

**2021
V2**

THE FLOT LINE hosted by Rick Hughes
2021 TRANSCRIPTS VOLUME 2 July-December

VOLUME
2



Rick Hughes
EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES



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

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

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

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

RADIO

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

PODCAST

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

BOOKS

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

BOOKMARKS & HANDOUTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you have listened to any of my broadcasts, this intro is familiar. "Welcome to *The FLOT Line*. I am your host Rick Hughes. Stay with me for the next few minutes. It will be a short time of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education and all done without any manipulation." Here for you, *Transcripts of the The FLOT Line 2021*.

Rick Hughes

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The Complainer

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 828 aired on July 4, 2021

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes inviting you to stick around for just a few minutes of motivation, inspiration, education, without any type of manipulation because no one's going to ask you for any money or ask you to join anything. Just please listen as I try to verify and identify the plan of God for your life and if I'm able to do this, then you certainly have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. Remember this, God gave you two ends. One of these ends you sit with and one of these ends you think with and success in your life depends on which one of these you use. Heads, you'll win. Tails, well you'll lose. In 2 Peter 3:18 the Bible says we're to, "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" Grow is an imperative mood verb in the original Greek and it's not a request, it's a mandate. God wants you to grow up. He wants you to be a mature believer. You have to train your mind to think divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint. Human viewpoint is opinion but the Word of God is a different way of thinking. It's assimilating the mind of Christ and you using the mind of Christ as 1 Corinthians 2:16 tells us. The New Testament is the mind of Christ. When you learn and think with the mind of Christ, you're doing what the Bible says in Philippians 2:5, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*" You're learning God's Word, applying God's Word, glorifying God as a result of it, having a wonderful fantastic life. Today we're going to deal with the concept of complaining. You and I have been around people that complain a lot and they get on your nerves. Here's what the Bible has to say about complaining, Philippians 3:13 Paul said, "*I do not evaluate myself as having attained the final objective,*" of being a mature believer so that he could pass evidence testing. That's what happens as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We go through momentum testing and evidence testing. Paul said, "*I do concentrate on this one thing. I forget what lies behind me and I press forward to what lies in front of me.*" Forgetting what's behind you is a big issue because all of us have failed and made mistakes. All of us sin. Satan is really good at causing you to look back and see those sins and get angry at yourself or someone else and complain about it. You can never afford to handicap yourself in regard to your momentum in Christ but that's what you will do if you don't forget those things that are behind and if you dwell on your past failures. I mean my goodness, I've had more failures than anyone in my spiritual life and I know you've had your share of them too but God's not through with us. We're both still here aren't we? If we're still here evidently God still has a plan for our life. **If we look at our failures, then we wind up complaining. Recalling past failures causes guilt. Guilt is a horrible sin.** A guilt reaction is an emotional sin that we get into and it can go from guilt to denial and then to projection where you project it on to someone else, or even get into some sort of multiple personality disorder because of your guilt. **The greatest problem is self-absorption related to guilt and victimization always sets this sort of thinking off in your life. Paul said in Philippians 3:14, here's the answer, "Keep advancing toward the objective for**

the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Keep moving. When you sin we have a wonderful problem-solving device called rebound, it’s problem-solving device number one in the FLOT line of your soul. If you go to the Father and you confess your sin to God, the Bible says, *“He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all wrongdoing.”* You don't have to confess the same sin ten times, one time is enough. You don't have to keep going back pulling this sin out of the closet and then when something bad happens to you somewhere down the road, maybe ten years down the road you think, “Oh well, I knew God would get even with me one day for doing that.” That's not what's happening. **One of the things that often sidetracks believers like you and me and keeps us from advancing in our spiritual life are sins of the tongue. They are terrible sins and that's part of where complaining comes from.** I would assume more divine discipline comes from sins of the tongue than any other type of sin. Slander, that's one category of the sins of the tongue. That’s gossiping about people, maligning people, judging people. We’re not allowed to do this. The Bible says we are to keep our nose out of other people's business. They have the privacy of the priesthood. Slander is one sin of the tongue. Then there's the false category, falsehoods, where we lie or we misrepresent the truth or we perjure ourselves. Then there is the complaining category where we grumble and gripe and whimper and whine. These sort of sins are committed without really thinking about it. They're just kind of emotional reactions to certain situations you find yourself in. It’s very easy to get into the slander category when someone says, “Well, what do you think about old Bob over there?” You’re going to give your opinion about Bob. What you think about Bob is not essential. If you say, “Oh, you know, he's a pretty good guy but he’s got this one really bad habit I wish he didn't have,” and off you go complaining about him, maligning him, judging him. Or lying to your spouse or lying to your friends, misrepresenting something that's not true. Complaining, whining, griping, grumbling are terrible sins. This is when you allow your emotions to take control of your life. If you're not thankful for what you have, then you’re going to complain about what you don't have, that's evident. **When we complain about anything, we’re complaining about things God knew about in eternity past. Why do we complain? Because we’re not applying the Word of God to whatever situation we’re in.** You know the Bible says in Romans 8:28, *“All things work together for good to them who love God and are called according to a predetermined plan”* and the secret there is *“To them that love God.”* If I asked you, “Do you love God?” You would probably say, “Yes I do.” The Bible says, *“If you love Me, you’ll keep My mandates and My mandates are not grievous,”* there it is, 1 John 5:3. Do you really love God? “Yeah, I love God.” Okay, do you keep His mandates? “Well, I try to keep the Ten Commandments.” Let me give you a couple of other mandates. *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth,”* 2 Timothy 2:15. *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,”* 2 Peter 3:18. These are mandates too. **There are sins of omission, things that you don't do, things that you ignore.** You’re a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. You have a spiritual life and you're not feeding this life by feeding on the Word of God. You're not under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor. You're not learning,

you're not growing, and you're doing a whole lot of complaining and judging and maligning. That's not good. **You have to apply the Word of God to the situation and it starts with grace orientation.** You have to grace people out just like God graced you out. In eternity past the Bible says, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life."* That's grace, this was a free gift. That's why the Bible says, *"For by grace we are saved through faith, it's a free gift of God,"* Ephesians 2:8-9. When God graced you out, He did something so wonderful, so marvelous, so unbelievable for you. He allowed His own Son to take your place on the cross and pay for the penalty of your sin and my sin. That's grace. Gracing people out is God's way He does things and we have to learn to execute our life the same way. **We have to learn to grace people out, not complain about anything.** Not complain about their life, not complain about what they have or don't have. We have to learn that God knew about all these things in eternity past, so why should we complain? Because we don't apply the Word of God to that situation. Philippians 2:13-14, *"For it is God who is at work in you both to desire and to work for His good pleasure. So do all things [now listen, here's a mandate. Do you love God, do you? "Yes, I love God." Okay, here it is, Philippians 2:14] do all things without complaining or arguing."* Let's see, how many arguments have you been in this week? How many times have you complained? Have you complained about anything? Didn't get the newspaper, didn't get the dinner you wanted, had to work overtime, your favorite TV show is off the air. I saw on the internet just the other day about the weatherman showing where the tornadoes were hitting and people calling in and complaining because he interrupted their regular program schedule to watch something they wanted to watch. They didn't care about the tornado, it wasn't in their neighborhood so why would they care? They wanted to watch the TV. People love to complain, love to gripe, love to just malign, carry on. These are all emotional sins. ***"For it is God who works in you both to desire and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining or arguments,"* Philippians 2:14.** *"Do all things without complaining or arguing"* "Do" is a present active imperative verb. It's the verb *poieo* and it means to do something now, right now. *"Do all things without,"* that's a command, that's not God asking you, that's God telling you, "Don't complain." The interesting Greek word for complaining is *gongusmos* and that's a masculine noun which means to murmur in private about your displeasure. That's the last thing you need to be doing, murmuring, griping, complaining. Listen to what the Bible says in Acts 6:1, *"And in those days when the number of disciples was multiplied, there arose murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews because the widows were neglected in the daily administration of the church."* They got angry because they thought maybe the Hebrews were taking more care of their widows than the Gentiles were. *"Be hospitable one to another and don't complain,"* 1 Peter 4:9. Stay out of complaining, *gongusmos*. When you start to complain about the weather, complain about the television, complain about your wife, complain about your husband, complain about your car, this lets your emotions take control over you and your emotions will rule. The Bible goes on to say, "Don't argue." *"Do all things without complaining or arguing."* The Greek word for argue is *dia*

logismos. This means to dispute. In Mark 9:34, the disciples had a problem with this. “*Then there arose a reasoning [or an argument] among them about who would be the greatest.*” The Lord Jesus Christ settled this one real quick. “*Whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all.*” This sort of attitude requires a humility profile. **Without some humility, you can't serve the Lord. You've got to get rid of the complaining, get rid of the griping, get rid of the arguing, and have some humility.** Listen to Romans 12:3, “*This I say, through the grace of God that's been given to me, to everyone that is among you, not to think of himself more than he ought to think, but to think in terms of humility since God has dealt to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word,*” thinking in terms of humility. You know, one of the greatest places that these arguments and complaints start is in a local church where someone has too much power. He's going to complain about the pastor, he's going to complain about the offering, he's going to complain about the people in the church, he's going to complain about this, complain about that. Always stirring up trouble, always running his mouth, has no humility because if you try to talk to him about it, he sees that he's right and everybody else is wrong. That's an arrogant person and he's very self-centered. He's minus any humility in his life. God respects genuine humility, it's a wonderful mandate from the Bible. “*Humble yourselves,*” the Bible tells us in James 4:10. If we don't have this humility, God can use enforced humility to humble us to where we need to be. Now humility's got to be distinguished from humiliation. Humility is the virtue of freedom from arrogance. Humiliation is when your view of self is reduced to a lower status in the eyes of others. Someone may try to humiliate you or intimidate you. What God expects is humility, not humiliation. Humility or being humble is the unique thing about the spiritual life in the Church Age. It's the recognition of the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and submitting to this authority. Humility is a recognition of authority in the execution of the spiritual life. The Bible is the mind of Christ, so when you submit to the authority of the Bible, you're submitting to the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible is there for you to learn. Consistently learn it and apply it into your life, submit to God's authority through the daily intake of the Word of God. I'm talking about daily, not once a week, not every couple of weeks. I'm talking about every day. If you're the type of person that says, “All I need is church on Sunday and I'll be fine,” you will never grow up spiritually. You will always be an immature Christian, a spiritual baby. Hebrews 5:12 talks about this, “*You should be a mature believer by now that you've gone back to being a baby and you need someone to teach you the first principles of the oracles of God again.*” This is the problem we have in many churches and in our nation today, too many spiritual babies that have gotten used to entertainment and not being fed steak. **We submit ourselves by the daily intake of the Word of God and if we become neglectful of this, that's a type of rebellion in your life where you don't have time for God.** That's a good question I want to ask you, do you have time for God? Do you make time for God? Oh, I can hear your answer now. “Well, I read my daily devotion.” Wonderful, wonderful, a little five minute devotion and you're good to go for the rest of the day? That's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about sitting under the authority of a well-qualified pastor with the Bible and notebook and taking notes and learning it and applying it

into your life. Are there preachers that do this? Yes. Are there churches where pastors teach the Word of God more than on Sunday morning and Sunday night? Yes. Can you find these churches? Yes. If you don't know where they are, contact me and I'll tell you, you can get the information free. That's what we must have. We must have post-salvation growth to be grace oriented and to develop some humility. Biblical humility is not complaining and griping and mumbling and grumbling all the time. In James 4:10 the Bible says, "*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord.*" That's not a request, that's a mandate. A mandate for you to be grace oriented and to be occupied with Christ, so that you depend on the Lord. It precedes any effective use of any problem-solving device you have. **You must do what the Bible says, humble yourself, orient to the authority of the Word of God. Humility is you objectively evaluating your own life in light of what the Word of God teaches.** Don't get trapped into complaining, judging yourself or judging other people. There has to be an attitude adjustment to have some humility. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "*Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*" Let's get this verse down. "*Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*" "Whoa, wait a minute, in all circumstances?" Yes, in all circumstances. Paul said, "*I've learned whether I have a lot, whether I have a little, it doesn't make any difference,*" Philippians 4:11. "*For me to live is Christ and to die is profit,*" Philippians 1:21. Are you complaining because you don't have a good job, because you don't make enough money, or because the government's not taking care of you? Are you complaining because your spouse doesn't pay enough attention to you? Are you complaining because the weather is bad today and you can't do your favorite golf outing or fishing or whatever you want to do? "***Give thanks in all circumstances,***" "***This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and have a superabundance of happiness in it,***" Psalm 118:24. "***Because of His unfailing love and mercy every day,***" Lamentations 3:22-23, a great Bible verse. When you get up in the morning, regardless of what you have to do that day, here's another verse you need, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "*Give thanks in every circumstance for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*" How about where you messed up and you're in trouble? Give thanks. That's God getting your attention and giving you some enforced humility since you were too dumb to have authority orientation. You decided to drive 90 when the speed limit was 50 and you got a ticket and you complained about it, maligned the police officer and the judge. Give thanks, God might have just saved your life by slowing you down. You know our Lord Jesus Christ had this humility profile and He was treated extremely unfair. Listen to Isaiah 53:7, "*He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth. Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before his shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.*" **Not one time did our Lord complain, gripe, malign, judge, carry on. He didn't. The disciples saw this attitude. This is the Christian life,** not letting your emotions dictate how you feel. Live by faith, not by feeling. Unhappy people are going to take their unhappiness with them wherever they go. If you're unhappy in New York, you'll be unhappy in L.A. You'll be the same miserable person you are right now because you have not oriented and adjusted to the plan of God. It's called sin

nature control. James 4:1 talks about it, *“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?” “The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh. They are contrary one to the other,”* (Galatians 5:17). James 4:2-3, *“You desire and you do not have so you murder. You covet, you cannot obtain, so you fight and you quarrel and you don't have because you do not ask. And you ask but you don't get it because you ask wrongly, you spend it on your own passions.”* Many people are never happy. This is not the way you're suppose to live your life. In Exodus 14:11-12, the Jews as they came out of Egypt said to Moses, *“Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you took us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you while we were still in Egypt? Leave us alone so we can serve the Egyptians. It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”* Gripe, malign, complain, carry on, whine, they wanted to go back to slavery. They'd rather be in slavery in Egypt than to be occupied with God's plan for their life. **Listen to what Peter says in 1 Peter 5:7, “Cast all your cares on Him. He cares for you.”** Do you think God's going to throw you under the bus? He knows what's going on and He has designed a plan for your life. The quicker you learn it and live it, the better off you're going to be. **This humility I'm talking about is the characteristic of a relaxed mental attitude that comes from the faith-rest drill and use of the other problem-solving devices.** Humility is teachability and being oriented to the genuine authority of the Word of God. Poise is thinking under pressure because you have the mind of Christ. God promotes humble people, James 4:6, *“He gives greater grace. God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble.”* The greatest test of humility is how you respond to authority whether it's fair, unfair, in personality conflict with you or not. The Christian way of life is described as having grace and humility. Those with humility are objective and those motivated by arrogance are subjective and take everything personal. **You can live a life in genuine humility motivated by your trust and your love for God or you can be a complainer, always griping about the raw deal you're getting in life, reacting to circumstances and not responding, not able to handle pressure, miserable, complaining about everything.** No wonder people don't want to be around you. God can humble you in a way you've never been humbled before and I advise you to humble yourself first before the hammer drops into your life. This message is for you because God loves you. He's not angry with you but He won't tolerate your arrogance and lack of humility. **God won't tolerate your complaining and griping.** Think about this, am I talking about you? If I am, confess your sin to God. Orient and adjust yourself to the plan of God. Get with it. Start growing in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and be the man or woman God designed you to be. God's looking for heroes not zeros. There's a lot of zeros running around, you don't need to be one of them. I hope you've learned something. Until next week I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line and God bless you.

The Cure for Depression

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 829 aired on July 11, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and I'd like to invite you to stick around for 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education, and absolutely no manipulation. That's right, we're not going to sell you anything, we're not going to solicit membership, we're just going to teach a short Bible study. If you're interested in learning the Word of God and willing to orient and adjust to it, then you're in the right place. No games, no gimmicks, not human speculation but divine revelation from the Bible. As we face uncertainty and turmoil across America, there's a lot of depression and loneliness. I meet with teenagers as I speak in private schools and find a lot of kids are very lonely and depressed. I run into parents that are depressed. **Depression and loneliness are at epidemic proportions in America today and I'd like to talk about this.** Maybe you are experiencing depression or loneliness. One of the wonderful things about having a FLOT line in your soul is you don't have to live like this because the outside sources of adversity can be conquered by the inside source of the filling of the Holy Spirit and God's Word in your soul. Yes, you have adversity, but stress, you do this to yourself. **You don't have to live with stress. There are divine promises in the Bible that you can claim and take a rest in when you're feeling lonely or depressed.** Let me read some and then make comments. Here's one, Psalm 34:18, "*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,*" people that have internal sadness, are devastated or crushed. David wrote this after he had visited a town called Nob and gone before the priest Ahimelech and asked for help. David concocted a story that he was on a special mission for King Saul when actually Saul was trying to kill him. David said he needed some food and a weapon. He lied to the priest. Ahimelech helped him, supplied him with food and weapons, and whatever he needed. When Saul found out what had happened, he came up there and killed all 45 priests whom David had lied to. It wasn't their fault, they didn't do anything wrong, but they were all murdered by Saul. This was a cause of great regret and remorse in David. 1 Samuel 21:1-10 is the story and verse 22 is David's regret. Listen again to what the Bible says, "*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and He saves those who are crushed in spirit. The afflictions of the righteous are many [this may be you] but the Lord rescues him from all of them,*" Psalm 34:18-19. **That's a divine protection provision for you, peace of mind and confidence in the care of God for you.** "*He heals the broken hearted.*" This means those that are dejected and defeated due to circumstances beyond their control "*and He binds up their wounds,*" Psalm 147:3, or comforts and cares to deliver them from destruction. How does God do all of this? Divine provisions are recorded in the Scripture and by faith we trust God and relax. Let the Lord handle it. **The key to this comes out of Jeremiah 15:16, "Your words were found, and I ate them."** **This means that the Word of God has been eaten and metabolized and applied.** Most folks don't have an appetite for an intense study of the Word of God. They prefer a little bit of emotion and sing-along, but an intense study of the Bible? They don't have an appetite for that and this is what the writer of Proverbs said. Listen to

Proverbs 2:1-11. This is a long passage but I want you to hear it. ***“My son, if you accept my words [that's if, a condition] and if you turn your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding [this is the solution to loneliness and the solution to depression] and indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as silver and search for it as a hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God because God gives wisdom. From His mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He alone holds success in store for the upright. [and here it is for you] He is a shield for those whose walk is blameless, where He guards the course of the just and protects the way of the faithful ones. Then and only then you will understand what is right, what is just, what is fair, what is every good path, for wisdom will then enter your heart [and listen to this] knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.”*** **This means you will love studying God's Word.** It will be pleasant like a great big bowl of spaghetti or a great big steak or a great big whatever you want. Pleasant, you can't wait to sink your teeth into it. When you get like this toward the Word of God and the Word of God becomes pleasant, then verse 11 says, *“Discretion will then protect you and understanding will guard you.”* That's a divine promise from God found in where? Proverbs 2:1-11. Mark it in your Bible and read it. **In Jeremiah 15:16, “Your words were found and I ate them and Your words became a joy to me and a delight to my heart.” This is the divine prescription for depression, not a pill.** The divine prescription for depression is here. *“Your words were found and I ate them,”* and they became a joy, not a misery, a joy to me and my soul delighted, my heart was full of joy. Listen, I recognize that many of our military vets suffer from PTSD due to combat exposure and for that matter anyone who witnesses a terrifying event can have PTSD. The experiences get stuck in your memory system and just keep surfacing when you least expect. But is there a way to live without depression and without stress? Yes. Are you willing to seek the cure? That's the question. Are you willing to seek the cure because there is a divine guarantee that it works, not overnight, and the good thing is it's free. You won't have to take any medicine although I do recognize in some situations, medicines are necessary so I'm not telling you to quit taking your medicine. Talk with your doctor if you have a question about this. **I'm telling you that the spiritual life and what God provides through His Word can give you peace and contentment and joy and happiness.** Listen to Lamentations 3:22-25, *“The Lord's acts of mercy indeed never end. His compassion never fails.”* This means He loves you, He cares for you. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ you are one of God's wonderful children. What's new every morning? This verse says His mercy is new every morning. *“His compassion is new every morning, great is His faithfulness.”* The writer went on to say, *“The Lord is my portion says my soul. Therefore, I will wait for Him. The Lord is good to those who await Him, to the persons who seek Him.”* Is this you? **Do you get up each morning ready to see His faithfulness?** Circumstances in life can sometimes be very brutal, I know this. Job had one of those brutal days in Job 1:13-20. The Bible says, *“One day Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the older brother's house and a messenger came to Job and said, ‘The ox were plowing and the donkeys were grazing and the Sabeans attacked and*

made off with them [in other words they stole all your cattle and your mules]. Then they put your servants to the sword, and I'm the only one who escaped to tell you about it.' And while he was telling him that, another messenger came running up and said, 'The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I'm the only one who escaped to tell you.' While he was still speaking [there's two of them standing there telling him what's happening] *another messenger came and said, 'The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them and they put your servants to the sword and I'm the only one who escaped to tell you' [that's three, and then number four]. While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, 'Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the older brother's house when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it collapsed on them and they're dead and I'm the only one who escaped to tell you.'* After all of this Job got up, tore his robe, shaved his head, fell to the ground, and worshiped God.” This is one of the best-known examples of undeserved suffering ever recorded. It's recorded in the book of Job. In a matter of just a few minutes, Job, a prominently wealthy and godly man, lost everything he had, his possessions, his children and his health. His wife, bless her heart, she suggested that he end his misery by cursing God and dying. That's not too smart. His friends condemned him for something he did not do. They thought he had been in sin and God was punishing him and it seemed to them that God was ignoring him, refusing to answers his prayers. How, how, how can a man endure pressure like this and not react with anger, not react with bitterness, not react with loneliness, not be depressed? I mean, perhaps you yourself have had similar disasters that were devastating and undeserved. Suffering is not always retribution from God. Remember this, don't forget this. You live in the devil's world and he is a known murderer. Jesus said in John 8:44, *“You belong to your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there's no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”* Jesus said Satan is a liar and a murderer. Paul wrote to Timothy and said this about suffering in **2 Timothy 2:3, “Suffer hardship with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”** So here we have it. You live in the devil's world so how do you overcome depression and associated loneliness that comes with it and the circumstances and the details in your life? Well, I want to tell you this. **You overcome depression and loneliness through a local church where the qualified pastor teaches you God's Word.** But the church is not designed to be a lonely hearts club, that's not what it is. You have to have a well-qualified pastor to teach you God's Word, not some cruise ship director. I was talking to a friend this morning about this, about a pastor who teaches doctrine faithfully, but in doing so he does not personally interfere with the privacy of the believers in the church, the privacy of the priesthood of his congregation. By doing this, he's a true leader for he can permit the Holy Spirit to make the point and the Holy Spirit to intercede in the lives of the believers. On the other hand, some pastors are like managers of a cruise ship because they have inordinate ambition and they try to gain attention and attendance by many people and you will wind up having a church full of a lonely hearts club,

