the vein of political life. If you're going to strap on the helmet of salvation, you've got to protect your thoughts and it starts with you believing in Christ because that's where it all starts. Satan can try to get you to doubt your salvation and he will if he can. You have to have this. Then the Bible goes on talking about the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, and that's an amazing thing. The Word of God, the *makhaira*, is a two-edged sword. This is what God gives us as our offensive weapon. The sword is a common weapon. You see it used in war all the time. God's judgment is called the sword by the way. In Ezekiel 21:3, *"I say to the land of Israel, thus says the Lord, 'I'm against you and I will draw forth My sword out of its sheath and I will cut off from you the righteous and the wicked.'"* That's divine judgment on the nation. Swords are found throughout the Bible and I told you in our earlier study that the disciples carried swords with them. They had weapons with them to protect themselves and the Lord. You say, "Oh, they would never have weapons." What does Luke 22:36 say? Jesus told them to sell their cloaks and buy a sword due to the impending crisis they were about to face. Paul uses a sword as a symbol of our ability to defeat the enemy, to defeat him and we can because the Bible is *"Alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword."* **Satan cannot stand against the truth of the Word of God. When you have the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God in your soul, there's no way that you're going to be defeated by Satan if you use it and if you apply it into your life.** One of Satan's best tactics is to get you to get your eyes on yourself because it neutralizes you, neutralizes your thoughts. If you get your eyes on yourself that's just plain arrogance because you're preoccupied with yourself and what's going on in your life and how bad it is. In the face of adversity a Christian cannot afford to be without an understanding of God's provisions of grace. **If you don't understand your grace provisions and grace assets and live by grace orientation, you can never successfully experience the joy the Christian life provides.** In Proverbs 3:13, *"Happiness belongs to the one that finds wisdom, and to the one that gains understanding."* Wow, there it is. **Wisdom is the Word of God circulating in your stream of consciousness.** That's the wonderful treasure that God promises you and it gives you understanding, insight, discernment, the ability to see what's going on. In Isaiah 40:31, *"They that wait [patience], they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles and they shall run and not be weary and walk and not faint."* Mount up, lifted over the adversity, wings like eagles, to be able to soar over the cosmic battlefield, run, success and fast and increase circumstances. Walk, this means to live the routine situations in life and not be overcome. A lot of people can't handle routine. It really drives them nuts, same thing everyday, same thing, but that's how you grow under routine. If you're going to be effective against the army of Satan remember Psalm 119:52. *"I have remembered your ordinances from old, O Lord, and I comfort myself in them."* Then Psalm 119:76, *"O may your lovingkindness*

comfort me according to Thy Word, to Thy servant.” Don't listen to the roar of Satan. If you put on the armor of God, don't be intimidated by this. I guess Paul should have talked about putting in some earplugs so you don't have to listen to all of Satan's lies because he's always roaring. 1 Peter 5:8, *“He goes around like a roaring lion,”* trying to intimidate. Lions roar for the purpose of intimidation and this is exactly what Satan does. He's always on the move looking for the advantage to press the attack and he is always seeking or looking for the weak, for the vulnerable, those that are scattered out from the flock and he devours, consumes them in his system or in their own fleshly desires until they become dysfunctional in the plan of God. Again, listen carefully. **If you have on the armor of God, you will not be intimidated by the roar of Satan. He's looking for people that are not armed.** He's looking for the weak like the lion looks for the weak zebra in the herd of zebras. Satan's looking for the weak and vulnerable. Who is this? That's the person that just doesn't go to church very often, the person that doesn't study the Word of God, the person who's got a Bible in their back window, making it look like they're some spiritual Christian driving around town but all it's doing is getting sunburned. Looking for the vulnerable, those that aren't mature, those that don't go to Bible class, those that don't stick with the plan of God, they are easily distracted, scattered from the flock. They have broken away from other believers. They don't want to be around other believers because it embarrasses them to have to admit, “Well, I'm just not the person I should be.” Then if he can do this to you, if he can cut you out of the crowd and get you alone, he can devour you. This doesn't mean you won't be saved anymore. It just means you will be swallowed up into his system. You'll follow the desires of your flesh, you'll become a dysfunctional believer in the plan of God. You will be neutralized. That's not God's plan for you ever to be neutralized. **You can overcome Satan, what he's trying to do, here are some ways. 1 Peter 5:6-9, “Be sober, be alert, resistant and humble yourself. Cast your cares on Him because He cares for you.”** “Be sober” is the Greek word *nepho*, an imperative mood command from God. It means mental stability. “Be alert,” *gregoreo* is the Greek word, and means to stay awake and it's another command from God. “And resist him,” *anthistemi* is the Greek word, meaning to stand against him. This means you're properly prepared, you're wearing your armor and “*knowing this,*” the 10 problem-solving devices, you “*humble yourselves.*” *Tapeinoo* is the word for humility and humility is the enemy of arrogance. God said you need to be humble. In Philippians 2:5-7 the Lord Jesus Christ, “*Humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation, took upon Himself the form of a servant.*” Authority orientation is critical to live the Christian life. The authority of the Word of God and your pastor are the two most important authorities you have. **Once you're able to be humble and submit yourself to God's authority, then you can, 1 Peter 5:7, “Cast your cares on Him.”** Live by faith, be on the alert, because you have an adversary the devil and “*He's prowling around like a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour.*” Resist him with the Word of God that's in your soul. God is looking for a few well-qualified believers, people like Gideon and the 300 that delivered the nation. Are you one of these deliverers that are growing in grace and can replicate the life of Christ? God is counting on you to put on and use His armor.