people that depend on programs. And the pastor develops and promotes these programs so that people don't really come to hear him but to participate in all the activities that he uses to attract and regulate the lives of those in the congregation. That's not the Christian life. I mean Christians do this, but this is not what God planned for you. **This Christian life God gave you demands spiritual autonomy where you take control of your own life, know your own limits, personal control of what you think. Autonomy means a status of you being independent and free and self-directed and self-controlling over your emotions, over the lust of your sin nature, having self-restraint and poise which is the ability for you to think under pressure.** Come on, if you've been jilted in romance it doesn't change the fact that you have a personal sense of destiny. I was talking to a young man the other day, whose girlfriend jilted him. He's 16, she's 15 or 16 and he couldn't eat for two days. He's depressed. I told him shape up dude, be a man. Tell her to have a nice day, move on down the road. Life is too short for drama. **Listen, you have a personal sense of destiny and if you've been treated unjustly, it doesn't change the fact you still have a personal sense of destiny, it's one of our problem-solving devices, problem-solving device number six.** God has a plan for your life and if you've lost your job, lost out in your social group and you're lonely or isolated, this does not imply that God doesn't still have a plan for you. All you have to do is ask yourself, have I received Christ as my Savior? Well, did you? Did you receive Christ? Yes. Then you have problem-solving devices and having that personal sense of destiny is critical for you to understand and you're only going to understand it with spiritual growth. If you get in some spiritual growth, it's going to bring spiritual combat. Combat will bring disassociation from those that are not serious about advancing. That's what I run into. I run into people that say, "Nice job preacher. I enjoyed that preacher," but they're not serious about really getting with it and studying. A lot of them have regrets. A lot of them have guilt. These are all distractions because everybody fails. Adam even failed in perfect environment in the Garden of Eden. David failed as king. Peter failed the night before Christ was arrested and you and I have both failed. That's the beauty of rebound, problem-solving device number one. We can recover and we don't look back. If the smoke clears after you fail and you're still alive, God still has a plan for you. **In 2 Corinthians 12:10, "Therefore, on behalf of Christ, I'm content with my weaknesses, with vilifications, with adversities, with persecutions, with troublemakers because when I'm weak, I'm actually my strongest." This means that when he's undergoing these persecutions, these afflictions he's forced to live and depend on faith.** Now don't ever get into denial. In denial there's either rejection or reality, it's one of the two. You get this way because you're in denial. You don't see yourself as wrong in anything. That's a sign of arrogance and here's what you can expect. Historical disaster is coming or some sort of national trauma, economic depression, tyranny from crime, malfunction of law enforcement, all of this we're seeing today. You can expect criminal disaster, murder, rape, robbery, burglary, victims of violence, terrorism, child abuse, kidnapping, even incest. You can expect to be a victim of malice and revenge and vituperation, rejection and injustice of various categories. You can expect to lose your health, to have disease, pain, suffering, terminal illnesses even. I mean, it

is very legitimate to pray for illness and suffering of others, there's nothing wrong with this. It's coming. You can expect to see death of friends and death of loved ones. You can expect to see weather-related disasters. And in your life you can expect to be rejected, to be a victim of discrimination, the victim of violence or abuse or oppression. Maybe you are passed over for promotion or loss of employment, a victim of unfairness, a victim of irrational, antagonistic government bureaucracy, a victim of the meanness of some group in general. When all of this happens, and it's coming, all of these things I just described to you, you can do one or two things. **You can react with loneliness and depression or you can respond with faith and confidence in God.** A mature believer will look for opportunities in adversity, not hide, not go get in the closet, close the door and cry. The other-than-mature believer, the less mature believer looks for pity, he looks for comfort from other people. The road to recovery demands a tremendous amount of consistent self-determination. **You have to recognize your condition and then you must assign number one priority to the Word of God. This priority must stay in place no matter how bad things get in your life. If you will begin to study God's Word on a daily basis, you can restore the balance to your soul's mentality.** You can do this with a FLOT Line podcast. You can listen to MP3s that I recommend, watch a DVD. We have a great pastor friend that I know. If you get into this daily it will change your life because you will change the perspective and the way you handle circumstances. I talked to a friend this morning who called me and thanked me for introducing him to a tremendous way to study. I had told him that in a year from now if you get with it, you won't recognize yourself, and he said, "I'm already not recognizing myself. I use to get angry at the drop of a pin. I use to go off on temper tantrums. I'm not doing it anymore." That's because he's growing spiritually. Listen to this letter I got: "I wanted to drop a line to let you know that I enjoy listening and applying and growing from The FLOT Line [that's our podcast]. In fact, I believe listening to your podcast is an answer to a prayer. A few weeks ago I prayed to our Heavenly Father to help me lose weight, not for the purpose of vanity, but for my health so I could look better, because it's an added benefit, lots of laughs. Although this may sound silly, well April 23, last Monday, I got up and headed out to walk and I remembered your podcast [that's on the cell phone, you can listen to it]. Anyways I started the dreaded walk through my neighborhood, listening to a lesson and when the lesson ended 27, 28 minutes later I was not ready to stop listening so I continued to walk. I returned home after walking for an hour and fifteen minutes. Today was day eight and I walked an hour and ten minutes listening to two of your lessons today. I don't like walking, I don't love walking but when I get up I know I will be hitting the pavement just so I can listen to your lessons. When I was returning home today it hit me, God has answered my prayer. I prayed a week ago, He answered it. I look forward to the next day to walk every time I return home. Thank you so much for your dedication of studying and putting together the things that you offer through Rick Hughes Ministries." What a great letter. This can be you. You can tap into our podcast venue, just type in The FLOT Line and it will pull up our radio shows and our logo of a cross with two circles. I've shared this with many people, my dentist, my doctor, the nurses, people that I meet

here and there. Very few people really are willing to go study. Many people, perhaps like you, are just not willing to put in the time, just not willing to study, too busy, too busy running here, too busy running there and this is really what Satan is good at. **In the devil's world distractions are a dime a dozen.** Your kids can be a distraction. Your hobbies can be a distraction. TV, sports, anything can be a distraction. But if you will make priority number one learning God's Word on a daily basis, you will not recognize yourself in a couple of months because you will soon begin to change the way you think. 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.”* **Getting into depression and loneliness is actually arrogance.** It's preoccupation with self. You have to get away from this sort of attitude and move into responding not reacting, or rejecting. Arrogance always looks at self and thinks self is okay. Arrogance wants to blame everybody else. Why are you lonely? Do you have a personal sense of destiny? Yes. Have you accepted Christ as your Savior? Yes. Do you have the filling of the Holy Spirit through the rebound technique? Yes. Are you growing in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? No you're not. One lesson a Sunday is not getting it. You need to be in the place where you are hungry for knowledge, can't get enough of it, you've quit looking at the problem and you focus on the divine solution. Remember, this takes a while. **It takes time to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior because you have to change the way you think. That's why the Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”** There is an approval rating when you're thinking and applying divine viewpoint in your life. When you're living by human viewpoint and letting your emotions control your soul, then you are not growing spiritually. You are preoccupied with self, getting into depression, loneliness, “Woe is me. Let's have a pity party because nobody understands what I'm really going through.” Nothing strange is happening to you that hasn't happened to others according to the Bible. Can you be the person God wants you to be? Yes, if you want to, but it's not going to happen overnight. You're going to have to rebound, get into the Word, stay filled with the Holy Spirit, start growing and your attitude will change. I'd suggest you get our book *Understanding Your Soul*. **You don't have to live under loneliness or depression. Develop a FLOT line in your soul by learning to think as Christ thought, “Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5).** Do you think Christ was lonely or depressed heading to the cross after being cursed and spit on? He was not because He loved His Father and knew His Father's plan. **Jesus Christ handled it by using the same problem-solving devices you have. They were His and He passed them on to you. If you learn and use them, you will never be lonely or depressed.** You don't have to live with thoughts of ending it all. You have an amazing personal sense of destiny ahead of you. I hope you're listening and learning. Until next week, this is Rick Hughes saying thank you so much for listening to The FLOT Line.

True Freedom in Life

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 830 aired on July 18, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. This show is airing in 110 cities every Sunday morning by the grace of God. You may wonder how we afford to broadcast on all these stations because I assume you've noticed that we don't hustle money. We don't sell anything and don't make appeals for money because I live by what the Apostle Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 2:17**, *“For we are not like many peddling the Word of God but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God,”* in other words, letting God examine everything that we do. We don't pedal the Word of God. I don't claim to have a better understanding than others on the air but I do proclaim liberty from selling books or messages because I believe that Christian marketing is atrocious. **Christian marketing is totally wrong and totally dishonoring to God.** I know many Christians, including professional athletes, who speak motivationally and charge a fee to proclaim the message of Christ. I've attended meetings where the evangelist spoke and the music leader would be selling his music videos out in the front of the church, bad. **Grace living frees us from human dependency.** I have learned that if God's in it, God will pay for it. Proclaim the gospel, teach the Word of God and let the Father handle the finances. He does and the truth of grace living sets us free from the bondage of the marketing community. All of our materials are provided free, no charge. We've all heard it said, that freedom is not free. We love our freedom in this country because many wonderful Americans sacrificed their lives and futures to provide that freedom for us. One of the great things that I'm involved with is the Texas Wounded Warrior Foundation. Twice a year we have a retreat for warriors and their spouses and children. It's a weekend of spiritual encouragement where we teach the Word of God to these warriors and their families. Failing to recognize freedom is a bad problem. Some abuse their freedom, some take it for granted, some assume it's always going to be there and they fail to recognize that there are those within and without that hate this country. People within our nation, out of our nation that would love to see us go down in flames fueled by social unrest and political power grabs, liberal progressive politicians. They assume they know what's best for you. But a believer with some Biblical wisdom can see through this smokescreen of deception and deceit. Here's where true freedom comes from, **John 8:31-32 the Lord Jesus Christ said to the Jews who had believed in Him, “If you continue in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.”** First free from eternal condemnation. How's that for free? In John 3:16, *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* If you reject Christ as your Savior you will live forever in the Lake of Fire. This was never God's plan for you. It was created for Satan and the fallen angels. God intended for you a rescue vehicle called the cross and that cross was the Lord Jesus Christ dying for my sin and your sin, paying the ultimate penalty for what we did, because the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:21, *“He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God by means of*

Him.” **We are free from eternal condemnation if we trust in Christ as our Savior.** You can't buy your way to freedom. You can't purchase your way to freedom with God. You have to, by faith, accept the free gift of salvation. That's why the Bible says, *“For by grace are you saved through faith and it's a gift from God, not of works lest any man would brag about it,”* Ephesians 2:8. Jesus said to Thomas who asked Him a question about where He was going in John 14:6, Jesus said, *“I am the way, I am the truth and I am the life and no one can come to the Father but through Me.”* Did you hear that? The only way to get to God the Father is through Jesus Christ. You may wonder about other religions that claim to worship God and here is the answer. If they do not believe that Jesus Christ is the anointed Son of God, they are false, they are evil, and they are liars. The Bible says in Romans 8:1-2, *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ has set you free from the law of sin and death.”* **We are free in Christ Jesus, free from condemnation, free from sin and death, it's an amazing thing.** You don't have to try to earn you freedom. You don't have to purchase your freedom. It's a gift from God. That's what salvation is, it's a gift from God. Can I ask you a question? If you died today, would you go to heaven? Do you have this freedom of thought in your mind, knowing confidently that you are going to heaven? You say, “I'm not sure. I want to know. I'm trying to know, I'm trying to do it. I'm trying my best.” This will not work, you can't do it that way. The only way to come to heaven is to go through Jesus Christ who died on the cross for you and to accept His death as your Savior. You can do it in prayer, you can say a simple prayer. Just bow your head and pray and say, “Father, I believe that Christ died for me and I am willing to accept Him as my Savior.” That's expressing your faith to God the Father and the Bible says, *“Whosoever should call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* You can do this right now in your car. You can do this right now at your home, on your couch, in your chair, at your dinner table, breakfast table. If you ask God to save you, He will do it through Jesus Christ His Son. This is freedom from eternal condemnation, God set you free from condemnation. **There is another type of freedom. True freedom in life is freedom from the control of the sin nature.** See, you are born with a sin nature. Me and you both, we have a sin nature. We may not have the same trends. We may not have the same lust patterns because some people lust for money. Some people lust for power. Some people lust for sex. Some people lust for drugs or alcohol. Lust patterns are different and everybody has a sin nature because the Bible says, *“For by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin and now death is passed on all, for all have sinned and all have come short of the glory of God.”* We all have received Adam's original sin and we are born into the family of Adam with Adam's sin nature. Now what do we do about it? Are you tired of being enslaved to your sin nature? I'll ask you another question, just a straight up question. Are you addicted to anything? Are you addicted to alcohol? Are you addicted to drugs? Are you addicted to pornography? **Are you addicted to anything? If you are, that's your sin nature and bondage chaining you and you're not free. Even though you have accepted Christ as your Savior you haven't learned how to be free in the Christian life.** Listen to what the Bible says in Galatians 5:16-17. *“So I say, walk by means of*

the Holy Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh and they are in conflict with each other so that you're not to do whatever you want to do." There's always this battle going on within you. It's in your mind, it's where all of this takes place. That's where you live your spiritual life, in your thoughts, because God said, *"As a man thinketh in his mind, so he is."* If there's any one thing Satan does not want you to do, it's to think rationally. He doesn't want you to have any coherent thoughts. He doesn't want you to understand the Word of God because that's called Biblical wisdom. If you accrue this wisdom then you have insight and discernment and are able to see through the smokescreen of deception that he lays out to deceive you. There is freedom from sin nature control. That's just one of the three enemies you face in time. The world, the flesh, and the devil are the three enemies you face. However, as Christians we have the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit, the indwelling of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the indwelling of God the Father. I would say the odds are in our favor. You do not have to be addicted to anything. You don't have to be addicted to food. You don't have to be addicted to alcohol, to cigarettes, to drugs, to sex. You don't have to be, that's sin nature bondage controlling you. **When you learn and use problem-solving device numbers one and two, then you can live free of the control of the sin nature. What is problem-solving device number one? It's rebound. "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."** Rebound, what does this mean? When you know you have committed a sin as a Christian, stop immediately and confess the sin. What does this do? **This subjugates the sin nature and puts the Holy Spirit back in control.** In your mind when you decide that you want to do a sin, you make a volitional decision, then you are taking the Holy Spirit out of control and putting your flesh back in control. You are told in the Bible, "Don't walk like this, don't live like this. The Gentiles live like this." Paul said, "In the vanity of their thinking, their minds are empty. They act on their emotions." **If you're going to learn to break free and live free, you must learn how to be filled with the Holy Spirit because you cannot live free apart from the filling of the Holy Spirit.** Again, don't walk under the power of the flesh. I'm going to read Galatians 5:16-17 again, *"I'm telling you walk by means of the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."* If you will rebound any time you know you've committed a sin, you will put that sin nature out of control and put the Holy Spirit back in control. Rebound means to confess the sin, name it, cite it to God. Don't promise you'll never do it again. That's ridiculous, you probably will. It may take you 30 or 40 times a day to rebound till you get control of your flesh, until you bring it back in line but any time you sin, go to God and rebound. This will put the Holy Spirit in control and take the flesh out of control. It may only be an hour before the flesh is tugging at your heart again saying, "Let me in, let me do it, let me run it, let me do it." Paul wrote, *"I don't understand myself at all,"* Romans 7:15-17, *"I don't want to do the things I do but I keep on doing them and it's plain, it's sin in me."* Yes, we have a sin nature but we can be free from control of the sin nature. We can be free from the domination of Satan's thinking if we can learn God's Word and that starts with being filled with the Holy Spirit by means of

rebound. **When the Lord Jesus Christ said, “You can know the truth and the truth will set you free,” this also includes freedom from the details of life.** The details of life don't bring happiness. Happiness is not associated with what you have. Happiness is associated with what you think. Listen to what Paul said in Philippians 4:12-13, *“I know what it is to be in need and I know what it is to have plenty and I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want because I can do all things through Him who gives me the strength.”* That's occupation with Christ. That's problem-solving device number 10, occupation with Christ. As a mature believer once you've learned and begin to apply God's Word, you begin to live by the faith-rest drill which is problem-solving device number three. You are oriented to God's grace, problem-solving device number four. You live by doctrinal orientation, problem-solving device number five. Thus you have a personal sense of destiny, problem-solving device number six. And now you have personal love for God which is your greatest virtue and that's another problem-solving device, number seven. Then impersonal love for all of mankind, that's using your virtue to love them, not them loving you, that's impersonal love, the same thing God loved you with. *“God so loved the world.”* You were a jerk and He loved you. He loved you based on who He is not based on who you are. It's the same thing for you when you have to love your neighbor. Sharing the happiness of God is problem-solving device number nine and occupation with Christ is problem-solving device number ten. Paul is at number ten, *“I can do all things through Him who gives me the strength.”* When you are occupied with Christ, the details of life don't threaten you. **When you are occupied with Christ, you're not enslaved to the details of life. You don't depend on the details of life to make you happy and the reason is because you're content.** Contentment is a wonderful thing because contentment gives you capacity for living. If you are content, God can pour things into your life that will not distract you but if you are not content, you cannot live any way but distracted because you're always looking for something. You believe in that stupid stuff about, *“Follow your dreams. You can live your dream.”* That's not what the Bible teaches at all. That's not the lifestyle God teaches. There's nothing wrong with having a desire to achieve success in any field you are in, but calling it *“following your dream,”* that's a waste of time. **You've got to find out what God's plan is for your life - that's problem-solving device number six, having a personal sense of destiny.** Then you know what God's objective will for you is, His geographical will for you is, you understand these things. I mean, I haven't taught all of these ten problem-solving devices lately but you need to know them. We're putting out a new book on this as soon as we can and we do have the problem-solving devices bookmarks that you can order and take a look at them. We do have a book called *Christian Problem Solving* and we are doing another book. Hopefully it will explain these more in detail. Think about this, freedom from the details of life, not having to depend on anything for your sense of happiness, but depending on occupation with Christ. **Another freedom is freedom from mental attitude sins, where Christ said, “You can know the truth and the truth will set you free.”** Listen to what Paul wrote in Philippians 4:6-7. *“Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer*

and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will garrison your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,” occupation with Christ again. It's possible not to be anxious about anything. Listen to what Matthew wrote here in **Matthew 6:25-29**, **“Therefore I'm telling you, do not be anxious about your life. Do not be anxious about what you're going to eat or what you going to drink or about your body or what you are going to wear. Is not your life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air. They neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them and you are a lot more valuable than them [that's true]. Which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to the span of your life? [it's not possible] And why are you anxious about clothing? [the Bible says] Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow and they don't toil, they don't spin and yet I'm telling you even Solomon in all of his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”** These are the words of Christ. And then in Isaiah 26:3, *“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in you,”* that's occupation with Christ. There is a way to live, to have freedom. There is a way to live to be free from the flesh, free from the control of the sin nature, free from mental attitude sins, free from eternal condemnation - it's all in Christ because freedom is the policy of God in the creation of the human race. He gave us freedom so we could resolve the angelic conflict. The very fact that God created us with volition, a chooser, choice, indicates that God intended for us to exercise our free will as part of the angelic conflict. Listen carefully, **freedom comes from content of thought, spiritual thought. Spiritual thought content is revealed in the Word of God, what He wants you to think. Does God say what He wants you to think? Yes, listen again. “Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus,”** **Philippians 2:5.** Proverbs 23:7 *“As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.”* Romans 12:3 *“Stop thinking of self 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.”* Yes, absolutely yes. God has a plan in what He wants you to think, how He wants you to conduct your life, how you are to believe. The very fact that He gave you this volition means you are to exercise your free will using your thinking. Concentration is the key to this. You cannot grow spiritually if you can't concentrate. This is one of the dilemmas of organized religion. They don't want you to concentrate. They want to entertain you. If you go to church and there's a lot of musical programs and entertainment, you're not concentrating on anything. You're just getting emotional. Waving your hands around, singing *Do Lord* until you're blue in the face is not growing spiritually. Spiritual thought content is revealed in the Word of God, so when the pastor-teacher stands up to teach the Bible and teach the Word of God, he is telling you how you should think. He's telling you how you should live your life based on what the Scripture says. This means you put it into your thoughts and circulate it in your stream of consciousness where if you believe it and apply it, it's called Biblical wisdom. Spiritual freedom is the environment for every believer to execute the spiritual life. We have this spiritual freedom, we can break free from the bondage of sin and death. We're free from condemnation. We're free from the details of life. We're free from mental

attitude sins. We're free from the needs of the politicians to control us. Free, it's a wonderful environment to live in, spiritual freedom, because the function of spiritual freedom is based on cognition, that's learning, and it's based on utilization, that's applying. **Spiritual freedom comes from the cognition and utilization of God's Word through the filling of the Holy Spirit.** If you do this, if you learn these 10 problem-solving devices which is just part of the Christian life, just to put it in a little nutshell so you can understand it, then you can begin to be free and think free and live free - free from organized religion that seeks to intimidate you, free from organized religion that will try to tell you how to live. You know, what's really sad is many believers live in the bondage of organized religion. Organized religion seeks to impose a list of do's and don'ts on you, do's and don'ts, everything from your personal habits to your finances. It's really pitiful. I've seen some unbelievable, pitiful things where organized religion manipulates older people to take money from them. As they get old and begin to lose their cognitive ability, the church may apply pressure on them to give some of their finances or put them in their will, something like this, it's crazy. You know, you've heard it before. "You're not a good Christian if you don't tithe." "You're not a good Christian if you smoke." "You're not a good Christian if you drink." "You're not a good Christian if you wear the wrong clothes," that's all garbage. The Bible doesn't teach you to tithe. Tithing was an Old Testament system of taxation. Everybody in the nation tithed, everybody. The Bible teaches you to give as God has prospered you, and that certainly may be a lot more than 10%. If you think you're going to buy God off for 10% of your income, you're nuts. If someone tells you, "You are not a good Christian if you don't tithe brother." "You're not a good Christian if you smoke." The Bible doesn't tell you don't smoke. The Bible tells you don't harm your body. Eating ten chickens a day can harm your body just as much as smoking ten cigarettes a day. The Bible doesn't say don't have a drink. It doesn't tell you what to wear, what kind of clothes to wear or not wear. That's what religion does. God judges you on what you're thinking, not what you're wearing or what you're drinking. I admit that it is a sin to get drunk. You don't want to give this image to people that it's okay because some people can handle it and some people can't. I'm making a principle, I'm making a point. This is how religion manipulates people. I know a lot of Christians abuse their freedom, that's for sure, but many more live in bondage trying to live up to some unrealistic expectation that even leaders can't follow. They expect you to straighten up and fly right if you wish to be in their assembly. The Word of God learned, the Word of God metabolized, it offers incredible freedom from this sort of lifestyle, freedom from religious intimidation, freedom from solicitations and manipulation of organized religion. **What is offered through the Word of God and in the Scripture is a phenomenal lifestyle of freedom and a lifestyle of insight into the evil schemes of Satan who is the great counterfeiter.** I hope you're getting this because I'd love for you to have true freedom in your life. It's time to break free from trying to impress others. Get into the Word of God, get under a well-qualified pastor and learn. I can help you, I can point you in the right direction to a pastor. I'm not a pastor, that's not my job. You must have the volitional desire to *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

Patience in Adversity

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 831 aired on July 25, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stick around, 30 minutes of motivation, inspiration, education without any manipulation. I don't claim to have a better understanding than others on the airways who have Christian teaching shows but I do proclaim one thing, we don't sell stuff. Christian marketing I believe is atrocious, it's sad. I get numerous ads over social media, sometimes television, radio, other communication mediums trying to sell me a book or video about God or His Word. This Christian marketing I believe is totally wrong and totally dishonoring to God. Grace living frees us from human dependencies so my associates and I have learned that if God's in it, God will pay for it. We proclaim the truth, we proclaim the gospel, teach His Word and let our Heavenly Father handle the finances. He does, He has, and He always will. That's what's so wonderful about grace, it sets us free from the bondage of the marketing community. What we offer on this show is all free, free books, free transcripts, free MP3s, free DVDs, free when you order. If you want to grow, if you're interested in reaching spiritual maturity, that's why we have this radio show, to give you the truth, to point you in the right direction of a well-qualified pastor where you can grow spiritually and become the man or the woman God intended you to be. Today I'd like to talk to you about something that's very critical in the Christian life and it's called patience. How do you develop patience? If you're a bass fisherman like me you better have some patience because you're not going to catch them all the time. Patience is required in chaos, in suffering, in adversity so we want to talk about how you develop patience for chaos and adversity. It could be spiritual chaos which is you suffering for discipline or maybe suffering for blessing like Job did. It could be political chaos and this is humanistic or socialistic agendas that try to change the direction of a nation, like atheist attacks on Christianity. I noticed in the news today that the atheists in the state of Mississippi are suing to get "In God We Trust" taken off the car tags, pitiful. It's just another sign of what Satan is trying to do to remove any influence of God in the minds of those that don't know Him, another attack on God's grace. Chaos, personal chaos, self-induced flaws you develop yourself and they take over your life. They're not inherited flaws, they are developed flaws and they can cause a lot of personal chaos in your life, you know what I'm talking about. **Adversity and chaos is where your faith is developed. This may be called momentum testing. This sort of testing gives you the opportunity to apply the Word of God, Bible doctrine, that you have learned.** Rest assured about this thought, you'll never gain spiritual maturity until you go through these tests. You might not want to do it, but you're going to have to face these tests. **Testing is how God helps you to grow up.** Testing in time is an opportunity for you to develop patience, a wonderful asset in the Christian life. Listen to Psalm 37:7, here we go, "*Be still,*" oh-oh, does this sound like patience? "*Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him. Do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*" Now listen, God never promised me any rose garden and He didn't promise

you one either. He never promised us that everything was going to be rosy and comfortable in the devil's world when we accepted Christ as our Savior. **Adversity and the resulting chaos we face in our life is time for us to shine. It's time for us to really glorify God when we go through this. We need to be patient and don't try to run ahead of God and solve our own problems with human solutions that are in reality no solutions, we wait on God.** We stand still, we wait on God. That's not what Christian activism tries to do. Christian activism tries to clean up the devil's world. The Bible says, "*Be still,*" wait, Psalm 37:7, it's the Hebrew word *daman* and this Hebrew word is a verb that shows action. This action is you using your volition called faith. *Daman* is a qal imperative verb in the Hebrew meaning this is a divine command from God through the writings of David, the man who penned this psalm. If it's in the qal stem as it is here, then it's an active voice verb meaning we are the ones that must do this. We have to produce the faith to stand still. Faith is how we grow our patience. In adversity, testing, suffering, you must use your volition to be still, to stand still and develop patience. Don't try to get out in front of God's timing. Don't try to solve it yourself. Wait on the divine solution which will be revealed to you in the Scripture and execute the faith-rest drill. This type of mental attitude, we call it problem-solving device number three, the faith-rest drill, it's critical in the Christian life. **You are never going to mature until you learn how to use the faith-rest drill.** If you don't understand this, write to me. We'll send you a book on the faith-rest drill so you can get this down. **One of the reasons that God will allow this sort of pressure or chaos into our life is so that through our patience we can glorify Him by using these problem-solving devices.** Or self-induced misery, suffering chaos could actually be assigned as divine discipline. Now let's look at your life for a minute. Listen to what the writer of Hebrews 12:5-7 said about this. "*Have you forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as sons? My son [the Bible goes on to say] do not scorn the Lord's discipline or give up when He corrects you for the Lord disciplines the one He loves and chastises every son that He accepts. Therefore endure your suffering as discipline because God is treating you as a son. For what son is there that a father does not discipline?*" If you have been out of fellowship, if you have failed to rebound, problem-solving device number one, more than likely you've gone into reversionism. Some people call it backsliding. You may be having some divine discipline or God is lowering the hammer into your life. How would you know if your suffering is divine discipline? Very simply, do you have unconfessed sin in your life or do you have a pattern of arrogance that keeps surfacing in your life? This will bring about divine discipline. Now, on the other hand, suffering for blessing, that's part of the believer's maturing process. The Lord Jesus Christ promised His disciples that they were going to have a lot of suffering and it was coming. Listen to John 16:1-3, "*I told you all these things [Jesus said] so that you will not fall away. They will put you out of the synagogue [this means kick you out of church] yet a time is coming when the one who kills you will actually think he's offering service to God and they will do these things because they have not known the Father, they have not known Me.*" When He said, "*I told you these things,*" what exactly did He tell them? What is this referring to, "*These things so that you won't fall away?*" Well, let me read what He told

them in John 15:18-27, *“If the world hates you, be aware that it hated Me first and if you belong to the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you do not belong to the world but I chose you out of the world, for this reason the world hates you. So remember what I told you, a slave is not greater than his master and if they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they obeyed My Word, they will obey yours too, but they will do all of these things to you on account of My name because they do not know the One who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin, but they no longer have any excuse for their sin because the one who hates Me hates My Father too. If I had not performed among them the miraculous deeds that no one else did they would not be guilty of rejecting Me. But now they’ve seen these deeds and they’ve hated both Me and My Father. Now this has happened to fulfill the words that are written in their own law, they hated Me without reason. When the advocate comes [that’s the Holy Spirit] whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about Me and you also will testify about Me because you have been with Me from the beginning.”* Now this would have been a good time for these disciples to bail. He just told them there's going to be a death contract on them. He just told them there's a time coming when someone will want to kill them and think he's offering service to God. All of those disciples, with the exception of John, did die great martyrs' deaths. This is personal. Satan had a contract on these guys just like he did on the Lord Jesus Christ and just like he does on you. John 8:44, Jesus Christ said to the religious crowd, *“You people are from your father the devil and you want to do what your father desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and he does not uphold the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he lies, he speaks according to his own nature because he is a liar and the father of lies.”* **“Be still,” in this verse of Psalm 37 implies that you put on the armor of God and you wait patiently for God to provide your solutions.** Wait patiently for God's provisions. As you move through the time dimension in your life you will have the opportunity to live a life free of frustration, free of anger, free of fear. It's what we call the supernatural life, the Christian life, and it can only be lived with the supernatural assets given by God which are the Holy Spirit and the Word of God dwelling in you. If you are filled with the Holy Spirit and if you learn the Word of God which is the mind of Christ, you can actually replicate the attitude of Christ as He traveled through the devil's world. There's one thing our Lord possessed that we often overlook and that's divine patience. He had great patience with those disciples I assure you. **Patience is an amazingly powerful character asset that frees you from emotional sins that often override your thinking producing other mental attitude sins.** I know, some people want an aspirin panacea. They have a desire for a quick response, take two aspirin and call a doctor in the morning. You know, you've heard this. These are the impatient, desperate people who fail to realize that it took years to become losers spiritually and therefore you're not going to become a winner believer overnight. What's the difference between winners and losers? Losers are believers who break fellowship with God, get into reversionism, do not recover, and go down that My Way Highway until eventually they die the sin unto death. Winners are those people who learn God's Word,

apply God's Word, glorify God, and replicate the life of Christ. You might be able to recover quickly from your sin by rebounding but getting back to spiritual maturity or spiritual stability will take a little bit of time. That's why you have to be patient in your spiritual life. You are not going to get all the answers overnight. You know, it's typical of a lot of people, I've met them in my life. They have a lot of questions and before you answer one question they're thinking of another question. They want all their questions answered right now and as quick as they can think of them. You must be patient in your Christian life and wait on God to teach you because impatience is a tremendous mental defect that leads to the sins of worry and fear and anger. **This impatience is an acquired flaw.** It's brought about by unrealistic expectations on your part. Have you been this way? Have you got unrealistic expectations? If you abide in Christ you may have some faults to overcome but you will not have flaws that cloud your judgment. I'm going to say this one more time. If you abide in Christ you may have faults to overcome, but you will not have flaws that cloud your judgment because as you grow in grace you will develop wisdom and you have discernment and insight and understanding and your judgment won't be clouded. Yes, you still have a sin nature. Yes, you still have to use your volition to stand still and avoid that sin, that worry, but unrealistic expectations on your part are a symptom of some self-centered arrogance, all with this unrealistic self-image. You know, you're always right and the rest of the world is always wrong. The rest of the world is always messed up but not you, you're right. Your frustration, your anger, your bitterness, your evil speaking can all stem from the lack of patience in your life. Do you want to be a patient man or a patient woman as the Lord tells you to be? Well, how does this come about? Through trials. For example Luke 21:15, *"For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by your parents, [the Lord Jesus Christ said] by your brothers and your sisters and your relatives and your friends and they will even put some of you to death and everyone will hate you because of Me. But not a hair on your head will perish."* Stand firm, stand still, and you will win life. There it is again, stand firm, stand still, patiently wait on the Lord. **In 1 Corinthians 10:13, "There is no temptation overtaken you except what is common to mankind and God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear but when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."** What does this mean in human terms? God's not going to throw you under the bus. He is not going to abandon you. He said in Hebrews 13:5, *"I will never leave you, I will never forsake you."* John 10:28-29, *"I give unto them eternal life and they will never perish. No man shall ever pluck them out of My Father's hand."* There is a verse in 2 Timothy 2:13 that says, *"Even if we believe not, yet He abides faithful for He cannot deny Himself,"* so the Father is not going to abandon you. You're going to go through trials, you have to. That's how you grow. That's how you develop patience. That's how you develop your wisdom and apply your wisdom to your life. Listen to Romans 12:12. *"Be joyful in hope and patient in affliction,"* another word for suffering, another word for chaos. *"Be joyful in hope and patient in your chaos [in your afflictions] and be faithful in your prayers."* Patience over emotions in testing is critical because endurance is developed by means

of testing, momentum testing. You have to go through this momentum testing. All of us have to go through this momentum testing and if you do, then you can develop patience. **Through undeserved suffering you develop patience.** 1 Peter 2:20, *“But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and you endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure, this is commendable before God.”* Undeserved suffering is a way to develop patience. Patience over your emotions and endurance is developed by means of testing. Listen to 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, a critical verse for you, *“Or because of these surpassingly great revelations, therefore in order to keep me from becoming conceited [this is Paul writing about his suffering] I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me. Three times I asked the Lord to take it away from me, but He said, ‘No, My grace is sufficient for you. For My power is made perfect in your weaknesses.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That’s why for Christ’s sake I delight in my weaknesses, I delight in insults, I delight in hardships, I delight in persecutions and difficulties for when I am weak, then I’m actually strong.”* **What he is saying is he’s responding by using the Word of God in patience and not reacting with bitterness and frustration and anger.** When you have difficulty or chaos in your life, do you react or do you respond? Reaction lets your emotions get in charge and you’ll get angry, you’ll get bitter, but responding goes to faith-rest. Waiting, be still, be patient, be strong, wait on the Lord, this is what’s required to develop the spiritual life. **Patience is developed by means of your very own spiritual life.** Listen to James 1:4, *“Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”* This is one of the things God will put you through. He will put you through these tests, through these chaotic times in your life to teach you to use the faith-rest drill which is another way of saying to be patient in your suffering, to be patient in your adversity. **“May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ” (2 Thessalonians 3:5).** Listen again, *“The Lord direct your hearts [that’s spiritually mature believers] into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.”* That’s divine viewpoint thinking. It’s critical you think divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint. Colossians 1:9-11, *“For this reason we also since the day we heard of it do not cease to pray for you [Paul said to the church at Colossae] that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding so that you would walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, being fruitful in every good work, increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might according to His glorious power with all patience and longsuffering.”* Here are two Greek words for patience, *hupomone* and *makrothumia*. *Hupomone* is patience and longsuffering and *makrothumia* is another type of patience. There’s another word for patience in the Bible called *anoke* and that’s translated forbearance. It’s when God holds back punishment. It’s a quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation that does not hastily retreat or promptly try to solve the problem on your own or punish somebody. Forbearance is the opposite of anger and it’s associated with mercy. Listen to how God has forbearance in 1 Peter 3:20, *“God waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared in which eight souls were saved by water,”* that’s forbearance. God wants you to

be patient with people. God wants you to be patient with circumstances. He demonstrates patience with you. Remember, impatience is an acquired flaw in your soul that can control you. You can get ready to pull the pin on these mental attitude sins and move into revenge motivation, fear, anger, frustration, like pulling the pin on a grenade if you have no patience. All of these frustrations, these chaotic times, this suffering can produce in you agitation. That's the first step into you moving into full-blown anger in your life. **Faith is your invisible muscle.** The word *pistis* in the Greek, P.I.S.T.I.S., is the word faith. It represents conviction and trust and confidence all based on the character of God in Christ. I warn you, never, never put your faith in man, don't do this. **Put your faith in God and in His Word. Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and being convinced of what we do not see."** As we demonstrate confidence in the plan of God, confidence in God's timing, you and I can live with confident expectation of His best for us if we walk by faith and not by sight. Walking by faith and not by sight. Without faith you can never have God's approval in your life, it's critical you understand this. Hebrews 11:6, *"Without faith it's impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him."* Your faith and my faith, it grows by means of Biblical assimilation, doctrinal assimilation and application. Where does the Bible say this? Romans 10:17, *"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* That's why I always insist that you get under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor and hear the teaching of the Word of God because it produces faith in your life. It gives you wisdom in your life which is insight and discernment from understanding. This is critical for you because without patience you cannot live the spiritual life. You can't survive in the devil's world without it. You're going to go crazy fighting all the chaos that you see because there's a lot of chaos in the world today. So many Christian activists want to straighten it out. Political chaos, personal chaos, spiritual chaos, as I told you at the beginning of the show, it's all there and it's all happening. It is my prayer that you're listening, my prayer that you will make this single most significant decision in your life, to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Savior. It's not hard to do. You don't have to go forward. You don't have to go backwards. You don't have to raise your hand. You don't have to go under. You don't have to go up. Just do what the Bible says in Acts 16:31, *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved"* and John 3:16, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* Faith is you believing in God's plan and patience knowing your eternal destiny is secure. **Patience to trust God, patience to wait on God and patience with circumstances.** Without patience you will make mistakes, get ahead of God trying to put your plan into motion not God's plan. I've seen it many times, Christians that love the Lord, get ahead of God. They get this idea that God told them to do something and then two years later they find out what a waste of time it was. There's so much to learn and understand and patience is required throughout.

God's Problem-Solving Devices - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 832 aired on August 1, 2021

Good morning. The FLOT Line is designed to give you a life of wonderful choices and options. We're coming out with a brand-new book called *Christian Problem Solving*. It's free and will give you details on these 10 unique problem-solving devices that we teach. You know the FLOT stands for the forward line of troops and we use this military term to describe how you can build in your soul an invisible barrier called a mainline of resistance. **This invisible barrier is built around 10 unique problem-solving devices taught in the Bible. If you learn them and use them then it's possible you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they overrun the content of your mentality in your soul and create stress.** You don't have to have stress. You don't have to worry, live in fear or have bitterness and antagonism. There is a better way to live. It's called the Christian life and is a wonderful way to live. It's a life of joy, peace and happiness. You can have this if you will learn God's Word, God's problem-solving devices. You can't understand God's Word of God unless you can concentrate. I find that many Christians have the same inability to focus and concentrate for long periods of time. It's one of the reasons we just run a short show so you just have to pay attention for about 28 minutes. Today we have movies and electronic games where the actors and images do all the thinking for us. You've got to think. God has given you an IQ, but your spiritual IQ is more important. When I became a Christian I wasn't the smartest cookie in the jar. I still am not but I developed a spiritual IQ from listening to my pastor teach God's Word and I developed a Biblical frame of reference. This is what we want you to do, learn these 10 problem-solving devices. **They are as follows. Rebound, problem-solving device #1. The filling of the Holy Spirit, problem-solving device #2. The faith-rest drill, problem-solving device #3. Grace orientation #4. Doctrinal orientation #5. Personal sense of destiny #6. Personal love for God #7. Impersonal love for all of mankind #8. Sharing the happiness of God #9 and occupation with Christ #10.** Today, I just want to highlight them as I remind you this is why we do the show. **We want you to build this FLOT line because every problem in life has a solution and it's stated in the Word of God.** These studies, they're designed to help you understand what your options are when you encounter problems, to encourage you to grow spiritually every day by learning these 10 problem-solving device provided in the Word of God. Problems can come in several areas. One of the biggest problems is our own sinful nature. Adversity, prosperity, death, all can create problems. There's a way to handle these problems. There's a way not to freak out, get angry or stressed. One of the first problems we have is our salvation. You can't come to God unless you come through Jesus Christ. I see people talk about this all the time. "I'm praying to God for help. Our prayers are with you." Christ said, *"No one can come to the Father but by means of Me"* (John 14:6). The most significant question I can ask you is this, do you have a personal relationship with the God of this universe through His Son Jesus Christ? Have you accepted Him as your Savior? It's a decision that everyone of us must make this decision. I made it when I was 22. I never paid much

attention to God growing up, going through school, playing football, chasing girls, and doing everything that I did but at the age of 22 I made a decision to accept Christ as my Savior. I never knew what would happen as a result of this. I had no idea of the plan that God had for me, but I knew I wanted to go to heaven and I knew that this gentleman that led me to Christ said I could know I was going to heaven. He showed me in the Bible, *“These things are written so that you might know that you have eternal life”* (1 John 5:12). Ever since that day that I dropped on a knee and prayed and asked God to save me, I have known for sure I'm going to heaven. Not because I'm a good kid. Not because I don't do stupid things but because I have faith in Christ, faith alone in Christ alone is the signature salvation that every one of us needs. **When you make this decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, this is the single most significant decision that you could ever make in your entire life.** Once you accept Christ, you are not perfect. That's what I found out immediately. I accepted Christ as my Savior, wound up going back to school, going into a Bible college and found out I wasn't perfect. I still had my temper, I still could go off at the flash of a bang, “Boom,” get angry and lose my temper. I thought, “Well, if I'm a Christian, why do I do this?” I could still lust after girls even in Bible college. If I'm a Christian why did I do this? **I found out that I still had a sin nature.** Even though I was a Christian, even though I had accepted Christ as my Savior, it did not mean that from now on out I would never have any other temptations or never commit another sin. That's not what the Bible says. Paul put it plainly. He said, *“I don't understand myself at all because I want to do what's right, but it's inevitable that I do what's wrong and if I do what's wrong it's plain that it's sin in me”* (Romans 7:15-17). He wrote, *“The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh and they are contrary one to the other so that we don't do the things we want to do”* (Galatians 5:17). You, like me, have a sin nature and you, like me, inherited this sin nature from your father. I don't really know who my father was, but I know I got my sin nature from him. It's in me and I had to learn how to control it or else it was going to control me. That's where the first problem-solving device comes in. How do I control my sin nature and it's called rebound. Rebound is problem-solving device number one. **Rebound is a term that describes confession of any known sin. Simply put, when we bounce out of fellowship with God by committing personal sin, we need to rebound or bounce back in by confessing our sin.** It is taught in the Bible in many passages. For example, 1 John 1:9 says, *“If we confess our sin.”* If is a third class condition, maybe you will, maybe you won't, maybe you don't even know what sin is, but *“if we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* Do you even know what sins are? Mental attitude sins such as worry, did anybody ever tell you worry is a sin? Fear is a sin. Anger is a sin. Jealousy is a sin. Or it could be a sin of the tongue like gossip, slander, maligning, criticizing, lying. Or it could be an overt sin like stealing, murder, fornication or adultery. As Christians when we sin, we break fellowship with God because we quench and we grieve the Holy Spirit and our fellowship with God is broken so we have to reestablish fellowship. The only way to do this is to rebound. It's a pretty basic concept. Most people understand they should ask God to forgive them for their sins, but it

doesn't mean you have to beg God to forgive you for your sin and promise you'll never do it again. More than likely, you probably will do it again. The Bible says that when you sin, you grieve and you quench the Holy Spirit and sin quenches the power to help you execute the protocol plan of God. Sin grieves the Holy Spirit or makes Him sorrowful that you sinned so by rebounding, you can recover from your sin and get back into fellowship with God by letting the Holy Spirit once again take control of your life. **At any moment in time, right now as I'm talking to you, you are either controlled by the Holy Spirit or you are controlled by your flesh, your sinful nature.** You are indwelt with the Holy Spirit at salvation, you're sealed with the Holy Spirit at salvation, you're given spiritual gifts at salvation, and you're filled with the Holy Spirit at salvation. When you sin you don't lose your salvation. You simply quench and grieve the Spirit and you quit operating in the spiritual life. Now let's put it together. First, you must accept Christ as your Savior and get saved. Second, God the Holy Spirit indwells you to help you follow God's plan. Third, you are prone to sin and thus you could quench the Holy Spirit when you do this. Fourth, God knew this is going to happen so He made a provision for you and for your sin by providing rebound. And fifth, when you do sin, if you will confess this sin and rebound it, then you will be back in fellowship with God and free to follow His plan. I can hear you right now, "How many times will God forgive me for the same sin?" As many times as you do it, I promise you. No one's perfect. No one goes through the day not ever sinning. There are some days if you drive in cities like Atlanta or Houston or Dallas, you may sin a lot in the interstate traffic. You may sin a lot at work with mental attitude sins and frustration and anger but as many times as you sin, when you go to God and say, "Father I just messed up. I just did something I shouldn't have done. I just lied. I just lusted. I just got full of vindictive bitterness and hatred," then He forgives you. That's His plan for your life and the whole process may have to be repeated a lot of times every day. You must continue to rebound if you have any chance of executing the Christian life because you can't do it on your own. You cannot use your own energy and your own flesh to execute the spiritual life. Failure to rebound results in several things. If you don't rebound, if you don't confess your sin to God, you're going to get under the law of divine punitive action. In Hebrews 12:5 God says, "*Those that I love, I discipline and I chasten with a whip.*" God can discipline you for not rebounding. **The second law to consider is in Colossians 3:25, it's called the law of volitional responsibility. This is where you must take responsibility for every decision you make - good, bad and ugly.** Simply put God holds all of us responsible for our decisions and when we sin we must take responsibility for this sin. Sometimes this even includes accepting the discipline that goes with it. If you fail to rebound, if you fail to confess the sin, if you try to hide it from God or act like you didn't do it and you continue your sinning, then you're letting your sinful nature control you and you're going to be in a lot of trouble with God. If you're a Christian, you're going to get discipline. Now the second problem-solving device, again the new book will explain all of this to you, you can have it in your hands and you can study it with your Bible opened, so order the book if you want it, is the filling of the Holy Spirit. **The filling of the Holy Spirit is the second problem-solving device.**