God's Power in You

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 826 aired on June 20, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. The objective of this show is to make you wealthy. That's right, wealthy. Not financially, see immediately you started thinking about money didn't you? Not financially but spiritually. In 2 Corinthians 4:7, "*We have this treasure in our earthly vessels so that the surpassing greatness of the power [of the *dunamis*] will be of God and not from our self.*" The Greek word for power is *dunamis*, dynamite, the power from God. Remember treasure we know as thesaurus and it means the Bible is a word treasure. When we learn God's Word we become wealthy - rich in our souls. In Colossians 2:2-3 here's what Paul wrote, "*That their hearts may be encouraged, having knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery that is Christ Himself in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*" Wisdom is your objective, to take what I give you and transfer it into your soul where it becomes usable. Information that you have heard isn't usable. Information you apply is usable. So when you hear it, it's called *gnosis*, the Greek word for knowledge. But there's another Greek word for knowledge pronounced *epignosis* and that's full knowledge. *Epi* is a preposition meaning full. Your objective is to have the full working knowledge of God's plan by which you will be wealthy. You will have wisdom and understanding and it is fantastic. "*How blessed is the man that finds wisdom and the man that gains understanding,*" Proverbs 3:13. Today I want to give you some insight into something that's very important for you to know, and I promise you, you will want to understand this. It's called the omnipotence of God. **Omnipotence is one of the essences of God.** He's omniscient, He's omnipresent, He's omnipotent. **Omnipotent means He's all powerful.** Omniscient means He's all-knowing and omnipresent means He's everywhere at one time. In this case, to show you the omnipotence of God I want to go to Numbers chapter 11 and see what Moses said to the Lord. He complained to God. He complained about what was going on. In Numbers 11:11-15 Moses said to the Lord, "*Why have You been so hard on Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight that You put the burden of all these people on me? Was it I who conceived all these people? Or did I give birth to them so that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your arms as a nurse carries a nursing infant, to the land which You swore to their fathers? 'Where am I to get meat to give to all these people?' For they cry and weep before me saying, 'Give us meat so we can eat something!' I'm not able to carry all these people by myself because it's too burdensome for me. So if You're going to deal with me like this, just go ahead and kill me now, if I found favor in Your sight then don't let me see my misery.*" Now what's he talking about? Well he's talking about, if you read Numbers 11 verses 1-15, you'll read where the people have been complaining about having too much manna from God and they want some meat. They want meat to eat. They're tired of manna and they got into real trouble with God. Moses intervened in prayer. Moses prayed for the people and God spared many of them but God's provisions did not meet their desires. God's provision did not meet their desires

and this may be something you need to think about. Does God's provision for you meet your desires? Sometimes if He gives you too much, you can't handle it. There's more complaining coming in Numbers 11:10. Here's what God said when Moses prayed this prayer. You've got to listen to this again. *"Why have You been so hard on me?"* He's complaining to God and says, *"Why don't You just go ahead and kill me now?"* What a goofy thing for Moses to say. Here's what God said to Moses in Numbers 11:23. *"The Lord said to Moses, 'Is My power too little? Now you will see whether My word will come true for you or not,'"* and it's about to come true. They're about to have a lot of meat to eat. As a matter of fact, more meat than they wanted in the form of quail, the curse of too many quail. This comes because of maximum self-pity. Not only are the people mourning the meat they had back in Egypt but Moses is mourning and complaining about having to deal with these bunch of losers. So God said, "Okay, you want meat? I'll give you meat." Numbers 11:31, *"Now a wind burst forth from the Lord and brought forth quail from the sea and dropped them beside the camp about a day's journey on this side, a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp two cubits deep on the surface of the ground."* Well, there's some food for you. There's the omnipotence of God, "You want meat? Okay, I'll give you some quail." By the way in Numbers 11:33 you will see many of them died the sin unto death, those that complained and griped and carried on and God weeded them out. One of the unique characteristics of our God, as we just saw demonstrated in this passage, is what God had to prove to Moses. "Is My power limited? You don't think I can do this?" **One of God's unique characteristics is His power, His omnipotence, because there are no limits to what God can do.** Now granted, there might be limits on your faith or limits on your trust but **there are no limits on what God can do in your life. You have to learn to trust Him.** Hebrews 11:6 says this, *"Without faith it's impossible to please God."* Here's something you might not realize. **Jesus Christ was God, is God.** As God, Jesus Christ raised Lazarus from the dead in John 11:40-44. Raise somebody from the dead? Only God can raise people from the dead and Jesus Christ raised a dead man. Ironically, there's a fight for power like this today, political power, military power, social power but what about raising someone from the dead. If somebody had this kind of power, holy cow, they could be a wealthy person correct, especially if it was a politician. Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior raised Lazarus from the dead as proof that He was God. That's unlimited power. In Matthew 8:23-27 our Lord Jesus Christ calmed a storm on the Sea of Galilee. He had been teaching and preaching the Word of God and the disciples had gotten into a boat and gone across the Sea of Galilee and ran into a horrific storm. The disciples were afraid they were going to die. The Lord Jesus Christ was asleep in the boat, worn out, tired and they woke Him up and said, *"Lord save us, we're perishing."* He got up and He calmed the entire sea. Just one word, He said *"Stop."* Everything calmed down and He looked at them and said, *"You are a bunch of short time trusters."* **If you're going to have faith, you've got to learn to trust God through the good and through the bad.** In this case the disciples had to learn how to face death and not be afraid of it. Our Lord turned water into wine in John 2:1-11. Our Lord fed 5,000 in Matthew 14:15-21. **All of these miraculous events demonstrated that**