This term often causes a lot of confusion in the Christian world. There are whole denominations that have been built on the use of this phrase as a major emphasis. I'm not here to unravel all the confusion that surrounds this, but my emphasis is to show you what I believe the Bible teaches concerning the filling of the Holy Spirit with the hope that you will seek to allow God's Holy Spirit to control your life each and every moment of every day. When our Lord Jesus Christ left the earth, He told the disciples He was going to send them a tutor or a mentor. The Holy Spirit would be with them and help them to remember everything that He taught them. The Holy Spirit lives inside of you. **If you are a believer, the Holy Spirit indwells you and you are mandated in the Bible to be filled with the Spirit in Ephesians 5:18. It's not a request, it's a requirement.** God said you must be filled with the Holy Spirit. At any time in a 24-hour day, you are either controlled by the Holy Spirit or you are controlled by the energy of the flesh, the carnal man, the sinful nature. Which one is controlling you right now? Can you know this? Yes. How? Do you have unconfessed sin in your life? Are you lying to God? Are you hiding something from your wife, from your husband, from your church? What are you hiding? That's sin and if you don't confess the sin, then get ready to accept the discipline that comes with it because God will give you an attitude adjustment. He will break your anger and your arrogance as His child. Do you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Then rebound when you sin because the filling of the Holy Spirit solves the problem of the genetically formed sin nature. You have one, I have one, and the Holy Spirit takes care of this problem. **How do we handle sin? We rebound. How do we handle the genetically formed sin nature? We stay filled with the Holy Spirit.** It's our first power option in the Christian life. If you choose to be filled with the Holy Spirit then you can choose to learn God's plan and learn it and apply it into your life. It's important for you. It's the foundation. Your foundation is your faith alone in Christ alone and then you build on it by staying filled with the Holy Spirit. The gold, silver, and precious stones, these are things that you do in production from the filling of the Holy Spirit that glorifies God forever. Here's a question that I'm going to ask you again. Are you saved? Have you accepted Christ as your Savior? Yes, you have? Great. Secondly, at this moment are you in fellowship or are you out of fellowship? Answer this question. How do you know? Is there unconfessed sin in your life? That's the answer. **The third problem-solving device is the faith-rest drill. In order for the faith-rest drill to be effective, you must be in fellowship with God through the filling of the Holy Spirit. If there's any unconfessed sin in your life you cannot use this tremendous problem-solving device.** Let's start with this word faith. It's a noun sometimes used as a verb, faith or belief, same word. The original Greek manuscripts in the New Testament call it *pistis* or *pisteuo*, faith. We must have faith to be saved by faith alone in Christ alone. *"For by grace are you saved through faith, it is a gift of God, not of works, lest someone would brag about it"* (Ephesians 2:8). The Bible tells you in Romans 10:17, *"That faith comes by hearing and that hearing by the Word of God."* **As you hear the Word of God under the filling of the Holy Spirit, as you build a Biblical inventory of ideas and scriptures in your soul, your faith grows.** That's what's important. In Ephesians 6:16 we are told to *"Pick up the shield of faith."*

This is a weapon that we have or a protective barrier that we have that protects us from the strategy of Satan. Every Roman soldier had a shield that he carried into combat. It protected him from the enemy's arrows and from spears, and Paul told us we have a shield like this. He used a military metaphor and it is faith. It's the Word of God. If we learn the Word of God, stand behind the Word of God in faith, then we are lifting our shields to protect ourselves from the attacks of Satan. Do you believe the promise? Are you willing to trust God or do you think you've got a better plan for your life? These three problem-solving devices I've given you right there are critical for you, critical for you to grow in grace, critical for you to understand what God's plan is about. Are you willing to trust Him? **Do you know God has a plan for your life? He does and the faith-rest drill requires three steps. The first one is this. You have to claim a promise.** This is how the faith-rest drill works, claim a promise. How many do you know? There are over 7,000 of them in the Bible. These are yours. It's like a check, you can write it and cash it. These promises can stabilize you from fear and panic but you have to understand these promises. You have to know where they are. Then once you claim the promise, then you can use the faith-rest drill by concentrating on God's essence. He's sovereign, He's just, He's righteousness, He's immutable, He's veracity, He's omnipotent, He's omnipresent and He's omniscient. If you think about these things, and I just said a lot, I know I said a lot, relax. This is the essence of God. If you think about these things, you will see how God was in business before you got here. Nothing catches God by surprise and He's well aware what you're going through. He hasn't thrown you under the bus. He hasn't walked away. You could have walked away from God but He never walks away from you. He just loves you from behind. **If you fail to use your shield of faith, then you will fall victim to your sin nature and you will begin to sin by worrying and being afraid.** You know, all of us are tempted to do this, to have a lifestyle of fear and worry. I mean look at what's going on in America today. A lot of people worry about this, especially worry about what's going on politically. God never said that you're going to have a perfect life. As a matter of fact, cosmic chaos is where you get to be tested and that's how you grow, going through chaos and testing. God always gives you privacy, privacy to fail or privacy to pass on your own. Everything you need has been provided by God. He saved you. He gave you eternal life. He gave you the Holy Spirit. He gave you His Word. Now it's up to you to learn it and apply it into your life. That's the challenge. These first three problem-solving devices prepare you for what's ahead. Then we come to grace orientation. **Another problem-solving device that we have to learn is called grace orientation.** Now, how did we get saved? By grace. How do we live? By grace. As a matter of fact 2 Peter 3:18 tells us, "*Grow in grace.*" This simply means we stay filled with the Holy Spirit and we learn God's Word on a daily basis. These two things in your life are the secret to growing in grace, beginning to understand how God treats us and what motivates us to treat others the same way. This is grace orientation. The enemy of grace is legalism. Legalism is the enemy of grace. God gives you a grace lifestyle. The religious crowd will give you a legalistic chain to wear around your neck such as, "Oh brother, you're not going to be a very good Christian if you smoke brother. Oh brother, you're not going to be a very good Christian if you

go down there and shop at that place.” They will try to legalize you and browbeat you into doing what they think is the right thing to do. The Bible doesn’t say don't smoke. It says don't harm your body, okay? Let's just get this straight. God is not impressed with legalism. Legalism often is self-righteous and results in a legalistic lifestyle. In Luke 18:9-14 you can read about the legalist who thought he was impressing God because he fasted and gave a tithe, but that's not the case. We live by grace. We’re saved by grace. We die by grace. We have future grace in heaven. Grace orientation is a wonderful way to live, to grace people out, not to seek revenge, not to get even. Did God grace you out? Yes. Did you deserve or earn salvation? No. Can you not grace other people out when they disappoint you? You're not required to hold a grudge. You’re not required to judge them. Matthew 7:1 talks about this. Don't judge people, grace them out. The enemy of grace again is legalism and that's the enemy that Jesus had during His time on earth. The Pharisees hated Him. They were eventually responsible for His crucifixion, John 11:47-51, because legalism is the enemy of grace. You cannot afford to get trapped in this type of lifestyle because that legalist likes to judge other people and criticize their actions and control other people by demanding they follow a set of traditions and rules. They don't mind their own business. They want to take care of everybody else's business. The grace lifestyle minds your own business. The grace oriented person does not stick his nose in other people's business. The grace oriented pastor does not make an issue of money. He doesn't ask people for money because he knows that God promises to supply all his needs if he will just teach His Word. Why ask man for something that God already promises to give you? That's crazy. **Grace orientation simply means you begin to live and experience God's grace every day.** You don't worry about your needs. You don't judge other people. You treat people in grace and live by grace. Don't expect the same thing in return. Many people will not understand this attitude. They've never come to understand grace, including saving grace. Here's a wonderful one, dying grace. It’s promised in the Bible in John 5:19-27. Simply put, God will protect you from death and you will be brought to full age before you transfer to heaven. If you will learn these truths and live by grace and understand the grace operating procedures of the Christian life like rebound, that’s a grace operating procedure, then you can have this phenomenal lifestyle I'm talking about. It's all in our book, *Christian Problem Solving*. It’s a summary of lessons that I've taught this in detail and we want to give it to you free. All you have to do is order it from rickhughesministries.org. We just printed up several thousand of them for you and if you'd like to get it, let me know. We are going to continue this next week. We’ve only been through rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the faith-rest drill, and grace orientation. Now we’ve got to get into doctrinal orientation, personal sense of destiny, personal love for God, impersonal love for others, sharing the happiness of God, and occupation with Christ. **These are the 10 unique problem-solving devices that make up the FLOT line in your soul. Learn them and use them and you will stop the outside source of adversity from becoming the inside source of stress.** I hope I'm making it plain and clear for you. If not, contact me and let me know. Until next week, we’ll be back, same time, same place, same channel. Thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

God's Problem-Solving Devices - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 833 aired on August 8, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. The Bible clearly tells us, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 2:5). Everything you do starts with a thought and becomes a motive and then a decision. The Lord knows what you're thinking and doing. That's His omniscience. Learning to think right, that's what The FLOT Line is all about. We've just completed a book on this called *Christian Problem Solving*. It describes the 10 problem-solving devices in detail as taught to me by my pastor years ago. The last show we reviewed rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the faith-rest drill and grace orientation. **The Christian life requires thinking and learning how to execute the plan of God.** Most people just think, “Well, I'm a Christian,” and they never really consider that there is a unique spiritual life. We start out as young believers and don't know the process. We don't understand rebound, how to stay filled with the Holy Spirit, use the faith-rest drill or be grace oriented. These are things you have to learn. When 2 Peter 3:18 says, *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* this is not a request, this is a mandate. In the original Greek language of the New Testament *auxano* is the word for *grow* and it's what we call an imperative mood verb which means it's a command. Here's the principle. No one ever grows spiritually by sitting in church singing praise songs. There's nothing wrong with this, but that's not how you grow. **You grow by learning God's Word, 2 Timothy 2:15 tells you this, “Study to show yourself approved unto God.”** Here's another verb, *study*, and in the Greek it is *spoudazo*, and is an imperative mood verb also. **So we have a mandate from God that says grow and one that says study.** Every one of us must know and understand what the spiritual life is if we hope to glorify God to the maximum. The Bible says in Jeremiah 9:24, “I'm looking for people that not only know Me but understand Me.” That's what I'm trying to do on this radio show is look for those of you that have a hunger to understand the God you know. Are you willing to apply the time it takes to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Are you willing to do what Jesus said, *“Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke on you and learn of Me. My yoke is easy and My burden is light”* (Matthew 11:28-30)? **Study, grow, learn. You have to learn how to live and execute the Christian life. These 10 problem-solving devices are, in a nutshell, the Christian life.** We have them listed on a bookmark and we have them described in detail in a new book, so you can learn and remember them. You have to learn how to rebound and stay in fellowship and handle sin. You have to learn the filling of the Holy Spirit and how to let the Holy Spirit control your life and not your flesh. You have to learn how to live under the faith-rest drill so emotions won't overtake you in your panic, in the fear panic ploy. You have to learn what grace orientation is, that you are saved by grace, you live by grace, you die by grace, and there's surpassing grace in heaven. Then it's all connected to doctrinal orientation, Biblical orientation. I'd like you to become familiar with this term. **Doctrinal orientation refers to the sum total of the Word of God that you**

need to learn and put to use in your life. Without this, without Bible doctrine, you have no answers, you have no solutions, you have no motivation for your life. That's why I say God instructs us to study in 2 Timothy 2:15. *“Study to show yourself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* In Hebrews 5:11, the writer of Hebrews whoever he was said, “Look, I'd like to teach you some things but you are not capable of learning them because you're still a baby, you're not ready for this steak. You still need a bottle.” Read it in Hebrews 5:11-14. Where do you learn this stuff? How do you learn it? Do you just pick up a Bible and start reading it? I run into people like this, they brag about having read the Bible through. There is nothing wrong with reading the Bible but that's not the process. **The process is a local church. The process is the pastor in the local church. He has a spiritual gift and it's his job to study the Word of God, to dissect the Word of God, and to teach the Word of God to his congregation.** Unfortunately, many pastors don't do this. Many pastors are not allowed to do this and so they're forced to visit and counsel and do things that don't assist people in growing spiritually. You need to have the privacy of your priesthood when you go to church. You need to be able to learn God's Word and listen. If you went to the first grade for an hour and a half a week, you would never get out of the first grade. 30 minutes on Sunday morning, 30 minutes on Sunday night, 30 minutes on Wednesday night, that's an hour and half a week. No wonder many Christians never get out of the first grade. They never take any time to study and learn and grow. You say, “Well, I may go to church for an hour and a half and I'll go home and read my Bible.” That's not it. Sure you can read your Bible. Sure, you can pick up things but that's not the process lined up in the Word of God. You must sit under the authority of a pastor who has the gift, a well-qualified pastor. He's called the shepherd and we are called the sheep and it's his job to see to it that we're fed and to see to it that we are protected. **We have to learn Bible doctrine, it's called metabolizing the Word of God. When you eat, you have to metabolize the food to convert it to energy. If a good pastor studies and teaches God's Word and you are filled with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit helps you understand it. He can't assist you if you're out of fellowship.** If you're not using rebound, if you're not confessing your known sin, I don't care how many times you go to church, I don't care how good the pastor is, the Holy Spirit cannot do His job. You must be in fellowship when you sit under the authority of your pastor. You must not have unconfessed sin in your life because you will not be able to convert what he taught into spiritual dynamics in your life. If your pastor doesn't teach you the Word of God I suggest you find one that will. Sometimes people have to seek outside assistance and I can tell you there are many books, many tapes available for you if you choose to use them and they're not for sale. Some people try to charge for all their stuff but I don't agree with this. I think if God freely gives it, we need to freely give it out. That's why we don't charge for anything in our ministry. We believe if God's in it, He will pay for it. We have bills like everybody else does but we don't ask people for money. We wait on the Holy Spirit to motivate people to give and that's the way it works. Some people sell their writings and some people sell them in bookstores and all that stuff. **If you're going to grow spiritually, you've got to study**

God's Word every day under a well-qualified pastor. What you're trying to do is to learn to think like Christ thinks and that's what doctrinal orientation means. You have to change the way you think. You have to acquire the mind of Christ. What does the Bible say about this? What does the Bible say about that? The more of the Bible you learn, the more divine viewpoint you gain and you begin to see how God's Word relates to everything in your life, such as your parents, your marriage, your finances, your authority in your life, all of it. There is one thing I want to point out for you. It's called retention. These things you learn may not be retained because the rate of forgetting can exceed the rate of learning. It is possible that you can forget it quicker than you can learn it so you have to do it on a daily basis. Therefore, it's good for a pastor to review so you can retain. There's nothing wrong with him giving a review of his message. You say, "I might have heard this before." Well, maybe you need to hear it again because if you can't retain it, you'll forget it. Doctrinal orientation is critical for any believer that wants to grow up. He has to retain the Word of God in his soul. He has to put it into his stream of consciousness. He has to be able to go to it and pull it out when he needs it and to use it in this life. He can't pull it out if he didn't learn it and he can't learn it if he doesn't sit under someone teaching it. That's why the Bible says, "*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God*" (Romans 10:17). It's critical for you to have doctrinal orientation, orient everything you say, everything you do based on what's in the Word of God. **Every decision you make has to be oriented to the Word of God.** What does the Bible say about this? What does the Bible say about marriage? What does the Bible say about business? What does the Bible say about nationalism and patriotism? What does the Bible say about this? It's all there. So we have rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the faith-rest drill, grace orientation, doctrinal orientation, and now we come to a personal sense of destiny. **A personal sense of destiny, on the basis of the promise of God we wait, we wait for God to show us what we're suppose to do, where we're suppose to be, what we're suppose to think.** This is an unbelievable opportunity. You know you're going to heaven. You know you have a destiny in heaven, but you might not know what your spiritual gift is. You might not know where God wants you to work, what God wants you to do, and you never will learn it if you're self-absorbed. If you're so involved with yourself that you become preoccupied with your own destiny and you forget about God's plan, if you're concentrating on yourself, that's dangerous because it leads to unrealistic self-expectations. **You have to concentrate on God's Word and God's plan for you by learning and applying His Word every day. That's called divine viewpoint and this will free you from being worried or being absorbed with self.** Any believer who is spiritually mature, any believer who has self-confidence based on God's Word is going to know he has a personal sense of destiny. I never realized for example that I was going to be an evangelist. I had no clue. I never went to church as a youngster, even as a teenager. I never studied the Bible, I didn't even own a Bible, and yet here I've been in the ministry for 50+ years now. I did not know what God's destiny was for me. I did not know I had the spiritual gift of evangelism. It took a while as I studied the Bible and got under a well-qualified pastor to learn what spiritual gifts were and to recognize and see my own

gift, thus know what I was suppose to be doing with my life. Let me ask you this question. As a believer in Jesus Christ, do you know what you're suppose to be doing with your life? Do you know what your spiritual gift is? Do you know how to use it in your local church? This is what I'm talking about. **Having a personal sense of destiny is critical for you. That's the only way you can have any confidence in your life and what you're suppose to be doing. This is how you get direction and motivation.** Do you know why you're here? Don't get preoccupied with your personal problems, you'll lose sight of your destiny. I mean if you have problems, rebound the problems. Confess the sins, maintain your spiritual momentum. Keep going forward and God will show you. There are a lot of ways to know what is the will of God. There is a book that a pastor friend of mine has written called *Divine Guidance* and I recommend this book to you. We'll be glad to send this book on divine guidance to you if you contact us. **God the Holy Spirit will show you where you're suppose to be, what you're suppose to be doing, even where you're suppose to live, what your gift is, how to operate. This is a personal sense of destiny.** Now let's move on to the next problem-solving device called personal love for God. The Bible commands us to love God. There's no doubt about this. *"If you say you love Me and hate your neighbor, you are a liar, the truth is not in you"* (1 John 4:20). Personal love for God is the greatest motivation any Christian can have. How could you love somebody you don't even know? **When the Bible tells you to love God, it implies you've got to know Him.** That's why all this Bible study that we talk about is necessary. The more you learn about God, the more you love God. The more you appreciate God, the more you adhere to God's plan and the more you want to learn about God. If you want to test how much you love God read 1 John 5:3. Here's what it says, *"If we love God, we will obey Him. His mandates are not hard."* Obedience is linked to loving God. It's the greatest virtue you have. It's the greatest motivational virtue in your life, personal love for God. God is perfect. He'll never deceive you. He'll never fail you. He'll never fall out of love with you. He'll never let you down. You can love Him with all your personal love and He will always be worthy of this. **Personal love directed toward God is the highest Christian virtue you have and it's what will motivate you to love others who often will fail you and let you down.** If you don't have personal love for God based on having an intense personal relationship with Him, then you will have no spiritual motivation to love other people as well. Do you demonstrate your love for God? How? By keeping His Word. Ephesians 6:1-2, *"Children obey your parents. Honor your father and your mother."* There's a mandate in the Bible. If you're a young person, do you obey your parents? Do you honor your father and mother? Do you love God? If you obey these verses, you might. This is where things get tough because it's only by means of personal love for God that you can have the motivational virtue to obey these sort of passages that I just quoted. This is why it's just a tremendous problem-solving device. If you stay in fellowship, if you will learn God's Word, you will come to understand the God you already know. Then you can develop this intense personal love for God that I'm talking about. It's an amazing thing. It doesn't mean you walk around with your head in the stars all day long, singing "Oh how I love Jesus," but it means that you have honor and obedience to His plan