Jesus Christ was God since He possessed the same omnipotent characteristics as God the Father. This is what got Him in trouble with the Jews. This is why they were angry at Him. In John 5:18, the Sanhedrin and the Pharisees were after Him and I'll quote what it says in John 5:18., *"It was for this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but He was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God."* You better believe He was equal with God, He was God. He is God. In John 14:1 Jesus told the disciples, *"Don't let your hearts be troubled. If you believe in God believe also in Me."* This is a key verse you need to understand. No one goes to heaven by believing in God. You can believe in God and not go to heaven. Jesus Christ said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me."* It's only through the efficacious work of Christ on the cross that we have deliverance, salvation, and justification and redemption. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Redeemer. The disciples had to learn that He is God. They didn't understand that quite yet. *"You believe in God, believe also in Me."* They all went to the synagogue. They all believed in God, but they had yet come to understand that the Man that they were hanging out with, the Man in front of them, was God. **In fact, it was the Lord Jesus Christ who created the universe. Did you know this? In John 1:1-3 speaking of His omnipotence, the omnipotence of the Lord Jesus Christ, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and He was in the beginning with God and all things came into being through Him, and apart from Him [that's Christ] not even one thing came into being that has been created."** Not only did He create order out of chaos in the prehistoric universe but here's something amazing. **The power of God through Jesus Christ can create in you a new person, a brand new you.** Would you like to have this? Would you like to be a new you? Would you like to have the opportunity to start your life all over again? I'm not talking about being born again physically, I'm talking about entering into a new relationship with God you've never had before. It's a spiritual birth. The Bible said in Psalm 51:10, *"Create in me a clean heart God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."* God can give you a clean heart. When you come to the Savior, when you come to Christ as the Bible says in Acts 2:21, *"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* When you do this, when you in prayer ask God to save you, telling Him you are believing that Jesus Christ is His anointed Son and you're willing to accept Him as your Savior, you have a spiritual birth. You have a new heart. You have a new you. This doesn't mean you quit sinning forever, that's not what I'm saying. Of course you still have a sin nature. **It means you will have a unique relationship with the God of the universe through Jesus Christ His anointed Son. This is phenomenal because then you can tap into all the power available to you from God. His power becomes your power.** When Christ comes to indwell you, you become a new spiritual species. Same old body, same sin nature that you had to begin with, but a new beginning, a new birth, a spiritual birth. Listen to 2 Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ this person is a new creation. The old things are passed away and behold, new things have come."* **From that point on, from the time you make a decision to believe in Christ, you can have direct access to**