and that God's able to depend on you. **Now another personal problem-solving device is impersonal love for all people. So we have personal love for God and impersonal love for others.** When you love someone, be it a parent, a friend, even a mate, you will find that this person is imperfect and often can let you down. They make mistakes, we're human, we have sin natures. Even the best of us fail, sometimes every day. But this is an interesting thing about God's love, it is not designed to work only when we are on good terms with somebody. I mean, think about the worst person on your block. Did you realize God said you have to love this person? I call them a WOJ, a weird obnoxious jerk, and we're suppose to love them. **This is the thing that makes the Christian life so unique, that we can actually love our enemies.** This doesn't mean we would not fight to defend our home or not fight to defend our family, but it does teach us that we must follow Christ's example of loving all men. The problem comes when you try to love people with personal love because they'll let you down and you'll get angry. That's the wrong thing to do. You let your emotions take control, you get preoccupied with your problems and you're out of fellowship with God because you're sinning with anger, bitterness, vindictiveness. **The thing to do is switch loves, go from personal love to impersonal love. Now you can love anybody based on one simple principle. Your love for him is not based on his or her actions or performance, but rather based on your own personal integrity. Personal love for God, that's where it comes from.** In other words, nothing in the person that you are told to love is worth loving but the motivation to love that person is not based on what he is or who he is or what he's done or hasn't done. Rather it's based on your life and your personal love for God. You can love him based on who you are, not who he is. Is this not what God did for you? *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"* (John 3:16). God loved you. Were you a jerk? Yes. Did God give His Son for you? Yes. That's impersonal love. He wasn't loving you based on your character. He was loving you based on His character and when you believe in Christ, you can do the same thing. When you grow in grace and knowledge, you can use impersonal love to love people who are not worth loving just like God loved you when you were not worth loving. It's not based on who they are. It's based on who you are. God did this for you in John 3:16. The world was full of sin. We know God doesn't love sin but how did He do this? He loved us based on His integrity, His virtue, His honor. He loved us and we can use this same sort of impersonal love to deal with people that are unloving toward us. **Personal love for God motivates us to have impersonal love for others and these two loves can solve all your people problems if you use them.** As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, if you have a FLOT line in your soul, if you have a main line of resistance and you have impersonal love for all, then people will not make you bitter. People and circumstances will not get you disillusioned because you know better than to try to use personal love for a person that is not worth loving. Okay, now what about sharing the happiness of God? That's another problem solving device. **It's called plus H, sharing the happiness of God. The Lord Jesus Christ told the disciples, "I've said these things to you so that My joy might be in you and your joy might be full"** (John 15:11). Joy is a wonderful peace of mind that the Holy Spirit gives to you. Happiness is not being impressed

with the details and the circumstances. Joy is that even though the details and the circumstances of life are hard, you can still have this amazing peace in your life. Sharing God's happiness, that's a wonderful problem-solving device for a mature believer like yourself and it's always directed toward self. **It guarantees that you never, ever, ever have to be unhappy.** Notice the words, *"I taught you these things so that My happiness [or My joy] might be in you and your joy might be full,"* taught you. *"Happiness [+H] belongs to those who hear God's Word and keep it."* Listen carefully to Luke 11:28, ***"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it."*** **Hear and keep, that's the source of happiness.** You can't have this plus H if you're not learning God's Word and applying God's Word, hearing and keeping, learning. LAG, learn it, apply it, and glorify God as result of it. It's all important for you. The Old Testament in Proverbs speaks about this sort of happiness, how it's acquired. It says this in Proverbs 3:13, *"Happiness belongs to the person who finds wisdom, even to the person who gains understanding."* **This is the source of happiness, the wisdom of God. That's the greatest treasure you could ever possess.** Paul said it this way, "I'm going to give you a treasure," a word treasure and that's the wisdom of God. What is wisdom? It's understanding, it's insight, it's discernment. When you have insight and discernment about the details of life and the circumstances of life, because you have God's wisdom, you're able to operate freely and independently of the devil's world and not be sidetracked. *"Happiness belongs to those who find wisdom, even to those who gain understanding."* It's critical, plus H sharing the happiness of God, and it belongs only to the Christians who fulfill these requirements to, *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* The only thing that could bring Christ happiness in His crucifixion, in what He experienced, was to know that He was fulfilling God's wonderful plan for His life. As long as He was doing His plan, He was happy, and this is the same for you too. You may have to go through some sort of undeserved suffering but you can have the same sort of plus H, happiness that Jesus Christ had if you stay in fellowship and use the faith-rest drill. If you get bitter and full of self-pity, then you move into arrogance sins and you'll lose your plus H. **Remember plus H is tranquility of soul, contentment in life, capacity for life.** It means you have the ability to motivate yourself from within and don't have to rely on others to make you happy. **The final problem-solving device is occupation with Christ.** Again, I remind you, order the book. It just came out, all of this is explained in detail in the book, how to have a FLOT line in your soul. **Very few people are loved the way they want to be loved and treated the way they want to be treated. This often comes from some sort of unrealistic expectations. Without these problem-solving devices, it's inevitable you will have terrible frustration and instability in your life. Being occupied with Christ solves this and sets your priorities.** There is so much I need to say about occupation with Christ but I've run out of time. Jesus Christ is our role model, our best friend, and as we accrue the mind of Christ and learn to think as He thinks, we are occupied with Him. Our focus is Jesus Christ and this sets our priorities.

Cosmic Chaos

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 834 aired on August 15, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. Many years ago there was a song that came out called *The Night the Lights Went Out In Georgia*. It was a Southern Gothic song about the murder of a fellow and a guy named Brother. Actually the fellow's sister was the one that did the killing but he went to jail for it. Reba McEntyre re-recorded the song, made it a number one on the charts. The famous words are, "Don't trust your soul to no backwoods southern lawyer." I want you to think about this. **Have the lights gone out in America? Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior said in Matthew 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world,"** speaking to His disciples, not just the twelve but also those following with Him through the Beatitudes and into the Similitudes. He tells them they are the light of the world. He goes on to use an analogy saying, "*A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*" In other words, lights are there and people will see the city. "*Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*" Is the light out in America? This passage was given to the followers to demonstrate the impact they would have on the world. The light shines, illuminates, gives perspective and direction. But unfortunately not all Christians have their lights turned on. It's like people driving at night with no lights. This light might be hidden under a basket, the Lord Jesus Christ says. If you're out of fellowship, if you have unconfessed sin in your life, if you are living in reversionism, your light does not attract anyone. Your light is not shining and here's the unfortunate thing, chaos loves darkness. Chaos does not like to be exposed to the light because light illuminates the deception. What we have today is cosmic chaos in America. **Cosmic chaos and the cosmic system is what Satan thrives on.** It's an environment of confusion known as darkness to promote his agenda both individually and nationally. Let me give you a few points before we go further. The cosmic system is Satan's strategy as ruler of this world to control believers and unbelievers alike. It's his policy for the rulership of this world. It's called evil in the Bible. The cosmic system of Satan is actually a college, an educational system, a classroom for the indoctrination and the inculcation of Satan's philosophy. I see it like the tentacles of an octopus that extend out and grab into all areas such as politics, religion, education, the military and family. **This cosmic indoctrination is called human viewpoint thinking.** It's quite attractive to the uninformed and the disadvantaged ones because humanism, socialism, and communism are all schools in this evil college designed to educate and promote antagonism toward anything related to God, especially to the grace of God. In order for Satan to rule this planet, he must educate and he must establish his authority. Both the cosmic system and the Christian way of living must be learned to function. You've heard me talk about this. The Bible says, "*Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (2 Timothy 2:15). The cosmic system has to be learned also and many people learn it in the classroom of Satan. It's an indoctrination, they have

to learn it. Sometimes they learn it through politics, or in religion or education, but it's there. Satan must promote self-centered thinking related to arrogance which is self-justification and being divorced from the reality of God's plan and that's exactly what Satan seeks to do. He also seeks to promote antagonism toward the Word of God. In the book of Nehemiah they had a national day of repentance after the temple and the walls were rebuilt. They had come out of the Babylonian captivity and they had come back and rebuilt their walls and rebuilt their city and Nehemiah said, *"They, our fathers, acted arrogantly because they became stubborn and they would not listen to Your mandates. They refused to listen and they did not remember Your wondrous deeds which You performed among them"* (Nehemiah 9:16-17). Nehemiah 9:11-15 talks about the wondrous deeds, all the things that God did while they wandered in the wilderness. He divided the Red Sea, let them cross so Pharaoh couldn't kill them. He led them by a pillar of fire at night and a cloud during the day over the tabernacle. He gave them bread and water to eat and sustained them. He gave the Law at Mount Sinai. Here's something interesting, in Nehemiah 9:21 it says, *"Their clothes never wore out and their feet did not swell."* Isn't that interesting? **One reason America is operating under the cosmic chaos that I'm speaking about is because the wisdom of God's Word has been silenced in the public arena.** This deafening silence, crickets, crickets, you know. God being taught in a school, crickets, you don't hear anything do you? These crickets guarantee confusion and destruction of a client nation such as ours because we have forgotten God's grace through two world wars and many national tragedies. All we do is look at the gifts and forget who the Giver is. Could this be why this nation seems to be completely upside down with what I call bottom dwellers calling the shots in our current state of affairs? Chaos in the streets, chaos in the home, we cannot survive this much longer without a complete and total meltdown in this client nation. In the Bible, in the book of Proverbs, wisdom is like a lady. Wisdom speaks as a person to tell what will happen if we neglect God's warning. Listen to Proverbs 1:24-33, this is the lady called wisdom speaking, *"Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid any attention and you neglected all of my counseling. You did not want any of my reproof so I will laugh at your calamity. I will mock you when your dread comes, when your dread comes in like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then you will call me but I won't answer you. Then they will seek me but they won't find me because they hated knowledge."* In other words they enjoyed cosmic system knowledge, that's what they wanted. They wanted Satan's cosmic system. They didn't want the knowledge of the Word of God. *"You did not choose to respect the Lord and you would not accept my counsel. You spurned all of my reproof. So for that reason, you will eat of the fruit of your own way and be satiated with your own devices."* Then listen to this warning in verse 32, *"For the waywardness of the stupid will kill them, and the complacency of a fool will destroy him. But the one who listens to me shall live securely and be at ease from the dread of evil."* **What an appropriate warning for client nation USA today. When God's Word is rejected and neglected, chaos rules in the day and darkness covers the land.** Those of us who have acquired any Biblical wisdom and say

anything, we've been demonized and marginalized by the cosmic thinkers who choose to reject establishment principles and divine viewpoint thinking. Here's one, for example. The Freedom from Religion Foundation is an American nonprofit organization which advocates for atheists, agnostics and non-theists. It was formed in 1976 and promoted the separation of church and state and challenges the legitimacy of many federal and state programs that are faith-based. It supports groups such as nonreligious students and clergy who want to leave their faith and it's real. They enter lawsuits every day against God. Public evangelism is all but shut down in the public arena, more crickets. Thus generations of young people never hear Bible instruction, never hear anything that's an alternative to the lifestyle promoted on social media. They only have one thing to turn to, cosmic rationales, to determine what's right and what's wrong. How can they know if they haven't heard? How could they hear unless someone goes to tell them? How can someone tell them unless they're allowed to speak? Suppose I lead a student to Christ at a private school or even in a public school and his conversion, what is this going to hurt? He accepts Christ, he has eternal life, he has a change of lifestyle, now he is no longer a bully or arrogant. Now he's an honor roll student and begins to quit his lying, drug use, immorality, what's wrong with this? What's wrong with leading people to Christ and seeing such a wonderful lifestyle change? I was in a school many years ago where there was a student who was just the most obnoxious student in the world. I mean they wanted to get rid of him, they hated him. He puked at senior prom, took a swing at a police officer, cussed out the headmaster but I was able to lead this young man to Christ in a personal encounter. About six months later I got a letter from him and he said, "Do you remember me? I'm McKay and I'm at Parris Island in the Marine Corps boot camp." Six months later, a year has gone by now, I returned to this school to speak again. It was the same time this young man graduated from boot camp and had come back home and was visiting the school in his uniform. He was entirely different. His friends didn't recognize him. He had accepted Christ, he had grown in God's Word, He had become establishment oriented, what's wrong with this? Why do we not want anyone to have an opportunity like this? I fear satanic opposition is cloaked in political decisions made for less than 10% of our population. Chaos in America comes from the lack of Biblical instruction, the Biblical instruction that offers forgiveness and a new life in Christ. Satanic recruitment still goes on while any mention of God's grace in Christ is shut down, crickets, nothing heard. Chaos is here in America and I've got news for you, much worse is coming. This lack of Biblical wisdom in positions of leadership such as parents and politicians, leaves only one source of guidance and it's cosmic thinking. Think about it this way. **Where do you form what's true or not true? Either from the Bible, from God's Word, or from the cosmic system which is Satan's college of indoctrination.** What choice do many have? They only hear it one way. They can hear it from social media all day long, what's right and what's wrong, but not from the Bible. We don't want them hearing it from the Bible, "Oh no, don't let them hear this." Why? Because Satan is in control. We are governed by many fools in leadership positions that have no idea of what the divine institutions are. These fools seek to lead us based on their own flawed views of humanism and socialism. It's called cosmic

thinking, human viewpoint. Imagine a tornado swirling around in your mind. It's called a cosmic vortex and imagine it pulling people into it and spinning them off and throwing them across the country, throwing them across the field. This is what happens when people get into the cosmic system. They get swallowed up in the cosmic vortex and their lives get displaced. This is why if we continue on the track we're on, we will not survive as a free nation much longer, not much longer I promise you. Why can I say this? **Proverbs 12:15 tells us, "The way of the fool is right in his own eyes," that's arrogance.** That's cosmic blindness from an arrogant self-image. The arrogant person has an unrealistic self-image. He has unrealistic expectations. He justifies why he's right and the rest of the world is wrong. Can you imagine someone saying, "God is wrong, I'm right. I'm smarter than God. I know what's best." Can you imagine politicians that won't even seek to pray and look for answers in God's Word about what we should do in our nation today? There are several different ways in which the cosmic system influences people, especially unbelievers. Here's one that's kind of frightening, it's called demon possession, not for believers, oh no, but for unbelievers, yes. It's defined as a demon invasion of the body of an unbeliever by one or more demons. You can see it in the Bible, it's there. Because of the indwelling of the members of the Godhead, no demon can indwell you or me or any believer. This demon possession cannot occur without the unbeliever's consent. Even the unbeliever, the person who's rejected Christ, the disadvantaged one, he has at least his volition to protect him, but under certain conditions, demons do enter the body of unbelievers. Then we have demon influence and this is where Christians can get influenced with their thinking falling under cosmic influence. The number one tool of cosmic influence is organized religion. **There is also the influence of the cosmic system itself.** In John 2:15-16, the Word of God strictly says, "*Stop loving the world.*" Stop loving the cosmos or anything related to the cosmos. This is a very narrow approach to life because happiness is not found in the details of life, it's not found in circumstances, it's not found in people. Getting involved in the cosmic system leads to being out of fellowship and living in the darkness which we call temporal death if you're a Christian. No humility, no reception and retention of the Word of God, that's what happens when you're in the cosmic system. The cosmic lie is seen in Jeremiah 7:8, "*Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit.*" Social media is full of this today. "You can achieve your dreams," that's cosmic misleading. That's all you hear people talk about, "Dream your dream kid, dream your dream and you can live your dream, you can achieve your dreams." Listen, God's plan for you is so much greater than what you could dream or even come up with in your mind. You cannot even believe what God would do for you if you would learn His Word and apply it into your life, greater than any dream you ever believed in. Happiness is not found in people or in circumstances. Jesus Christ said, "*Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it*" (Luke 11:28). Negative volition, saying no to Bible instruction, being distracted by the details of life, this winds up luring even Christians into cosmic thinking. If you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and you're chasing the details of life and thinking that your happiness is based on how much money you make, or who you marry or where you live,

you're in cosmic thinking. You have no desire to learn, study, and apply God's Word into your life. Oh yes, you have a Bible, and occasionally you go to church. Okay, that's great, but you don't hear anything because you're thinking about where you're going for lunch. You certainly don't apply it if you did hear it, and so you live under the cosmic lie. Any inventory of the Word of God has been forgotten and you have now allowed yourself to be a tool of Satan to influence other people. I can assure you Satan gets a big laugh out of you and your Christian life. **Our Lord warned His disciples about the influence of this cosmic thinking in John 16:1-4, "These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling."** What's He talking about when He says, "*These things.*" Well, in John 15:18-21 He said, "*If the world hates you, keep in mind that they hated Me first and if you belong to the world, it would love you as its own [the cosmic system]. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I chose you out of the world and that is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you, the servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well, but if they obeyed My teaching, they will obey yours as well. They will treat you this way because of My name for they do not know the One that sent Me.*" Our Lord knew the intense pressure these disciples were going to face once He departed and these words of warning were to prepare them for the attack of the cosmic system and what was coming. The cosmic system is not your friend. Make no mistake about it, you face the same opposition from the cosmic designer. Thus, you have been warned in the Bible in Ephesians 6:11-17 to suit up, "*Put on the armor of God so you can stand against the strategy of Satan.*" The devil knows you and he has a strategy to defeat you. He's able to discredit you. He's able to discern what are your weaknesses. If you don't suit up, if you don't learn this armor of God that we've taught on this radio show you can't stand up. If you haven't heard it, let me know, we'll send you the series on *The Armor of God*. **You must suit up because it is through distractions and discouragement from the cosmic system that you can be neutralized as a representative of the Lord.** Unfortunately, maybe you already have. **The cosmic chaos you face now and in the coming years is designed to intimidate you, designed to humiliate you until you fall victim in the arena of contention, until you're set aside as a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.** Notice the Lord said the cosmic system is going to hate you and that's intimidation to quiet you and your impact for Christ. Have you been intimidated because you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you been quieted because of your faith? You're not here to go out and preach to people and tell them straighten up, fly right or they're going to hell because they smoke or drink. You are here as a light, to be attractive to the unbeliever, to let the unbeliever see what your life is like, a life of contentment, a life of love, a life of prosperity, a life of hope and a life of forgiveness, to be attracted to this. Bugs are attracted to light. Whenever I'm on my back porch with a light on, bugs come from everywhere. **If you are the light the Lord is speaking of, you will be attractive to individuals that are lost.** The Bible said there were going to be outcasts. The Bible said the disciples would be persecuted. In John 16:2 He told them they're going to be cast out. In John 16:2 He told them the world would seek to eliminate them by death and that's the religious crowd He's speaking about. Notice He

predicted it would happen and they were to remember that He forewarned them. Nothing's changed today except the deceiver, a.k.a. the devil, has more tools to use against you such as social media, mass entertainment, 24x7 communication, etc. Even that cell phone you have in your back pocket, in your purse is a tool to educate you in the way of thinking of the cosmic system. Satan has a target rich environment today. Millions of individuals in this country are completely oblivious to God's grace and forgiveness because of the finished work of Christ on the cross. They are oblivious to the whole thing. Not only are they being withheld information on forgiveness of sin, but they're completely unaware of the unique spiritual life available to them through the filling of the Holy Spirit and by means of the dynamics of the Word of God available to them. It's sad to see. It's sad to see desperate people seeking happiness, doing despicable things that only bring death and destruction in the most unpleasant way and all the while the enemy laughs. He laughs at it and abuses those who have no resources for a life and contentment and a life of capacity for love. It's a shame, it really is. What's the solution for these misguided souls in these times of confusion and chaos? This is where you and I come in. See, we are God's ambassadors with His message of love and forgiveness and there will be a price to be paid for that if you carry this message forth, it's going to cost you. Matthew 9:35-38, *"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them because they were weary and scattered like sheep having no shepherd. And then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into this harvest.'"* In this chaotic climate of our current days of chaos and conflict, you are the individual tasked with this job. Therefore, **Matthew 10:8 says, "Freely you have received, freely you must give."** Notice, the Lord Jesus Christ went to them before they ever came to Him because He was moved with compassion. It was empathy toward those that were deceived, deserted by organized religion and He was moved in His soul due to their lost condition. They were deceived by organized religion and distraught over circumstances in life and they were faint, the Bible says. They were weary, the Bible says, *"Scattered abroad like sheep without a shepherd,"* no direction in their life and in danger of being captured or even destroyed. Our Lord considered these as worth saving. They were His people who had no hope and some that no doubt had been cast out of local synagogues due to sinful acts. There is nothing worse than a soul in torment with no one to help him, no one to guide him, no one to give him direction or answers and that's where you come in the picture. I hope you're listening. **You must be the light, you must be the person who stands up and re-presents Christ to your community.** You must understand this is cosmic system chaos. There's a war going on and Satan is seeking to win it by educating his followers. **Anyone who doesn't understand the Word of God and the will of God can get sucked into this cosmic chaos.** There's so much more information I can give you. If you want to learn it, stick with me. Let us give you this information and encourage you in your walk for Christ.