God's omnipotence, to God's power, by means of the indwelling and filling of the Holy Spirit, by means of the living Word of God in your soul and by means of *“Christ in you the hope of glory,”* Colossians 1:27. In Hebrews 4:12 the Bible says, *“The Word of God is alive and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* **The Word of God is living and powerful. When you learn the Word of God, when you apply it into your soul, you have a power that other people do not have. This power is called wisdom which means you have discernment and insight that others do not have because you have the living Word of God metabolized, circulating in your stream of consciousness in your soul.** That's the power that makes you wealthy. That's the treasure that we talked about in the beginning of this passage, the treasure in our earthly vessels. Paul wrote about it in 2 Corinthians 4:7, *“We have this treasure in our earthly vessels,”* and it's a word treasure. You cannot imagine how powerful you are once you access the living Word of God and put it into your life because it gives you power in your faith. In Acts 1:8, the Lord told these words, *“You will receive power,”* again the Greek word *dunamis* which means strength and ability. *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, to the ends of the earth.”* What kind of power is He talking about here? *“You shall receive power,”* this was an immediate power to influence people with the gospel. **The most powerful thing in the world is the gospel of Christ, the good news.** Paul said it this way in Romans 1:16. *“I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ because it's the power of God to salvation to all who believe it, to the Jew first, then to the Gentile.”* You have this power available unto you, the good news that Jesus Christ is alive. They tried to kill Him. They crucified Him, put Him on the cross, buried Him but He walked out of the grave alive and He's alive today. He lives in you, giving you a new relationship, a new heart, a new life in Christ, with a new power because the Holy Spirit indwells you. **When your physical life ends, you will have another source of power from the dead, the divine power of the resurrection.** Philippians 3:10, Paul wrote, *“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection.”* **Here are three sources of power for you: “The Word of God is alive and powerful,” “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you” and “The power of His resurrection.”** There are three passages, Philippians 3:10, Acts 1:8, Hebrews 4:12. The same power that resurrected our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead is available to you right now. David wrote it this way in **2 Samuel 22:33, “God is my strength and my power. He maketh my way perfect.”** This was David's prayer of deliverance for what he had been going through. Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:16-20, *“We do not cease to give thanks for you [talking about the church in Ephesus] making mention of you in my prayers consistently so that the God of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him and the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, so then you would know what is the hope of His calling, you will know what are the riches of His glory and the inheritance in the saints, [here it comes, listen] and you will know the exceeding greatness of His power to us who believe,*

according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.” This was Paul's prayer for the church at Ephesus, *“They would know the exceeding greatness of God's power to us who believe.”* I've listed what it is, the power of the Word of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, the resurrection power that we will see when we go to be face-to-face with the Lord. This power I'm talking about is not some kind of mystical, unexplained bolt of energy, that's not what it is. **God's power is based in your knowledge and the understanding and utilization of God's Word. It's an invisible dynamic way of thinking that oozes confidence and contentment and objective optimism. It gives you insight and discernment and freedom from being enslaved by the flesh or by some sort of satanic deception or distraction. It's an amazing power to see through the fog of life. It's an amazing power to overcome difficulties with faith.** Is there power to overcome the lust of the flesh? According to the Bible there is. Maybe you're subjected to some sort of lust and you can't break it. Maybe it's pornographic lust. Maybe it's alcohol lust. Maybe it's drug lust. Can you break the lust of the flesh? Can you break out of this? Yes, Galatians 5:16, *“This I say then, walk in the Spirit, you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh.”* Not everybody has the same lust problem but **everybody has the same solution. The filling of the Holy Spirit and the dynamics of the Word of God in your life give you confidence and capacity to live.** Only if you walk in the Spirit which comes from rebound, every time you sin you must rebound, 1 John 1:9, problem solving device number one. Then you can stay filled with the Holy Spirit and you can walk in the Spirit and you can overcome the flesh. Is there power to overcome the deceptions of Satan? Is this power available to you? Yes it is. In Ephesians 6:13, *“Because of this take on the armor of God so that you will be able to keep standing in the day that you're attacked.”* The power to overcome the deceptive strategy of Satan is available to you if you put on the armor of God. We just finished several classes the last few Sundays on what it means to strap on the armor of God, to put on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, to pick up the shield of faith, to have your feet shod with the gospel, shoes of preparation, to have the sword of the Spirit. We talked about all of this. If you haven't heard these I hope you'll write to me. We can send you the transcripts or we can get you the MP3s of these messages or you can go to my website, rickhughesministries.org and listen or you can listen through the podcast. We do podcast all of our radio shows, on Spotify, Apple iPod, Breaker, Anchor, all of these podcast platforms. Past shows are available. On your cell phone if you would just go to for example to Spotify, a free podcasting service, type in *The FLOT Line*. If you type this in and search for it, you will find us and you can listen to the shows there as well. A lot of people do this. A lot of people listen while they're driving to work on their phone and they Bluetooth it right through their speaker in their car. It's a wonderful way to take in the Word of God on a daily basis. **This is the objective - for you to access the power of God, the unlimited power of God in your life.** Now you have these invisible assets available to you. There are some characteristics of these assets you need to understand. **The unique assets you have are invisible.** You can only come to know that these assets God provided for you exist once you believe the Word of God

and metabolize it into your soul. This means it goes from being knowledge and it goes to being full knowledge. It goes from knowledge through faith to your heart where you apply it into your life, there it becomes wisdom. There's a difference between knowledge and wisdom. God said in Jeremiah 9:24, "I want people to know Me, but I also want them to understand Me." There is a difference between knowledge and wisdom. You can't use what you don't know exists. How can you use it if you don't know it exists? There are assets that exist for you and they are assets that are usable in any category of your life. In Ephesians 1:11, "*In Whom also we have received an allotment [these are blessings that God has given to you] having been chosen for a predetermined plan from Him.*" We are the only dispensation in which every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and every believer is mandated to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit cannot say to you, "It's finished," until you die or until the Rapture, the Exit Resurrection, whichever occurs first. He's in you, He sealed you, He will be with you, and you're told to be filled by Him. You're told not to quench the Spirit and not to grieve the Spirit and that's what sin does. **Our greatest blessings that God has provided through His omnipotence are completely and totally invisible and can only be understood by the revelation of the Word of God. This revelation is contained in the Bible and acquired by knowledge of Bible doctrine.** We are able to become aware of our fantastic assets and to use them both now and eventually in eternity. Remember, your spiritual life requires an investment in Bible doctrine, in the Word of God, which is the only way you can live your spiritual life. If you have an invisible God plus those invisible assets, it equals invisible power given to the invisible heroes. That's what God wants you to be, an invisible hero. The purpose of the great power experiment of the Church Age is to manufacture invisible heroes like you. **God's counting on you to be an invisible hero, to be the product of His Word.** That's the only thing that will deliver this nation, not a national day of prayer, which is a joke most of the time because people use it to raise money and don't even understand how to pray. God is counting on you to grow spiritually, become a mature believer, replicate the life of Christ and re-present Jesus Christ to your family. The invisible hero is a combination of the person who fulfills God's tactical and strategic objectives. **Tactically, He wants you to implement His plan and grow to spiritual maturity. His strategic objective is for you to be occupied with Christ and to glorify God to the maximum in your life.** You can die with absolutely no regrets. When you go to be with the Lord, no regrets. An invisible God plus invisible assets plus invisible power equals you, the invisible hero. This is what God is looking for. If you want any additional information about the omnipotence of God, contact me. I pray you've learned something and you apply it into your life. Until next week, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Road to Destruction

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 827 aired on June 27, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. What we're trying to do is show that there are 10 unique problem-solving devices found in the Bible. If you learn them and use them, they will act like a main line of resistance to stop the outside sources of adversity before you ever turn them into the inside source of stress. Because adversity is inevitable but stress, you know, is optional. Stress is what you do to yourself. Adversity is what circumstances do to you. There is a way to live without having stress or living in fear, bitterness, antagonism, hostility. It's called the Christian life. It's a wonderful way to live. **It's the life that the Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated to us while He was here and we have the same assets available to us that He utilized.** We have the Holy Spirit, we have the Word of God, and we have the indwelling of Christ in our life. We have the opportunity to live a life like this called the Christian life and that's what this show is about. My main objective is to get you to find a good local church where there is a well-qualified pastor teaching you the Bible. I'm not a pastor. I am an evangelist but I'm certainly able to teach you some basic Bible doctrine, some introductory concepts. Eventually I would like to get you to find a good local pastor where he can teach you the Word of God on a consistent basis and you can make this application into your life. If you don't know where there's a sound pastor, contact me and we will try to help you find one. I also want to make you aware we have a daily podcast of our show from our archives and the transcription of the show is always linked in the notes section, so I hope you check it out. Can I jump into my subject today? I want to talk about the **Road to Destruction, the road you do not want to be on, the road we sometimes call the My Way Highway.** You know, destruction can come in many forms. Life is kind of fragile. Destruction could be an accident. I've had friends killed in automobile accidents. It could be by means of a crime-related incident. It could be by means of an incurable disease or the worst yet, it could be self-destruction. You can take yourself out by being stupid, angry and bitter or even committing suicide. People do it every day. Death for the unbeliever, the person that hasn't believed in Christ, the disadvantaged person, is the most horrible thing since he faces an eternity in the Lake of Fire. In Revelation 20:15 the Bible says, *"And whosoever was not found in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* In Matthew 10:28, *"And do not be afraid of those who kill the body [the Lord Jesus Christ said] but are unable to kill the soul but rather fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* Remember this, the greatest decision you could ever make is the decision to receive Christ as your Savior and it's the simplest decision you'll ever make. There won't be a check of your credit score. You won't have to fill out any paperwork. All you have to do is simply do what the Bible says in Acts 2:21, *"Whosoever should call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* In a simple act of faith and prayer, demonstrating your faith to God the Father, telling Him that you're willing to receive Christ as your Savior is really all that it takes. Why? Because Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"By grace are you saved through faith. It's a gift from God not of works lest any man should brag about it."*