Liars

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 835 aired on August 22, 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 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, all without any manipulation. No con games, no asking for money, no soliciting any membership, nothing like this. We're just trying to give you some information so you can verify as well as identify God's wonderful plan for your life and if you want to, then you can orient and adjust to the plan. What we're trying to do is show you that you can build a main line of resistance in your soul based on 10 unique problem-solving devices found in the Word of God. If you will learn them and use them, then it is possible for you to stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. That's right, adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. Adversity is what circumstances do to you but stress, well that's what you do to yourself. If you're interested in living a life like this, it's called the Christian life. It's a marvelous life. It's a way to live without worry or fear or bitterness or implacability. It's a wonderful way to live and it comes from the mindset of the Lord Jesus Christ. *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). If you're going to live like He lived, you have to learn to think like He thought. Therefore 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."* Humility was the mindset of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:7-8 says *"He humbled Himself"* and *"Made Himself of no reputation."* This is exactly what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did. He demonstrated that it is possible to live in the devil's world stress-free, not free of adversity, but stress-free. It's possible to live in the devil's world using these wonderful problem-solving devices that He taught us. For example, how to confess your sin called rebound (1 John 1:9). He taught the disciples this in John 13:13-20 at the foot washing episode. Then He taught them that they could be controlled by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would indwell them and fill them and seal them and you can have this in your life as well if you're a believer in Jesus Christ. You are indwelled and filled with the Holy Spirit as long as you are dealing with your sins consistently. It's when you don't confess your sin that you quench the Holy Spirit and grieve the Holy Spirit. Rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit and the faith-rest drill, problem-solving device #3, standing on the promises of God. If you're interested in these we have a new book out called *Christian Problem Solving*. It's free as always, everything on our show is free. We don't sell information. We do trust the Lord to pay our bills that's for sure. If you want to get in touch with us, go to the website, rickhughesministries.org and drop us a note. I remind you this radio show is playing this morning on over 100 cities across America, everywhere from Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, to Detroit, Green Bay, Albuquerque and Las Vegas and all around the world on our daily podcast. This is a really wonderful opportunity to disseminate the Word of God. Now when you're learning the Bible, there have to be some observations as well as interpretations and then

obviously the applications where you use it in your life. Observation, interpretation, and then application and here's a verse. Today we're going to talk about liars, lying. **Today America is filled with lying. Proverbs 12:22 says, "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord but those who deal faithfully are His delight."** Who does the lying? Who is telling the lies? The cosmic system, the *kosmos*, is full of lies because it's the devil's world and he operates in darkness, in lying. **The number one liar in our life today is organized religion followed by politics. They give you false ideas and false hopes based on a narrative that is not true. Lying lips are an abomination.** The Hebrew word for abomination is *toeba* and means disgusting or abhorrent to God. So you can get from this verse, the heavenly Father does not deal lightly with those who lie. In Colossians 3:9-10, "*Do not lie to one another, seeing that you had put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator.*" You are told here in this verse to "*Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator.*" *Renewed in knowledge* means learning how to live the Christian life. You don't automatically just wake up a Christian when you accept Christ as your Savior and understand everything God has for you. You have to learn how to live the Christian life. There are mechanics involved. This is where we have problems today in our churches in America. No one wants to teach the mechanics. Heck, I went to a Bible college that didn't teach me mechanics of being a spiritual believer, the mechanics of spiritual growth, or even what is the spiritual life. This wasn't mentioned to me in Bible college. What is the spiritual life? You have to learn what it is, learn how to live it, how to execute the spiritual life and know that it's after the image of the Creator. In other words, we are to replicate Christ. We are to be occupied with Christ, this is problem-solving device #10. **Psalm 34:13 tells you definitely, "Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit."** These are two different things. Evil is the genius of Satan. Grace is the genius of God. "*For by grace are you saved through faith, it's a gift of God, not of works lest anyone should brag about it*" (Ephesians 2:8). Grace is God's operating system but Satan will take grace and twist it and he'll put half a turn onto it and make it sound like the original but it's not. Here's an example. "*For by grace are ye saved through faith, it's a gift of God not of works,*" this is grace. Here is Satan, "For by grace are you saved plus giving up eating peanuts and popcorn and pecans." That's stupid, that's ridiculous, but that's what he does. He takes grace and puts half a twist on it. It sounds real, it sounds like the real thing but it's not. He's a liar, he has always been a liar and this is what he does. Lying seems to be a national pastime in America today, not only from the devil himself but from those of us that we rub shoulders with on a daily basis, whether it's a little bitty white lie or sometimes a boldface lie. We're all tempted to lie at some point in our lives. **A national tragedy in America is this, we're being lied to daily in order to shape a narrative or create some sort of deception.** Politics and religion are two of the biggest liars in the national disease of lying. Remember, nobody sat you down, taught you how to lie. I mean you didn't go to Lying 101 to learn how to do it. It's part of your genetic makeup as a member of the human race and the same is true for hatred and for jealousy. **You were born with these character flaws such as lying that originate from**

your sin nature. You knew how to lie early on. When you were just a child and your mama would say, "Did you do that?" You would say, "No ma'am, I did not do that," and yes you did. You know you did but you lied and you thought "Well it was just a little white lie." Yes, but white lies lead to big boldfaced lies. Romans 5:12 tells us, "*Wherefore, as by one man, sin entered into the world and death by sin and death passed upon all men, for all have sinned.*" We are born spiritually dead. We are born separated from God. **The original lie came from Satan. The temperament of the cosmic system is lying.** It originated with Satan in the Garden of Eden and here's what he told Eve, "*Now the serpent was more deceptive than any beast in the field which the Lord God had made. He [the serpent] said to the woman, 'Yea, has God said to you, you should not eat of every tree of the garden?' And the woman said unto the serpent, 'We can eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden but the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, God said we should not eat of that nor should we touch it lest we die.'*" And the serpent [a.k.a. the devil] said to the woman, "*You are not going to die*" (Genesis 3:1-4). This is a lie. This was a boldface lie. They did die, not physically but they died spiritually, and you are born spiritually dead because of this. This is why you have to be born again, to be made alive again in Christ Jesus. You're born spiritually dead. You have a body, a soul, and a dead human spirit, you're spiritually dead. When you accept Christ as your Savior you are born again, "*If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away and all things become new*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). You are made spiritually alive. Satan lied, "*You're not going to die.*" Yes she did die and Adam died and then Satan went on to impugn the name of God. Here's what he said in Genesis 3:5, "*For God knows that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes will be opened and you will be as gods, knowing good and evil.*" Satan accused God of not being honest. He accused God of covering up things. This is what Satan does, he's a liar. **Our Lord Jesus Christ describes Satan as the father of lies.** In John 8:44, "*You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do* [by the way he is speaking to the religious community here]. *He [a.k.a. the devil] was a murderer from the beginning and he abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*" *There is no truth in him,* have you met individuals like this? They just can't tell the truth. You don't know whether to believe them or not believe them and that's where we are in America today, a nation of liars. People are obsessed with lying for one reason or another, we'll talk about this. The devil has a college of deception. I call it the cosmic system. In this college of deception called the cosmic system there's a curriculum based on lies called human viewpoint thinking. If you learn from this college of the cosmic system and repeat what you learn, then you're going to be complicit with Satan and spread his false narrative about the world and about the flesh and about what's going on. See, he's a liar and everything you learn in his system is a lie. This client nation... I'm going to quote now from someone... who didn't call it a client nation, but referred to it as a nation. He said, "This nation [and I say client nation, USA America] is lost in a whirlwind of lies destined to grow into a tornado of tragedy and ultimately result in a cascade of consequences." For example, we don't know who to believe when it comes to the virus. What's

going on? You don't know whether you should take the shot or not take the shot. You don't know whether you can get the virus or not get the virus. You don't know who to believe politically, whether you believe this one or whether you believe that one. You don't know who's lying and who's telling the truth. **This is the way Satan works. He's the father of lies because lies are told in the darkness and lies are confusing. Lies are designed to confuse you so that you cannot make the right decisions. What's the number one lie told in organized religion? It's salvation by working for it and not by faith alone in Christ alone.** This is the number one lie and it's a common misconception in organized religion. Romans 3:24 says, *"Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus."* This is how you're justified, by grace. You're not going to go to heaven because you don't drink. You're not going to go to heaven because you don't cuss. You're not going to go to heaven because you don't fornicate. You're not going to go to heaven because you don't do anything. All the work has been done on the cross. Christ Himself paid for our sin, He redeemed us out of the slave market of sin, He paid the penalty. *"He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God by means of Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). **The misconception in organized religion is that you can save yourself by being good, by being a moral person, by being nice, by not doing bad things. This is a lie. You will go straight to hell when you die if you think you're going to go to heaven based on how good you are.** God is not going to look at you and say, "Well, I can see you were a pretty good boy, a pretty good girl. You didn't do too bad so I'm going to let you come in. On a scale of 1 to 10, you are only like a 7 but the 5's and the 4's, they can't get in." That's stupid, that's not what the Bible teaches. On 25 July 2021 there was an article written in the *Western Journal* reporting that the American church has fallen. It's talking about the shocking poll that showed that fake Christianity has supplanted the Biblical view. Did you hear that? Writing for the *Western Journal*, Rachel Bratton said this, "American Christianity has fallen thanks to a cultural corrosion and a lack of Biblical literacy. A new fake Christianity is now being preached within the American church." It's amazing she saw this. Lack of literacy means you don't take the Bible literally. You think it means something else, it's not really saying hell is a real place where people burn. "No, it doesn't really mean this." Yes, it does mean this. And cultural corrosion? There's no doubt about this. What use to be evil is now approved as good. Now we applaud it as they march up and down the street and proclaim their rights and we say, "Well that's okay. They're good people. They may have a different cultural desire but they're basically good people." What use to be evil is now good and what use to be good is now evil. You're evil if you don't believe these lies that are told you in the media concerning certain situations we'll talk about here in a minute. She went on to say, "This counterfeit religion is a moralistic, therapeutic deism and that means it's a worldview that's quickly gained prominence and given many Americans some sort of theology that looks nothing like historical Christianity despite what they claim." She then went on to cite the recent work of George Barna, head of the Barna Group that specializes in studying religious beliefs and the behavior of Americans at the intersection of faith and culture, "A February survey showed that moralistic therapeutic deism, or

MTD, is nothing more than a watered-down, feel-good, fake Christianity and it's the most popular worldview in the United States of America today. The faith that motivates Americans today is not the singular faith proclaimed by John Wesley who said, 'You must be singular or be damned' or the confident faith of St. Paul that said, '*Christ died for our sins, was buried, and raised on the third day according to the Scripture*' (1 Corinthians 15:3-4), Nor is it the creedal conviction of the early church where they would say, 'I believe in God the Father and God the Son, God the Holy Spirit creator of heaven and earth. Believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord.' Nope, the contemporary church faith isn't even anchored in the bold, exclusivity of Jesus Himself who said these words, the words that there is no way around, '*I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life and no one comes to the Father but through Me*' (John 14:6). The new religion in America isn't anything this stable. It isn't anything this historical. It isn't anything this enduring or deep or true. It's some sort of synchronistic amalgamation of Bobby McFerrin who was a folk jazz singer known for his vocal techniques and Black Lives Matter, some sad solipsism. Solipsism is that self is all that can be known to exist. The sad solipsism of don't worry, be happy as we all celebrate the queering of all that ails us." He's not talking about homosexuals. Queering is a legitimate word in the dictionary. It means to spoil or ruin and so this is what he's saying - this synchronistic amalgamation is ruining us. This is a lie of organized religion that goes on every Sunday in many, many churches. **Another lie of organized religion teaches that morality is equivalent to spirituality. This is a lie. Spirituality comes from the filling of the Holy Spirit and morality is related to the strength of the sin nature.** Not cussing, not drinking, not doing sinful deeds does not mean you're living the spiritual life. This is an area where Satan has had a lot of success in organized religion because the wrong type of good works is a specialty of the cosmic system through religion and humanism. Yep, the wrong type of good works. This is where you get involved in some sort of protest or trying to clean up the devil's world. You're not going to clean up the devil's world. You're not going to go to heaven because you're involved in protesting and organizing and trying to clean up the devil's world. Human good is not acceptable to God. Why? Isaiah 64:6, "*But we are all as unclean things and all of our righteousness are as filthy rags. All of us do fade as a leaf and our iniquities like the wind have taken us away.*" You know, this spiritual condition of the immature believer is a sad thing to see because they don't understand what the Christian life really is. You can't clean yourself up and get to heaven. You can't clean yourself up and be a crusader and impress God. "*We are all as unclean things and all of our righteousness are as a filthy rag [a nasty, dirty, greasy rag]. All of us fade as a leaf and our iniquities like the wind have taken us away.*" **The best thing you can do does not impress God so this is a lie of organized religion.** Spirituality is a wonderful thing. It means you're filled with the Holy Spirit. Maturity is an even better thing. This means you're filled with the Holy Spirit and you're growing in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You're becoming a mature believer, you're replicating the life of Christ as you're suppose to do. **Then there are political lies given to establish a false narrative and promote the evil thinking the cosmic system.** You know, you've heard it, global

warming. Global warming, a science-based theory that unless you stop doing certain things like driving your car around and burning gasoline, that you're going to destroy the world. I have news for you. Only God can destroy what God created. If you want to see how it's going to be destroyed, read 2 Peter 3:9-12 and you will see how the world will be destroyed. You're not going to destroy it because you drive a gasoline powered automobile. Global warming is a lie. Internationalism, that we are all brothers, is a lie. God separated the nations in Genesis 11:1-9 and designed different languages, put people in different places. We're not all designed to be the same. I do a lot of fishing, I can promise you bass don't swim with brim, they eat them. Brim don't swim with catfish and catfish don't swim with crappie. God made us different for a reason. Back to telling lies, let me ask you this question as we wrap the show up today. **Have you lied this week, to your spouse, to your boss, even to the government? If you're a Christian, this is considered one of the sins that God despises.** Proverbs 6:16-19 tells us this. *"These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination unto Him [here they are, listen to them clearly] a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked imagination, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that sows discord among the brethren [this is a gossip or slanderer]."* These sins break fellowship with God and they quench the Holy Spirit. If you're Christian, you must confess anything like this quickly because James tells you, *"Even so, the tongue is a little member and it boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of nature and it is set on fire by hell itself. For every kind of beast and bird and reptile and creature of the sea is tamed, but man cannot tame his own tongue. [No man can tame the tongue] It's an unruly evil thing full of deadly poison"* (James 3:5-8). **You have to learn to live the spiritual life to contain the tongue.** Everything the tongue says starts as a thought in the brain and bitterness and vituperation start as some sort of mental attitude sin. Get this down and remember this carefully. **If you lie to other people, you will lie to yourself. It's called self-deception. It's one of the stages of arrogance.** If you have self-deception, you have an unrealistic self-image. In other words you want to be treated in a way you are not worthy of being treated. **National lies are indicative of national destruction.** I'm going to run out of time before I have a chance to tell you about this but you can read about it in Hosea 4:1-6. **America is destined to be destroyed unless something changes quickly because we have become a people that love to lie and we live in lies. We can't go on like this much longer. Only you can change the course of history and this means your spiritual life. As goes your spiritual life, so goes the history of this nation.** I hope you're learning and will apply this information. Thank you for being here this morning. Please pray for us as we prepare next week's message. Write to us if you have a question, anytime, anyplace, any day. We're here for you. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Worship

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 836 aired on August 29, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I want to talk to you today about something that's critical for you and me to understand. When I became a Christian I was 22 years old. Prior to this time I never went to church. I didn't know anybody that went to church. None of my friends went to church. No one I played football with at college or high school went to church. The only time I can really remember going to church was when the center on the football team was accidentally killed and the coach took the whole team to church. Of course we were shocked and we didn't know what to say or do. Church was not part of my life. My mom didn't go to church so I didn't go to church. A lot of people do go to church. I didn't start going to church until after I had accepted Christ as my Savior and this happened in a wonderful way. Hopefully you've heard this story because I don't have time to go into it right now. It happened in August of 1967. I got into a good church where a pastor was teaching the Bible and I learned God's Word and learned how to execute the Christian life. The question I want to ask you today is, do you go to church and why? Why do you go to church? What's the reason? You know, this show plays on Sunday morning and a lot of people that are listening may be going to church or maybe this show is your church. There's a person in California that calls me "safe church." I guess he means that you can listen to me and not get judged by other people. Every Sunday morning millions of individuals get up, get dressed, get ready and go to church. Unless it's Easter, then it's about 20 million. For many people it's just kind of a ritual, but without any real reality to it. Some go to establish contacts for their business. Some go for the sake of their children, hoping they get their children in good programs. Many go expecting to show some sort of appreciation to God for His mercy and blessings in their life. Yes, the Bible does indeed mandate that we go to church. **The Bible mandates assembling ourselves together for the expressed purpose of giving gratitude to God and to receive instruction from the Bible.** Hebrews 10:25, "*Do not forsake your own assembling together as is the habit of some but encourage one another and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*" This is the day of the Lord Jesus Christ returning for you. This is the Exit Resurrection called the Rapture of the Church. Some people go to church and they call it worship. This is kind of debatable. We are in union with Christ and thus we are royal priests. We represent ourselves before God. We don't need a priest to represent us before God, we are believer priests. Part of the concept of church is the privacy of the priesthood and this demands that people in church keep their noses out of your business. Matthew 7:1, "*Don't judge lest you be judged,*" because if you judge, if you stick your nose in somebody else's business, then you're going to get judged by God Himself. God does not allow judging. In a local church you should have the privacy to go, sit, listen and leave without anyone making any demands on you or anyone imposing any rituals on you. The privacy of the priesthood. You are a believer priest and it demands that you use your own soul. Remember, you have a soul, you're made up of a body and a soul. If you're a Christian, you have a born again human spirit. The soul has mentality,

volition, conscience, and self-consciousness which means you have the ability to think, logic, reason, you have the ability to choose and decide. You have a conscience inside of you that tells you different norms and standards that you function under in your life and you have a self-consciousness that works even if you're sleeping at night. You can look at a yearbook and look at your picture and say, "Hey, that's me right there." You have self-consciousness. You're aware of yourself. The privacy of the priesthood demands that you use your soul as a base of operation for your very own spiritual life because there's no problem in life greater than the 10 problem-solving devices that I'm teaching you. If you learn them and you use them, then you can handle any problem that you come upon in your life. We did write a new book and it will be available within the next week or so. We'll be happy to send it to you free of charge. It's called *Christian Problem Solving* and it details all 10 of these problem-solving devices and the mechanics of how they work. Do you understand? Good deal. **The primary purpose of assembling for worship is for you to be provided the privacy of your priesthood so you can learn God's Word, acquire divine wisdom, without any sort of distraction.** It's only the accurate communication of the Word of God to an assembled group of believers that fulfills the principle of the privacy of the priesthood which is for the accumulation of wisdom. The wisdom of God comes when you hear the Word of God and metabolize this into your stream of consciousness. This gives you an inventory in your soul so you can counsel yourself. You don't need someone else to counsel you. This is one of the signs that you're becoming a mature believer. You don't have to run to the preacher and say, "Preacher, what should I do about this? Preacher, what should I do about that?" Unless you're just someone who demands attention all the time. Many churches have those sorts of people. You must be able to counsel yourself. You are a believer priest and in the assembly of the local church, you get the information you need to live your spiritual life in your soul, in the thinking of your soul. And so you can glorify God with everything you think, say, and do. **You cannot worship God if you don't know Him.** Now there's something called cosmic worship, the cosmic system, the *kosmos*. Remember, this is the devil's world and it's full of satanic lies. These satanic lies require an individual to believe them through his very own volitional decision. This is part of his soul, he has to decide. What does he decide? Listen to Romans 1:25 and this will give you some insights. Here's a group of people that have decided that the Bible is not for them. They don't have to obey what the Bible says, especially in the area of immorality. Listen to Romans 1:25, "*For they [the immoral people] exchanged the truth of God for a lie and they worshipped [there's our word worship] and served the creature [this is a.k.a. the devil] rather than the Creator, God the Father who is blessed forever.*" You can worship what the devil wants you to believe or you can worship what the Bible tells you. You can worship human viewpoint or you can worship divine viewpoint. But you cannot worship God if you don't understand Him. This is the big lie that I want to talk about today. Here it is. The big lie says you can go to a 30 minute Sunday school class and get what you need to grow before you come into the sanctuary to worship. Who in the world could grow to spiritual maturity on a meal of rice once a week? You must grow spiritually. The Bible tells you to grow spiritually and it requires a lifetime

commitment from you. 2 Peter 3:18, *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* You're not growing very fast if all you're getting is a 30 minute Sunday school class teaching the Bible, whatever it's about, and then going into the main auditorium for a worship service, whatever that's about. **Learning the protocol plan of God requires you to have content, not emotion.** Many, many times worship in the assembly is based on emotion. Content has to be taught and acquired, it doesn't assimilate in your soul automatically. Therefore 2 Timothy 2:15 says, *“Study to show yourself approved unto God [this is a mandate from God] a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* Question. If you *“needeth not to be ashamed”* can you be ashamed? The answer is yes, you'll be ashamed at the evaluation throne of the Lord Jesus Christ, when you realize you screwed up. You had the greatest opportunity in the world to glorify Him and you didn't do it. *“Rightly dividing the Word of truth,”* what does this mean? It means it can be wrongly be divided also and that's why it's important that you have a well-qualified pastor teaching you the Word of God from the original languages in a way that's not emotional. Because emotions are not thinking, they are simply reacting. Emotions don't acquire anything, they appreciate in response to circumstances, but they don't lead to learning. For example, have you ever heard your pastor talk about your spiritual life? Have you ever heard the term spiritual life? Has your pastor ever made a distinction between your physical life and your spiritual life? Why do I ask this question? Because John 4:24 says, *“God is a spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”* Now, if you are not born again, if you haven't received Christ as your Savior, you have a dead human spirit. You are dead spiritually. It is impossible to worship God being dead spiritually because God is a spirit and you must worship Him in your spirit. When you're born again you have a spiritual birthday. *“If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away and all things become new”* (2 Corinthians 5:17), made spiritually alive. We worship Him in truth. Now remember the Lord Jesus Christ said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life and no man can come to the Father but through Me”* (John 14:6). The only way to worship God is to come through Jesus Christ, to be born again. Then grow spiritually to become occupied with Christ. To learn God's Word and apply it into your life. Without a spiritual birth, salvation, you can have no capacity to worship God. Please remember this. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the personification of truth and it's only through Christ that we come to know God or that we have the capacity to appreciate all God has provided for us. Danger, danger, danger - religion has a false sense of worship because organized religion demands you give what you do not have. **Under the principle of true worship, you can only give to God what you actually possess. What can you give Him? You can give Him honor. You can give Him respect. You can give Him your time. You can give Him your concentration on His Word. Honor. Respect. Time. Concentration. Worship is thought, not emotion.** All forms of worship are concentration tests and should be a reflection of what are your values, what are your motives, what's your mental attitude in your life, what's your spiritual status quo right now. Do you have a sense of destiny as a mature believer? I mean this is what's important for you. These things should be reinforced in

worship. Your values have to be learned and established and believed and lived. Your motives have to be judged by God. You have to have the right motives and the right intentions. Your mental attitude in life cannot afford to be angry, bitter, or resentful. God is looking for a mental attitude of appreciation, capacity for life, capacity for love, etc. Your spiritual status quo and your personal sense of destiny as a mature believer are based on all these things. Worship requires you having humility. Humility inevitably can go in two different directions. Obviously, it can go toward human interaction or it can go toward God which leads to worship. Virtue, which means behavior that is morally good, morally excellent, virtue and humility are ingredients for worship which lead you to fall in love with your God. Remember, *“If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard”* (1 John 5:3). As your personal virtue, your motivational virtue, your personal love for God, becomes stabilized, it will produce a confidence and worship toward God and it will give you courage and morality toward man in any circumstance you may face. Restated, virtue is a lifestyle of obedience and as you grow, as you learn, as you apply, then you have confidence and worship toward God and courage and morality to man in any circumstance you may face in your life. **Worship is the expression of the believer's personal love for God.** Do you love God? That's the question. You may say, “Well sure I love God.” Really? Let's go back to 1 John 5:3, *“If you love Me, you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard.”* Really, you love God? “Uh-huh.” How's your lifestyle going? It's an expression of your personal love for God and is virtue dependent. Love for God is virtue dependent. You can't love God if you don't have virtue and virtue is obedience. There is no possible way for you to love, no possible way for you to worship God who has perfect holiness, without you having some sort of inherent virtue, permanent, essential, established virtue in your life. Remember this comes from learning God's Word, applying God's Word, using God's Word, and growing to be a mature believer so that you establish virtue. **There are three types of worship: respect, reverence and honor. Respect is thoughts of deep admiration based on the quality of the person that you're thinking about. You can only respect the Lord through understanding His thinking.** If you don't understand how the Lord Jesus Christ thought, you can't respect Him. 1 Corinthians 2:16 says, *“The Bible is the mind of Christ.”* We are told in Philippians 2:5, a verse you've heard me quote thousands of times, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”* You've heard me quote 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.”* You can only respect the Lord through understanding how He thinks. He thinks in terms of humility. So respect for God is the beginning of virtue. It's the beginning of your love for God. Listen, I'm going to make this clear for you. You cannot instantly fall in love with God. I remember when I accepted Christ, I was thrilled but I didn't know God. I knew I had been saved. I knew that Christ had come to live in me but I didn't know very much at all. I had not experienced very much at all in my Christian life. I was only a young Christian. There was so much to learn and still is much more to learn even today. Respect for God, loving God is a process and it demands the base of virtue and integrity in our lives. If we're going to love God,

we must respect God to start with, and that's a type of virtue. Even in virtue dependent love we respect with our mentality, not our emotions. We respect God with our behavior and obedience, not our emotions. I'm not talking about looking up at some cloud and crying tears and saying, "Oh I love Jesus," as many people do. That's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about occupation with Christ where you have come to know Him and respect Him because of His great virtue and integrity toward you. **Reverence is another type of worship and this is merely respect that has grown. Reverence is growing respect. The difference between respect and reverence is a matter of concentration and recall of things you've learned in the past .** This is why you need a Bible. This is why you need to take notes. This is why you need to write things down. This is why it pays to hear it again and again and again because the rate of forgetting is much quicker than the rate of learning I assure you. Respect for God is the worship of the immature positive believer because he's not grown yet. I mean, he's been saved but he hasn't learned a whole lot. He respects God. Now the mature believer's worship, someone who is grown and has tremendous virtue, is reverence. Reverence is worship of the mature believer. There are different kinds of people in a church. You've got those that are young Christians and those that are mature believers. Hopefully, the young Christians have respect and the mature believers have great reverence. **The third way to worship is honor. This is great esteem. To honor God is the highest type of worship you can give to God.** These are the three types of worship, virtue love for God, respect, reverence, and honor. Again, you cannot give any of these to God if you don't possess them yourself. Giving God honor is reserved for what the Bible calls, "*Friends of God*" (James 2:23). At every stage of your spiritual life and spiritual growth you have gratitude and thanksgiving related to your frame of reference, but you are limited in your personal love for God by your stage of spiritual growth. Again, how can you love God, respect God, honor God, if you don't know Him or understand Him? If it's just an emotional thing, it's not true. In 1 Corinthians 14:26, "*When you assemble let all things be done for edification.*" Now we're going into the worship service itself. Here we are in the main auditorium, we're having a worship service, "*When you assemble let all things be done for edification*" means spiritual growth. There are a number of ways in which you and I worship God but they must all relate to our spiritual growth. Everything in the assembly worship should be done with a view toward this objective. What is the objective? To grow spiritually. **The objective of assembly worship is for the communicator, the pastor, the well-qualified man up in the pulpit, to communicate the Word of God so you can grow and apply it in your life and develop virtue and honor and integrity.** This is what's called a mature believer. But how in the world can you grow spiritually or come to respect and revere God if all you're getting is a 20 minute, feel-good service every Sunday? Here's a hint for you. **If the song service at your church is longer than the teaching service, you're getting gypped.** If you fail to bring a Bible to class, how can you expect to remember what the pastor taught you? If you sit there in the pew and scan your cell phone, looking at Facebook during the message, you're insulting God. In the book of Nehemiah, we find Ezra the priest teaching God's Word to the Jews who had been freed from Persian

captivity and returned to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and establish temple worship once again. Listen as I describe how Ezra taught the people and see if it sounds familiar. In Nehemiah 8:1-3, *“All the people came together as one [there's church] in the square before the water gate and they told Ezra the teacher of the law to bring out the book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. So, on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. [This tells you who needed to be in the auditorium, people that can understand what's being said, because those that don't understand are a distraction to others]. He read it aloud from daybreak until noon [whoa there's a long worship service, from 6 in the morning until 12 in the afternoon]. And he faced the square before the water gate in the presence of the men and the women and others who could understand and all the people listened intently to the book of the Law [they paid attention, weren't moving around, talking, going back and forth to the bathroom, no crying, screaming babies, nobody can learn like this, they listened attentively]. Ezra opened the book and all the people could see him because he was standing above them [this is in the pulpit] and he opened it and the people then immediately stood up and Ezra praised the Lord, the great God. And all the people lifted their hands and responded, 'Amen, amen,' and they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.”* Then in Nehemiah 8:8, *“They read from the book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so the people understood what was being read.”* Here you go, all the people listened attentively. They all bowed down in prayer. Ezra explained what he was reading and what it meant so they could apply it into their life. Then, *“All the people went away to eat and drink and send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.”* If you don't understand it, you can't apply it. This is an exact pattern of how we do it today: listen, pray, apply, and celebrate. This is the way a church service is suppose to be. It's not an emotional folderol. It's not getting high on Jesus. It's not having varied worship services like traditional worship and contemporary worship. It's crazy, some of the stuff going on today. We need men that will stand in the pulpit and clearly delineate the Word of God and teach it so that you can learn and apply it into your life. If you can't handle 30 minutes to an hour, then something's wrong with you. If you're worried about what you're cooking back home or about getting in line at your favorite restaurant, you've got a problem. Sit down, listen up, pay attention, be quiet, take your Bible, take notes, go home, read your notes and apply what you've learned in your life. **This is the exact pattern of how we worship today: listen, pray, apply, and celebrate.** Remember, you can get transcripts of every radio show I did during 2020 and 2019 in book form. Just contact us if you want them. I would also like to remind you that we have transcripts linked in the notes section of our daily podcast. It's a wonderful privilege to be able to bring these things to you. It's a wonderful opportunity to have this radio show, to trust God, to believe God will take care of our needs and we believe He will. I would like to thank you for listening. I pray you will come back, next week, same time, same place. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Divine Good or Human Good

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 837 aired on September 5, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. What we're trying to do on this show is introduce you to a new way of thinking called the mind of Christ as seen 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.*" If we don't learn how to think with divine viewpoint, we live by a system called human viewpoint. That's the cosmic system, what the world has to offer and it's a problem in America today. Divine viewpoint is being shut down in the public arena. If you want to talk about God or the Lord Jesus Christ, you just hear crickets in the public arena. But we talk about divine viewpoint on this radio show and understanding the importance of building a FLOT line in your soul. If you are a Christian, you have to understand the process God sets up for us. It's a process called, "*Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth*" (2 Timothy 2:15). The process also says, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). Study and grow are both mandates. **We are mandated as Christians to study God's Word and grow and this growth produces what the Bible calls wisdom in our soul.** The Greek word for wisdom is *sophia*. When we have wisdom in our soul we have insight and discernment and great understanding. This is something that the world does not have. The world cannot offer you this wisdom because it comes from the Word of God. We did a show last week called *Worship*, how most people don't understand the true meaning of worship. I'd like to follow up with that today talking about human good that comes from the wrong type of worship, as opposed to divine good which comes from the correct type of worship because God expects you to do the right thing in the right way. This is called protocol, a right thing must be done in the right way especially when dealing with God. If you don't believe this, read the Old Testament and you'll see how a right thing had to be done in a right way. We're going to talk about this, a little follow-up on worship and maybe praise. There are two different words there. Praise in the Hebrew means to make a loud noise, to shout, to sing forth, and there's nothing wrong with praising God. This does not require much concentration, it's just more or less an appreciation for what He's done. **Worship is different than praise. Worship requires concentration and this means you must have reverence and respect for God, giving Him great honor.** It's impossible to worship God in the flesh. If you worship God, you must worship Him in the filling of the Holy Spirit. You don't have to be in a local assembly to worship, that's something I want to make clear so you understand this. I encourage you to find a local church. I encourage you to find a well-qualified pastor that can teach you the Bible. But if there's not one in your area then you certainly can worship in a different way. I know hundreds of people that worship sitting at home with a Bible and notebook and a computer, or an MP3 player or a DVD player, listening to a pastor teach the Word of God. He may be distantly hundreds of miles away but every time the church assembles, they're

assembling. Every time the pastor teaches, they're listening and they're learning. They are not in person but they are assembling with the rest of the people in the congregation. They're just not there physically because they don't live there. It's possible for you to do this. You can worship anyplace, anytime by staying filled with the Holy Spirit and by taking in the Word of God on a consistent basis. Obedience motivated by personal love for God, is the key to this. **If you're going to worship effectively there must be obedience to the Word of God and this obedience is called virtue love and comes from personal love for God.** Listen again 1 John 5:3, *"If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard."* *"Don't forsake the assembling of ourselves together"* (Hebrews 10:25), to get together, to study, to learn, to grow, to apply in our lives. However, I want to read a passage to you coming out of Revelation 2:1-7 written to the pastor of the church of Ephesus. This is what the Lord Jesus Christ said and required to be written here in this passage. It's about people who like to worship and praise God but are not doing it in the right way. *"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, these things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands [that's the Lord Jesus Christ], 'I know your works.'* " Now, when we talk about works it can be human good or it can be divine good. It's very critical that you do the right one, divine good. *"I know your works, I know your labor, I know your patience, and that you cannot stand those that are evil and you have tested those that say they are apostles and are not and you found them that they are liars; and you have also persevered and have patience and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. Nevertheless [Revelation 2:4, we have a problem He said] I have this against you. You have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen and repent [or change your mind] and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place unless you repent [or change your mind]. But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans which I also despise. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the ones who overcome, I will give to them to eat from the tree of life which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.'* " A strong warning and the warning is about this, the wrong motivation. Our motivation to worship and to serve is our personal love for God. It is not to correct someone. It is not to find out who's right and who's wrong. However, you must do this sometimes. These people had a lot of production. They had a lot of labor. They have a lot of patience. They didn't like the ones that proclaimed themselves to be teachers of the Word but were teaching false doctrine called evil, so they tested the apostles, the ones who claimed to be apostles and found them to be liars. However, a right thing done in a wrong way is still wrong. Now let's go to your life and in your local assembly, your church on Sunday morning. If you are in the right place doing the right thing you can be worshiping God. If you're in the right place doing the wrong thing or in the wrong way, then you're not going to be accomplishing anything but human good. Let's back up. The first thing that is critical for you to understand, **"Those that worship God must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).** **You cannot worship God if you're not filled with the Holy Spirit.** You cannot worship God in the energy of the flesh, this is not divine good production. There has to be at any point in time in

your life, 24/7, rebound, problem-solving device #1. When you know you sin, you must confess this sin immediately. The reason is because of this, when you sin you quench the Holy Spirit and you grieve the Holy Spirit and you are out of fellowship with God. It's possible for you to be out of fellowship with God with unconfessed sin in your life and still go to church, even put money in the offering plate, even sing in the choir, even go to Sunday school, and it's all nothing but human good because you did a right thing but you did it in the wrong way. You did it in the energy of the flesh. Unbelievers can give money to churches. Unbelievers can go to churches but this is not worshiping God and this is not producing divine good. **True worship produces divine good and you are rewarded for this true worship in your life.** Let's back up and get it one more time. What is sin? It can be what you think, what you say, what you do. Why is it on Sunday morning there is a war in your house getting ready for church? The children are perpetually late. The wife can't get ready on time. The husband has got something going on and doesn't want to leave on time. It's always a battle to get to church on time and to be there together. Sunday morning is like this. If you've been yelling at one another, maybe mom yelled at the daughter, "Let's go, let's go. I told you to be ready 10 minutes ago. You're going to make us late. Let's go." Dad's yelling at mom, "Come on honey, we've got to go," and they all lose their tempers, get angry, and get frustrated. They get in the car and they don't even speak to each other on the way to church. Does this sound like you? You are out of fellowship, you have sinned. You've committed sin, anger, frustration, bitterness, implacability, and until you confess the sin, you are out of fellowship and in the energy of the flesh. Yes, you went to church. Yes, you put your money in the offering plate. Yes, you sang the songs, but you did it in the energy of the flesh, and this is not true worship. This is human good and this is not rewardable. If you want to see where this all comes to fruition, you have to go into 1 Corinthians 3 because the objective of true worship is to glorify God and produce divine good. You are rewarded for divine good. In 1 Corinthians 3:11-16, "*For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*" Now, this is a builder's metaphor so imagine building a house with a concrete foundation on it. Then the framers come in and start putting up the framing, the woodwork, the walls, the roof, and all that stuff, the trusses and everything. Here it is, "*No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ [this is our foundation]. Now if anyone builds on the foundation gold, silver, precious stones,*" this is divine good production under the filling of the Holy Spirit. This is you going to church, well-motivated giving, praying under the filling of the Holy Spirit. If you do these things under the filling of the Holy Spirit, that's divine good production and you can be rewarded for this. It's called gold, silver, and precious stones. If you do the exact same things and yet you had unconfessed sin in your life, you came in to church this morning, and you had known bitterness and resentment in your heart for your wife or your children, you were frustrated and angry or maybe on the way down there someone on the interstate cut you off and flipped you a bird and now you're angry and want to run him down and bop him in the head or something, you're out of fellowship. You are sinning and this sin has to be admitted, confessed, rebounded. Did you rebound before you walked into church? Did your

pastor even tell you this? Did your pastor say, "Before we begin our worship service, we need to make sure that we are all in fellowship with God?" Did he give you time to have a personal examination? Did he say, "Take a few moments to look inside your soul, see if there's any sin there, and if there is, confess this right now, privately to God so you can be filled with the Holy Spirit?" I bet you the answer is 99.9%, no they don't do it. They just assume that everybody's in fellowship. Everybody is not in fellowship. You might have gotten out of fellowship Monday the week before over some business deal and never confessed this sin yet and you've been operating in the energy of the flesh all week long. This is why your prayers are not being answered. This is why you try to read your Bible and you can't. You've quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit and you are only producing human good and it is not rewardable. It is not gold, silver and precious stones. The writer, the apostle Paul said, "*We can only lay one foundation which is Jesus Christ. We can build on it, gold, silver, precious stones or we can build wood, hay, and straw.*" This is all the right things done in the wrong way. I would hate for all the money you contributed, all the times you sang in the choir, all the trips you made to church, all the good deeds you've done for your community, to be burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ as human good. If you did it in the energy of the flesh with unconfessed sin in your life, it's human good, wood, hay, and straw. This goes on to say, "*Each man's work [production, is it human good or divine good?] will become clear for that day will declare it and it will be revealed by fire and the fire will evaluate every man's production of what sort it was.*" Was it produced in the energy of the flesh or was it produced under the filling of the Holy Spirit? If it's produced under the energy of the filling of the Holy Spirit, it says this in verse 14. "*If any man's work which he has built upon endures, he will receive a reward, but if anyone's work is burned up [this is human good] he will suffer loss but [but, this is a contrast] he himself will be saved yet so as through fire.*" You're not going to lose your salvation. Jesus Christ said, "*I will never leave you, I will never forsake you*" (Hebrews 13:5). "*I give unto them eternal life and they will never perish*" (John 10:28). But you may lose this opportunity to have any rewards lay at your Savior's feet, to give recognition to Him for the way He sustained you during your time on earth, your appreciation for His love for you because everything you did was done in the energy of the flesh. No one ever told you this. No one ever told you, you must be filled with the Holy Spirit when you go to church. You must be filled with the Holy Spirit on a day by day, minute by minute, hour by hour basis. This is in Ephesians 5:18, "*Be filled with the Spirit,*" this is a mandate. In Galatians 5:17, "*The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh and they are contrary one to the other so that you cannot do the things you want to do.*" You have this battle going on daily inside of you. As a matter of fact **you have three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil.** Why would the devil even mess with you? Why would the devil even worry about tempting you if you can't get past the lure of the flesh, if you can't overcome the calling of the world? Why would Satan try to in any way affect what you're doing? He's not omnipresent, he can't be in America and Russia at the same time. He can only be in one place at one time because he's a created being, a fallen angel. Chances are you will never have an encounter with Satan. You may have encounters

with fallen angels called demons and they may throw something at you called the doctrine of demons or lies that are not true. It's called evil. It's when you take the Word of God and put a half twist on it. For example, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith, it is a gift of God not of works lest any man should brag about it"* (Ephesians 2:8). The doctrine of demons would say, "For by grace are ye saved through faith and by giving up bubblegum." That's right, give up bubblegum and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. That's ridiculous, this would cancel out grace because you would add to the grace. It's only faith alone in Christ alone that anyone gets saved so remember this. The question is, looking back over your life and the production of your life, how much wood, hay, and straw have you manufactured? How big a bonfire is this going to be for you? Are we going to have a movie screen up there and everybody is going to be watching all of your human good being roasted? No, no one is going to be watching this. This is all a very private evaluation, but you will be evaluated and if it's human good, the worship was no good. The praise was no good because you did it all in the energy of the flesh, manufacturing from your area of strength in your sin nature. Your sin nature can be moral. Your sin nature can be strong, but only what's done under the filling of the Holy Spirit glorifies God to the max and this is why this verse is here. What about it? Are you producing wood, hay, and straw, or are you manufacturing gold, silver, and precious stones? **Everything you do for God will be evaluated at this Judgment Seat of Christ.** There are three types of good mentioned in history. Human good, the first one and this is the production of what we call evil. **This is Satan's plan, human good is evil.** The first human good ever done on this planet was Adam putting on a fig leaf trying to cover up his genitals. He tried to cover up for his mistake. God clothed him with the skin of the lamb which was sacrificed on his behalf. **Human good is you trying to appease the justice of God and it won't work.** Human good is the production of evil. Human good in salvation can be faith plus works. Human good in the Christian life is faith plus morality or spirituality plus morality. You know, "I'm a good Christian because I don't drink. I'm a good Christian because I don't smoke. I'm a good Christian because I don't say dirty words." This is not why you're a good Christian. These may be things good Christians do but this is not what makes you a good Christian. A good Christian is a person who is filled with the Holy Spirit and who is growing in the grace and the knowledge of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Human good is not going to cut it with God. It began in the garden right after the fall with operation fig leaf. Evil is the thinking of Satan while human good is the application of this thinking. **Human good is the production of the unbeliever and those believers that are out of fellowship.** It's not rewardable, it's wood, hay, and straw. **Then there is moral good. This is the unbeliever who observes the laws of divine establishment.** He believes in freedom and family and marriage and nationalism and this is moral good. He gets married. He treats his wife fair and right. He treats his children fair and right. He doesn't lie, He doesn't cheat, he doesn't steal. He's morally a wonderful person but this is not divine good. This is moral good. What you want to produce is divine good. This is production that the believer manufactures from his frame of reference when he's filled with the Holy Spirit. That's the

question. If you worship God, are you manufacturing human good or are you manufacturing divine good? There are a few keys to the production of divine good. First of all, being in the directive will of God, which is tantamount to the filling of the Holy Spirit. **You must be filled with the Holy Spirit to manufacture divine good.** Whatever counts for God in your life or my life must be related to the filling of the Holy Spirit or it is not right. It's a right thing done in a wrong way. You know, if you take a football analogy. Here's a big strong guy, we've got football season coming up. He's handsome, he's fast, he's strong, he's playing in the line, he's playing tackle, and he's suppose to block number 22 on the defensive side, but instead he blocks number 45. He did a right thing, he blocked an opposing player, but he did it a wrong way, he blocked the wrong person. He didn't know the plays. This is what Satan specializes in, getting you to ignore the plays, getting you to live by your emotion. You must think, think, think. *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* You must learn, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."* The Lord Jesus Christ was clear about this. *"Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke and learn of Me. My yoke is easy and My burden is light"* (Matthew 11:28-30). The Christian life must be executed and to execute it you must learn it. Momentum, this means that the Word of God is the most important thing in your life. **When you have spiritual momentum and you're applying the Word of God in your life, then you produce divine good as you advance to spiritual maturity through the execution of God's plan.** You have to learn how to execute the Christian life before you can produce divine good. If you don't know what you're doing you can't do it. Then the impact you will have is as a mature believer. You will be an invisible hero during the Church Age. It is possible for any of us to get sucked into a system that appears to be good, I mean we think we are doing something for God when in reality we're just fighting against God's plan. This is really true of what we call Christian activism because good is not always good. You are not called to clean up the devil's world. **You are called to lift up the Lord Jesus Christ.** The wrong motivation parlays good into evil. Good may be Christian service, which is divine good or dead works, depending on spirituality or carnality. This was the problem in Ephesus. **There must be spiritual growth before there can be production of divine good.** All production of divine good must come from within the boundaries of the Word of God. If it's not, then it will not be rewardable. It will be thrown out as wood, hay, and straw. You have a choice. I hope you've understood this. You can manufacture human good, this is from the energy of the flesh, the good things you do but it is not rewardable. It's called wood, hay, and straw. Or you can manufacture divine good which is done under the filling of the Holy Spirit based on the momentum you have in the Word of God, when you understand God's plan for your life. **God is glorified through divine good. You will be rewarded for the divine good that you produce.** But if you have no divine good, your foundation will still be there. You'll still be going to heaven, you're just going to be minus any rewards. I hope you're listening. I hope it's making sense. I'm trying the very best to make it as simple as I can. Some people appreciate it, I hope you do too. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you so very much for listening to The FLOT Line.