Remember this, what's between your ears is what you really are. **You are what you think and you will be a product of your own decisions in your life.** You have volition and this means you have a choice maker. You can decide. Such as if you're watching TV and you want to change the channel, your volition says, "Go to the next channel." You use your volition throughout the day. Spiritually, volitional decisions have tremendous consequences. **The Bible says in Proverbs 23:7, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." If God wants to look at you, He's going to look at what you're thinking.** He's not going to be looking at your style and your image and your dress. He's looking at your thoughts, your intentions, your motives, your desires. **The greatest enemy you have is yourself.** Often it's from boredom from a life with a rigid routine that you don't particularly like, 9 to 5 every day, up and at 'em, up and at 'em, going to work, wishing you had a different job. **Unhappy people take their unhappiness with them wherever they go. It doesn't depend on what they have or don't have. If you can't control your emotions, then you're going to live a life of misery and depression, always blaming other people for your own unhappiness. Don't do this.** When you make a bad decision from a position of weakness, this means you used your volition to do something stupid. You didn't have the proper divine perspective in your life. You didn't understand what the Word of God says or you ignored the Word of God and you made a decision on your own or based on what your friends told you or based on what some writer told you. These are positions of weakness and you're thinking in terms of human solutions which are actually no solutions. Let me say it again. **Human solutions are no solutions. Divine solutions are the only solutions.** If you get into this state of thinking, you're going to blame other people for your problems instead of taking responsibility for your own bad choices. You may often feel compelled to justify your decisions, you know, "The reason I did it is this. The reason I did it is that." **Self-justification is a horrible sin. It's the first stage of arrogance. Self-justification leads to self-deception and then to self-absorption and eventually to self-destruction.** Eventually you feel compelled to justify your actions when somebody calls you on it and says, "What did you do that for? That was really dumb," and then you get judgmental of other people. This type of thinking can cause you to start frantically searching for happiness in your life where you try to save yourself from loneliness and despair that you created yourself. Once your emotions take over, let's remember this, you can make a decision based on what you think or make a decision based on what you feel. If you let your emotions take over, you're going to make decisions based on what you feel. And if the emotions take over the control of your life, you slowly, slowly will spiral into a void of self-pity and eventual depression. That's a perfect example of what I call satanic brainwashing - focus on self, look for excuses, always complain about the way you're being treated, get into this frantic search for happiness. You'll lose sight of every value you've had and you will eventually wind up reversing your values until you exchange wrong for right, what you should love for what you should despise. I'm going to say that again. **If you keep focusing on yourself in a frantic search for happiness, you will lose sight of all your values and you will eventually reverse your values until you exchange wrong for right and what you should love for what you**

should despise. That's dead end living and that's the road to destruction. The road to destruction is littered with depressed and hopeless people whose mind turns even to suicidal thoughts. They think life is now not worth the effort or sometimes they actually seek to hurt other people by forfeiting their own life in an attempt to lay a guilt trip on someone. **Desperate people do desperate things. There is a solution to your despair and loneliness if you're interested. Our Lord faced tremendous challenges when He walked this earth.** He was despised by the religious community of scribes and Pharisees and even betrayed by one of His trusted disciples. He had no place even to call home. In Matthew 8:20 Jesus said to the young man that wanted to follow Him, *"The foxes have holes, the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."* Did you know the Lord Jesus Christ was put to death even though the judge of the court found Him not guilty? John 18:37, *"Therefore Pilate said to Him, 'So, are You a king?' And Jesus answered, 'You say correctly that I am a King. For this purpose I was born and for this I have come into the world to testify to that truth and everyone who is of the truth will listen to My voice.' And Pilate said to Him, 'Well, what is truth?' And after saying this he came out to the Jews and said, 'I find no grounds at all for the charges you have placed against this Man.'"* **In spite of these unfair circumstances our Lord never complained. He was never lonely. He never felt hopeless. In fact, He told the disciples if they would listen to what He was teaching them, if they would learn what He was teaching them, then they could experience the same joy in adverse circumstances that He enjoyed.** Listen to John 15:11, *"These things I spoke to you so My joy could be in you and your joy could be made full."* He knew what the disciples would face when He was crucified and resurrected. He knew they would be on their own and they were going to be attacked just the same way He was attacked. He knew that it's possible to have a life of joy in spite of the circumstances and that's what I'm telling you. I don't know what your circumstances are but I know this. **The same thing the disciples had to learn, if you will learn and apply, you can have the joy of Jesus Christ in your life.** I know life is tough and the Christian life is even tougher because this is the devil's world, not our world. We don't belong here. In 2 Corinthians 4:4 the Bible says, *"In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, so they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God."* *"Blinded the minds of the unbelieving,"* that's spiritual brainwashing. It's exactly what Satan's been doing for a long time, trying to get the gospel kicked out of the public venue. There's even a group that will sue anybody that would attempt to give the gospel on public grounds. They've taken the gospel out of the schools so that we can't talk to young people anymore about the Lord Jesus Christ and explain the plan of God. Satan's been very good at brainwashing, blinding the minds of the unbeliever. In 1 John 5:19 the Bible says, *"We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one,"* or Satan. The Christian life is tough. We are living behind enemy lines. We're living in the devil's world and if you're a Christian, this world is not your home. You are just a traveler going through this world. In 1 Peter 2:11, *"Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and as strangers to abstain from fleshly lust which wage war in the soul."* In 1 Peter 1:17, *"And*

if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, then live out the time of your temporary residence here in reverence." Peter makes it clear. **We are sojourners, we are passing through this world, this is not our final destiny.** You know, you've taken a trip and you've driven from one town to another town going to your destiny. This is not our destiny. Our destiny is *ouranos*, the Greek word for heaven. That's where we're headed. **As a Christian you have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to sustain you in times of testing while you're in the devil's world and in times of adversity. You have the Scripture to support you. Christians are to have a stable mindset. Get rid of the depression, get rid of the fear, get rid of the doubt, get rid of the loneliness.** How do you do this? Well, first of all **you have to rebound the sin, the sin of self-centeredness, self-pity and then begin to take in God's Word, learn it and apply it into your life.** Like Paul said in Philippians 4:11-13 *"I've learned whatever state I'm in to be content. It doesn't make any difference if I have a lot or if I have a little,"* contentment is not dependent on the situation, the situation is, *"I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength."* The Bible says in Galatians 5:22-23, *"The fruit of the Spirit is love and joy and peace and patience and kindness and goodness and faithfulness and gentleness and self-control."* I mean this is what the Holy Spirit produces in you if you use rebound, if you stay filled with the Holy Spirit, problem-solving device number two, and subdue that sin nature. Don't let it control your life. **Don't let your sin nature take control. Don't make decisions based on what you feel rather than what you think. You should make decisions based on what you think because the Bible says, "Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus," Philippians 2:5. God wants you to think His Word.** God wants you to do what Roman 12:3 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."* **You can think human viewpoint or you can think divine viewpoint.** You can be led into the lure of the cosmic system or you can be led under the power of the Holy Spirit and enjoy the love and the peace and the joy and the patience and the kindness and the goodness and the gentleness and the self-control. All of this is provided by means of the Holy Spirit as He uses the Word of God in your mind, in your thoughts, in your stream of consciousness where you take control. If you find yourself minus some of these assets that I just quoted here in Galatians 5:22-23, it could be because you've committed mental attitude sins. "Like what?" Worry, bitterness, fear, self-pity, other things like this. You don't like your situation, you're alone, you think nobody cares about you, nobody loves you, you got a raw deal at work, this happened, that happened. This is pure satanic propaganda that causes you to let your emotions begin to rule your thinking. You can't do this. Did you think you were going to get a good deal from the devil in the devil's world when you accepted Christ as your Savior? Don't you remember where Paul said in Ephesians 6:11, *"We're in a war, put on the armor of God so you can stand against the strategy of Satan."* What is his strategy? It's to defeat you, to discourage you, to get you to turn against God because of your self-pity, to get you to think that even God's against you and that's not true, that's Satan. **The first step if you want to recover**

from that sort of thinking is for you to rebound your sin. Use your volition to come clean with God and quit blaming your circumstances and your misery on other people. You are a victim of your own decisions. In fact, God may have allowed some things to go against you as a form of divine discipline. Maybe God put those in your life to kind of humble you a little bit. Hebrews 12:6, *“Endure your suffering as discipline. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline?”* Sometimes God will lower the hammer on you and you will feel it. It’s called warning discipline, intense discipline, and there’s even dying discipline. When you fail to confess your sin to God or rebound your sin to God, it only guarantees there is going to be more discipline, going to be more frustration as you look for a way out of a miserable existence. You turn to the world, you turn to yourself, you get into some bad habit or you get hooked on something you don’t need to be hooked on. The next thing you know your life is being controlled by outside sources and you’ve lost control and you’ve become a slave to your emotions, a slave to your lust. That’s what can happen. The frustrated, self-centered individual loses all hope of any sort of happiness. Why? Because they don’t see any way out of their misery, they see no way out of their circumstances. I mean, some will go into psychotic depression, even mental illness. Others could choose to end their deep desperation with suicide. That’s a shame. What a waste. God didn’t design you to live this way or to do something like this. In the Bible we see some who chose to end their lives rather than live and face their failures. In Judges 16:27-30 we see where Sampson chose to end his life after his failure. Sampson had a problem. He could be filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit and do some amazing things but his volition kept getting him in trouble with the ladies and the last one he got in trouble with was a woman named Delilah who tricked him into getting his hair cut and losing his power. He was captured by the Philistines and was being made fun of and listen to this. Here he is, handcuffed, being made fun of, laughed at, Judges 16:27-28, *“Now the temple was filled with men and women and all the rulers of the Philistines were there. There were 3,000 men and women on the roof watching Sampson entertain them [he’s been blinded, his eyes have been put out, his hair has been cut] and Sampson called to the Lord and said, ‘Please remember me, strengthen me just one more time O God so I can get some revenge against these Philistines for my two eyes.’ And Sampson took hold of the two middle pillars that supported the temple and he leaned against them with his right hand and the other one in his left hand and he said, ‘Let me die with these Philistines,’ and he pushed hard. The temple collapsed and all the rulers and all the people in it were killed.”* As a matter of fact he killed many more people in his death than he killed in his entire life fighting the Philistines. But he took his life. One bad decision after another got him blinded and it was only God’s grace that gave him that last little bit of strength at the end. In 1 Samuel 31:3-6 King Saul killed himself. He was in the thick of a battle, an archer spotted him, *“And wounded him severely and he turned to his armor bearer and he said, ‘Draw your sword and stab me with it. Otherwise these uncircumcised people will come and stab me and torture me.’ But his armor bearer refused to do it because he was very afraid. So Saul took out his sword and fell on it and when his armor bearer saw Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died with him. And so Saul, his three*

sons, and his armor bearer and all of his men died together that day.” Rather than give up to the enemy, he took his own life. In Matthew 27:3-8, when Jesus found out who had betrayed Him, “Now, when Judas who betrayed Jesus saw that Jesus had been condemned to death, he regretted what he had done and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders and he said, ‘I made a sin, I made a mistake by betraying innocent blood,’ and they said, ‘What is that to us? You take care of it yourself.’ And so Judas threw that money into the temple, and he left and he went out and he hung himself.” **Suicide. This is the power of guilt, an emotional attack on your spiritual life. You cannot live under the power of guilt. I don't care what you've done in the past, don't look back.** If you've rebounded the sin and confessed the sin, once is enough. You don't have to keep confessing it and you don't have to keep confessing it over and over and over again. **When you make mistakes, go to the Lord and tell Him. If you're still alive when the dust clears, God still has a plan for your life, He is not through with you.** Guilt can become morbid self-reproach, emotional feelings out of control, feeling culpable for something you did and it brings out a sense of inadequacy. Guilt is very dangerous and it's definitely a sin. It leads into preoccupation with self and a person trying to correct his own behavior from some sort of self-righteous arrogance. Just confess your sin to God. **“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” and you can overcome the guilt and the shame.** Guilt causes repression, you know, pushing it back down as a primary defense mechanism against your anxiety, against your fear and worries instead of using God's problem solving devices that I've taught you on this show. These 10 unique problem-solving devices, that main line of resistance, that will stop the outside source of adversity from becoming the inside source of stress. They are available if you will learn them and use them. **Repression is simply a means of denial.** That's part of the problem because it denies the reality of the problem in the first place because it's too painful or unpleasant to look at and the arrogant person refuses to look at it. Guilt and repression are horrible sins. Guilt results from being manipulated by some dominating personality sometimes or even a weak person that has self-righteousness. It's a sin caused by repression, denial, projection, manipulation, and thus **guilt motivates many failures in the spiritual life.** Many people feel guilty because they don't think they've lived up to God's plan and it's probably so, but God didn't design you to feel guilty. He designed you to get grace. You are to forget those things which are behind and look forward, Philippians 3:13-14 talks about this. **Don't let guilt be the motivator in your life rather than the Word of God that's suppose to circulate in your stream of consciousness.** Guilt is the wrong kind of motivation and is a sin. It will cause you do wrong things and let you be manipulated by legalism and circumstances. Guilt becomes a type of slavery. Don't live like this. **“Live in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Get rid of the guilt, confess your sin, don't look back, move forward, move on down the road, stay filled with the Holy Spirit, learn these 10 problem-solving devices and you can stay off the Road to Destruction.** You don't have to be captured by Satan's propaganda and misled by his lies. There's a better way to live and I tell you about it every Sunday on this radio show.

GOD'S PROBLEM SOLVING DEVICES

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
MANKIND

SHARING THE
HAPPINESS
OF GOD

OCCUPATION
WITH CHRIST

FOR OTHER ACCURATE BIBLE STUDIES CONTACT:

BERACHAH CHURCH

2815 Sage Road
Houston, Texas 77056-6002
berachah.org
713-622-6922

R. B. THIEME, JR., BIBLE MINISTRIES

PO Box 460829
Houston, TX 77056-8829
rbthieme.org
713-621-3740

There is no charge for any material from Berachah Church or R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries. Anyone who desires Bible teaching can receive our recordings or publications without obligation. God provides Bible doctrine. We wish to reflect His grace.

If you, or a loved one, are incarcerated
and want to study the Word of God contact:

PHILIPPI FREEDOM MINISTRY

PO Box 552
Chesterfield, MO 63006-0552
philippifreedomministry.org
314-435-2957

Philippi Freedom Ministry presents the Gospel message of Faith Alone in Christ Alone and teaches Basic Bible Doctrines to those who are incarcerated. The purpose of this ministry is to make doctrinal Bible teaching available without charge or obligation.



Rick Hughes
EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

rickhughesministries.org