Dark Days Ahead

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 838 aired on September 12, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'd like to talk to you today about the dark days ahead for this client nation USA. I want you to come to understand what this term client nation means. We have enough racial strife and political strife to destroy the country. We have families in strife and we have international strife. On all points we are in big trouble. As we've said before, things that use to be good are now considered evil and all the things that you and I grew up with that were evil are now accepted as good and okay. God sees this as a problem, I promise you. Let me explain why it's critical at this point for me to talk about us as a client nation. I will explain what this means and what it will mean if we lose our client nation status. I'd like to quote my beloved friend and mentor, Reverend R.B. Thieme Jr., Pastor of Berachah Church in Houston Texas, where he served for more than 50 years as pastor of that congregation. This is something he taught me about a client nation and I'm quoting now, **"A client nation is a national entity under the patronage of God. It is assigned the responsibility for the formation, for the preservation, for the communication, and fulfillment of the Bible, the canon of Scripture."** Reverend Thieme went on to identify Gentile client nations and he said, "There are two categories of client nations to God in human history. Jewish client nations of the Old Testament who had a specialized priesthood and then the Gentile client nations during this dispensation of the Church and we have a universal priesthood." No Gentile nation of the Old Testament was a client nation to God. There was no Gentile client nation in the Old Testament. "The Gentile client nation category follows exactly the same pattern as Israel with some dramatic differences related to the uniqueness of this Church Age both in grace and in the spiritual life." Quoting Colonel Thieme now, that's what we always called him, he went on to say, "The client nation is a synonym for a priest nation. The name priest nation is used for Israel because it had a specialized priesthood, but the term client nation is used for any Gentile nation that performs the same function during the Church Age. And what is the function? It is the responsibility for the formation, the preservation, the communication, and the fulfillment of the canon of Scripture. So in Roman history a client was someone who depended on another family and instead of calling a Gentile nation a priest nation as such, the believers in the Church Age are holy priests and royal family of God." This is you. You might not consider yourself this but you are your own priest and you are a member of God's royal family. Listen to 1 Peter 2:4-5. *"And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men but elect and precious in the sight of God, you also as living stones are being built up into a spiritual house as a result of a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through the agency of Jesus Christ."* Then in Hebrews 3:6, *"But Christ was faithful as a Son over His house whose house we are if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end."* The United States of America has been a client nation for God over 200 years. **You are privileged to be a member of this client nation, even more privileged if you are a member of God's royal family, which is called the body of**

Christ. This is a double blessing. So there may be people in this client nation that are not believers and there are people in the client nation that are believers. A client nation is made up of both. In a client nation there are certain responsibilities we have to uphold. Let me go back to Reverend Thieme again from Berachah Church in Houston Texas. "A client nation to God is a nation under divine protection. Notice, under divine protection. Why? Because it has a large pivot of mature believers. I use pivot to mean a core group of mature believers. These mature believers have blessing by association and it leaks out to those around them by means of historical blessing to their nation. A client nation is destroyed by the reversionistic or the backsliding believer who spins off away from the pivot of mature believers and rejects the Word of God as a lifestyle. As the pivot shrinks, the nation loses its client nation status with God and goes under five cycles of discipline." Now, you are the person that I'm interested in being in this pivot. **I want you to be the mature believer who has a historical impact in your nation because that's the only way we can stop the dark days that are coming ahead.** *"If My people that are called by My name will humble themselves, turn from their wicked ways, and seek My face"* (2 Chronicles 7:14). We're talking about believers. As go the believers in the nation, so goes the history of the nation. We are a client nation. And as a member of this client nation, are you a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you accepted Him as your Savior? If you have, do you have a mature spiritual life that has an historical impact in your nation, blessing by association to you? That's what we want. We want you to grow to be a mature believer and to establish in your soul a FLOT line using the ten problem-solving devices, that were actually taught to me by Reverend Thieme years ago. **I want you to build this FLOT line in your soul so that you can be a stabilizing force in this nation as part of the pivot.** I want you to be a pivot believer. I want you to be a substantial pivot believer who holds this nation together by means of your spiritual life. If we are to remain a client nation, I'm going to give you five things we must do as a client nation. First of all we must evangelize our own population at home. I'm afraid that public evangelism is going by the wayside. Much of it has moved to social media. There are very few public crusades like back in the 50s, in the 60s, in the 70s when you would see people like Billy Graham holding a large public crusade. You don't see this anymore. Churches are taking up the slack, churches are beginning to try to evangelize people in their community. We must evangelize our own population at home. When I began in the ministry in the late 60s, I went to hundreds and hundreds of high schools across the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, Texas and gave the gospel in public assemblies. I told how I became a Christian, told my story how I accepted Christ. I had the privilege and the honor to give this story to thousands and thousands of students. Whether they accepted Christ or not, I don't know, but I do know I gave the truth, I gave the gospel, I gave an invitation for them in their seat, to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. This isn't happening anymore. There's no more public evangelism. Satan has been very good at shutting off the light in the public arena and we'll talk about the light here in just a minute. **A client nation is responsible to evangelize its own population and to communicate the Word of God to believers within that nation. This**

means that pastors and evangelists and Bible teachers must get it right, get it accurate. *“Study to show yourself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15), not wrongly dividing it. **We are also responsible for the custodianship of the Word of God, to preserve it, to make sure that it goes forth, to guard it, to make sure it's not changed. We are to provide a haven for the Jew, God's chosen people and it is our responsibility as a client nation to send out missionaries to evangelize all over the world.** There were periods of apostasy or disobedience to God in Israel in the Old Testament as a priest nation to God. Apostasy in the client nation is a cancer, as was apostasy in a priest nation in the Old Testament. **And if the cancer of apostasy in a nation grows long enough, that particular nation will go under the fifth cycle of discipline and eventually be destroyed.** Let me show you what happened to Israel for their negative volition. Jeremiah spoke of this sort of apostasy in regard to Judah and here are the words that he said. *“For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for profit. Furthermore, from the prophet even to the priest [these are people in the ministry] everyone manufactures lies. In fact they alleged to solve problems of My people saying these words, ‘Peace. Peace,’ when in reality there is no peace”* (Jeremiah 6:13-14). Notice he was speaking to a nation of liars and greedy people including the clergy. In Proverbs 12:22, *“Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord.”* **This trend of greed and deception brought divine discipline upon them in the form of the five cycles of discipline.** Here's what God said in Jeremiah 6:11-15 in regards to their negative volition, in regards to their not fulfilling the mission God gave them. Jeremiah said, *“I'm full of fury of the Lord. I'm weary of holding it in. I will pour it out on the children outside and on the assembly of young men together. [This is God speaking through Jeremiah the prophet and think about it in regard to our nation.] For even the husband shall be taken with the wife and the aged with him who's full of days. And their houses shall be turned over to others, fields and wives together. For I will stretch out My hand against the inhabitants of the land,”* says the Lord. *‘Because from the least of them to the greatest of them, everyone is given to greed [covetousness], and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely. They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly saying, “Peace, peace” when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they committed this abomination [lying, greed?] No, they were not ashamed at all. Nor did they even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall at the time when I punish them they should be cast down,’* says the Lord.” This was a stern pronouncement by the prophet Jeremiah that divine discipline was coming to Judah, and indeed it did. It was called the Babylonian captivity of 598 BC. **One of the indications of God's ultimate discipline on the client nation is military defeat which means His protection is removed.** Does this sound familiar, military defeat for the client nation by means of God's protection being removed. I think back on some of the things that have happened in this country since 9/11 and how at times God's protection was removed. **We've turned our back on the Lord in many ways as a nation and that's why I'm telling you that dark days are coming. We have been preoccupied with the gifts and we have forgotten the Giver. And we've**

turned into a nation full of liars. I spoke on a radio show about this recently. We are a nation full of liars. **We are a nation that is greedy and covets things and we're in serious trouble because we have neglected the mandates of the Word of God.** Moses wrote and warned of God's discipline upon the nation if they refused to obey. One of the indications of God's ultimate discipline on the client nation is in fact military defeat. Listen to what Moses wrote way back in the book of Leviticus to the nation Israel if they turned away from God's Word, here is. Think about America today and what we've done. Leviticus 26:14-17, *"If you do not obey Me and you do not observe all these mandates,"* this is given to a priest nation but the application can be to a client nation like the United States of America. He's had His protective grace over us. He's provided for us. He's blessed us. He's put us in a position of strength, not weakness, and yet as we've turned away from the Lord, we see our strength turned to weakness. We see other nations laugh at us. We've seen wars that we've lost and not been able to complete and win. Listen carefully. *"If you don't obey Me and you do not observe these mandates and if you despise My statutes [like the 10 Commandments, "Thou shall not, thou shall not, thou shalt not," and everybody in America says, "Well, I will if I want to.]" or if your soul hates My judgments so that you do not perform all of My mandates and you break My covenants, then I will do this to you. I will appoint terror over you, wasting disease, and fever which will consume your eyes and cause sorrow in your heart and you will sow your seed in vain, for your enemies will eat it. I will set My face against you and you shall be defeated by your enemies.* This is stage one of the five cycles of discipline designed to humble the arrogant nation. *"Those who hate you shall reign over you and you will flee when no one pursues you."* Hopefully warning discipline would wake them up and they would respond, but listen to stage two. Leviticus 26:18-20, *"And after all of this, if you do not obey Me then I will punish you seven times greater for your sins. I will break the pride of your power. I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. Your strength shall be spent in vain for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit."* Two stages of discipline. Now, surely the people would wake up. No, not so. Stage three, Leviticus 26:21-22, *"Then if you continue to walk contrary to Me and are not willing to obey Me, then I will bring you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. And I will send wild beasts among you which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number, and your highways shall be desolate."* Surely this would wake them up. Surely they would now realize that they've lost the protective hand of God over their nation, but no, not so. Stage four, Leviticus 26:23-26. *"And if by all of these sayings you still are not reformed, but you still walk contrary to Me [in other words you still won't obey Me] then I will walk contrary to you and I will punish you yet seven times greater for your sins. And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant and when you gather together within your cities I will send pestilence among you, and you will be delivered to the hands of the enemy. When I have cut off your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven and they shall bring back your bread by weight and you shall eat it and not be satisfied."* Surely this would wake up a priest nation. Surely this would make them realize what

they've done. It did not. Stage five is the military defeat of the priest nation or the military defeat of the client nation if we apply it to our nation America. Stage five, Leviticus 26:27-33, "*And after all of these things if you still do not obey Me, but you still walk contrary to Me, than I also will walk contrary to you in a fury. And I even I will chastise you seven times greater for your sin.*" [Notice every time it is seven times jacked up, seven more times, it gets tougher]. Now listen carefully. This is hard to read but this may be coming to us, "*You shall eat the flesh of your sons. You shall eat the flesh of your daughters. And I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars and cast your carcasses on the lifeless forms of your idols and My soul will abhor you. I will lay your cities to waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aroma.*" [This is prayers. Now they're starting to pray. Now they want God to deliver them and it won't be answered]. *I will bring the land into desolation and your enemies will dwell in it and they will be astonished at it. I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you and your land shall be desolate and your cities shall be waste.*" **What you are witnessing today, in my opinion, in our troubled, divided nation, is setting the stage of what is about to come upon us, discipline from God. The believers in this client nation, you, me, we are the only ones who can stop it. But many people have let their light go out, let their light go dim.** Do you remember Matthew 5:14 where Jesus told the disciples, "*You are the light of the world,*" and in Matthew 5:16 where He mandated, "*Let your light shine before men?*" What exactly does this mean, "*Let your light shine before men?*" What exactly was the Lord Jesus Christ saying, "*You are the light of the world?*" Well, Satan operates in darkness and deceit and deception. Light is truth. Truth begins with the Lord Jesus Christ. "*I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life. Anyone who comes after the Father must come through Me*" (John 14:6), the Lord Jesus Christ said. He is truth, so what does this mean? The idea of light chasing away darkness is central to understanding Jesus Christ and Christianity. One of the first Jews that recognized baby Jesus as the promised Messiah called Him a light of revelation in Luke 2:32. So this metaphor of light only makes sense against the background of darkness. This is where Satan works best, in darkness and deceit and deception. Truth is light. **When we reflect the light of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, we illuminate the darkness. This is why Satan works so hard to keep this light from being exposed.** He doesn't want people to know their options, their choices. He doesn't want people to hear, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved*" (Acts 16:31). He wants people to trust in his governing authority. Socialism, communism, progressivism, humanism, these are all the answers according to Satan but not according to God's Word, not even close. **Those who are in the dark are those who lack knowledge.** To the Jewish mind this metaphor of light had a particular application to the Gentiles, a world that did not receive the grace of God through the revelation of the Torah or the prophets and the written revelation of God. Even today we know that untold millions and millions across this world still dwell in deep darkness having never, ever heard about the one true God or about Jesus Christ His anointed Son. Only your light can shine when you use truth to illuminate your perspective. Let me explain how you turn your light on. What does it mean to let

your light shine? Well, here's the first step. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, your light cannot be on if you have unconfessed sin in your life. If you fail to use problem-solving device #1 which is called rebound, 1 John 1:9, then you will be operating in the energy of the flesh and this is called wood, hay, and stubble. This is not a light, this won't work. In order for your light to shine you must be filled with the Holy Spirit because you're indwelt with the Holy Spirit the moment you get saved. You're not filled if you have unconfessed sin in your life because you've quenched the Holy Spirit and you've grieved the Holy Spirit and you are not reflecting the light of Jesus Christ, that's the first way. Do you want to turn your light on? Make sure you're in fellowship with God by using rebound as needed. When you know you've committed a sin such as a mental attitude sin, or a sin of the tongue, or even an overt sin, don't wait until you go to bed at night because your light got shut off at the moment you sinned. Confess it then, now, immediately. God said, *"If you confess your sin, He'll be faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). Don't put it off. You know when you sin. You know when you were disobedient to God, and don't try to pull the wool over God's eyes and hide it, this won't work either. **The first way to make sure your light is on is to stay filled with the Holy Spirit. Second, is to take in and learn the Word of God on a consistent basis under a well-qualified pastor. The more you learn, the more you understand, the brighter your light shines.** If I give you a little formula, it's called this. FHS, that's the filling of the Holy Spirit plus GAP, that's grace apparatus for perception, that's the Holy Spirit, that's a pastor-teacher, that's the canon of Scripture. If you take FHS, the filling of the Holy Spirit, plus GAP, grace apparatus for perception, that equals these 10 problem-solving devices in your soul. When you learn them and use them, you shine brightly because you are occupied with Christ. You are reflecting the image of Christ. But no one with any unconfessed sin in his life is illuminating anything. You must be filled with the Holy Spirit and growing in grace to get the gospel straight, and you must not be afraid to let your light shine into the darkness. You cannot afford to be afraid. You must understand, when you turn the light on bugs are going to be attracted. They are going to be drawn to you. They are going to try to put your light out and so you've got to have some moral courage to put on the armor of God and stand against the strategy of the devil. Does this make sense to you? I hope so. **There are dark days coming and only your light of reflecting Christ through you can change the coming trends of history that we are witnessing.** You're the only reason that it can change, no other reason. No other person can do it. You've got to be serious. You've got to be consistent. You've got to be faithful and then you'll have an impact on this nation. I hope this has made sense to you. I know I've run through it kind of fast, about the client nation and the five cycles of discipline, but it's all there. If you'd like a transcript, let us know. We would be glad to send it to you so you can study. Please come back next week, same time, same place. Until then, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT line.

From the Heart

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 839 aired on September 19, 2021

Good morning and welcome to another edition of The FLOT Line. The Bible is very clear that we have to learn God's plan. In 2 Peter 3:18, "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" We've got to learn how to function in the plan. Today I want to talk to you from my heart beginning with when I accepted Christ as my Savior. It was the summer of 1967. I wasn't thinking about much of anything except girls and cars and football and stuff that ordinary teenagers think about. I was a young man. I was 22 at the time so I wasn't exactly a teenager. I had been to the University of Alabama on a football scholarship and abandoned that scholarship, walked away and quit after my first year which was a pretty dumb thing to do. I had the talent and the ability to play, but I didn't have the mental attitude to stick with it. I got into sort of a frantic search for happiness, trying to find it in all the wrong places. Eventually I dated a young lady who took me to church and after church I met a man who gave the gospel to me and I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. I prayed that night, I asked God to save me. I didn't know what was happening. I didn't understand the whole deal, what was going on. Maybe you've done this in your life. I knew nothing about the Bible. I didn't even own a Bible. I knew it was black. Everybody had a black Bible. But I didn't know anything about it and I didn't know what was in store for me. I had no idea what I needed to learn and no idea of what I needed to do with my life and I wasn't even thinking about these things. I was just thinking about what happened to me and telling my friends about what happened to me. I was able to lead a couple of my friends to Christ that were ballplayers that had played with me and noticed a difference in my life. I had to make some decisions about education. I did go back to school, went back to a Bible college. I began to get involved with Youth for Christ International and the next thing I knew I was giving my testimony and telling people how I got saved and something about my background. I did not know this was going to lead into a life of being in the ministry. I did not know I had the spiritual gift of evangelism. I did not know anything, I was being pulled along by various Christians who had various ideas about what I should and shouldn't do. Most of them I didn't like, it wasn't me. Have you ever had anybody that tried to fit you into a mold that you don't belong into? I can remember going on a couple of conferences with evangelists telling me I needed to go out on the street corner and pass out tracts and tell people they are going to hell if they don't believe in Christ. I didn't go along with this and I can just remember a lot of things that people told me. "If you're going to be a good Christian now son, you just can't do these things anymore." Like what? "Well, you can't do this, you can't do that." What can you do? "Well, you can go bowling and sing in the choir." Well, I don't like to bowl and I can't sing so this didn't sound like much of an exciting Christian life to me. I remember so many things that happened where people disowned me because they didn't like that I didn't fit into their parameters. I didn't do the things they wanted me to do. One of these things was that I was so confused about what the Christian life should be. I knew I was saved, I knew I was a Christian, and I wanted to experience

everything about it that I could but I didn't understand. I got a lot of different viewpoints, "Do this, do that, don't do this, don't do that." Maybe you've been through this in your life. Maybe if you sat down right now, took a piece of paper, and you had to write a response to, "What does it take to be a successful Christian for God" you couldn't do it because I could not at that time. I didn't have any idea whatsoever. I had a Bible and I would read the Bible. I read the book of John. I identified some things in there that sounded like me, seemed like they applied to my life, but I just didn't understand the Christian life and how it worked. It was over a year after I had become a Christian that I got under the ministry of a great pastor and this individual began to teach me the Word of God in a very firm, stern manner and I started to learn. He didn't put up with any nonsense. He said, "If you're going to learn the Word of God," it was like "Show up, shut up, and fake it til you make it." I think this is a military term. **I started an intense Bible study under this pastor, studying every night with a Bible, notebook, writing notes down, things I encourage you to do.** This is exactly what I want you to do. I want you to listen, learn, and apply in your life and this is what I had to do. **As I began to grow I experienced all kinds of testing, all kinds of pressure and I failed in many areas.** You know, I look back on it and think, "That was amazing. God has a great sense of humor because if He didn't, I probably would have been a greasy spot already." I bet some of you are like this as well. Thank goodness you're not a greasy spot yet, God still has a plan for your life. **I had to learn how to deal with people. I had to learn how to deal with circumstances. I had to learn how to live the Christian life.** No one told me when I got saved and I went back to college, I went to Bible college, no one told me anything about the spiritual life. They just said, "Here's the Bible, learn what's in this book. Here's Obadiah, here's Jeremiah, here's Isaiah, here's Ezekiel, here's Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, here's Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians." OK, what am I suppose to do with it? **Once I got under this well-qualified pastor who taught by the ICE technique it started to make sense. ICE stands for isagogical, categorical, and exegetical teaching.** This means that if we took a verse like John 3:16, "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,*" that we would develop each line word by word. "*For God,*" *gar theos* is the Greek word for God. "*So loved,*" *agapao*, the Greek word for love. "*The world,*" *kosmos*. As you begin to study like this, you go line by line, word by word, verse by verse and then you develop categories such as the doctrine of God, the doctrine of love, the doctrine of the world. This is the way my pastor taught me. It didn't take long for me to start filling up notebooks and filling up pages of my Bible, learning these various doctrines that made up the framework of my spiritual life, even today. **As I learned and applied these things, I began to understand you can't live the Christian life on your own. I began to understand that God the Holy Spirit was given to us to assist us in living the Christian life.** The Lord Jesus Christ calls Him our tutor, our mentor. Nobody told me this at the Bible college I went to. No one told me I needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit like Ephesians 5:18 says, "*Be filled with the Spirit.*" No one told me this. No one told me Galatians 5:17, "*The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh. They are contrary one to the other so that you can't*

do the thing that you want to do.” I didn’t hear any of this. I just had this battle, I was just wrestling with myself. Even though I was a Christian, even though I knew I was going to heaven, I knew I was doing some things that weren't right. Paul put it this way. He said, *“I don't understand myself at all because the things I want to do I don't do and the things I don't like are the things that I do. It's obvious that it's sin in me”* (Romans 7:15-17). **I didn't understand that even though I was a Christian, I still have a sinful nature.** Do you know this about yourself? Even though you have accepted Christ as your Savior, you still have a flesh. You still have a sinful nature. That's why we battle against the world and the flesh and the devil. Most people never get past the flesh, they don't even get to deal with the devil. Most people have the misconception about the devil to begin with, thinking that he's omnipresent, in a lot of different places at one time and he's not. He's a created being. He is a fallen angel and he can't be in America and in England at the same time. He can only be in one place at one time and I'm 99% sure he's not knocking on your door. There are other fallen angels and we call them demons and they spread the doctrine of demons and this is what Satan is really good at, spreading misinformation. I got some misinformation to begin with but as I began to wise up and listen to my pastor and learn God's Word and identify the misinformation, I began to move away from this legalism that people were trying to draw me into. “You can't be a Christian if you smoke, or dance or go to anything but a G rated movie,” and I never understood all of this. I understood eventually that my Christian life is not based on what I do or don't do. **My Christian life is based on if I'm filled with the Holy Spirit and growing in God's grace.** At any time in my life I am either spiritual or carnal, same as you. Right now as you listen to me, you are either spiritual or carnal. You either have fellowship with God or you are out of fellowship with God. There's no in between. What makes you out of fellowship with God? It's sin. **Sin takes you out of fellowship with God.** When we sin, we break this rapport we have with God. We quench the Holy Spirit. We grieve the Holy Spirit. **We have to confess this sin which is problem-solving device #1 on the FLOT line of your soul, rebound.** *“If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all wrongdoing”* (1 John 1:9). I had to learn how to rebound and rebound a lot because I still dealt with many issues. Even though I was saved, even though I was a Christian, all my bad habits didn't go away. All my bad temperament didn't go away. **I had to grow in the grace and the knowledge of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ just like you have to do the same thing.** Finally, by getting under this great pastor and beginning to study God's Word, line by line, word by word under the ICE technique, isagogical, categorical, exegetical, I began to put together the framework of Biblical doctrines in my soul that sustained me and helped me to grow spiritually. I had no idea I was an evangelist. I had no idea I would have a life of traveling and speaking and giving the gospel. It started with me speaking in many, many schools in West Virginia and from there to Mississippi and speaking in over 400 schools in two years. From there to Georgia, speaking in another couple hundred schools in a year. God began to shape and form and mold my ministry of talking to teenagers in what we call Spiritual Emphasis Weeks. Satan is really good at stopping this. He didn't want anybody in the public

arena to get any information so the public arena has been shut down, but there are still private schools that allow the Word of God to be taught. I'm not talking about Christian schools. I'm talking about academies where there are 200 to 500 students. This door is still open and this is the door I've been able to go through for many, many years and taught many, many teenagers the Word of God and what God expects out of them. This is something that I had to grow into. **God only uses prepared people.** If I wasn't prepared I could have never had this opportunity. You'd be surprised how many people I spoke to that told me I was goofy, how many people I would speak to that would try to straighten me out. You know what? They were not lost people. They were not unbelievers. They were all Christians that took offense, Christians that didn't like the way I said it. Christians that said, "No you can't do it that way, no you can't do it this way. At my church we teach it this way. At my church we teach it that way." I've never seen so much confusion and controversy in organized religion in my life. Maybe you're like this. Maybe you don't understand exactly what you're suppose to do or not suppose to do. I was talking with a young man today on the telephone who had been reading a book about some woman who claimed she was the bride of Satan and he actually believed this junk. I said, "Are you kidding me?" "Oh, no, no, she was the bride of Satan." I said, "Where did you get this? Satan never married anybody in the Bible or married anybody in the Old Testament, anybody in the New Testament. She's just claiming this so she can sell you the book. How much did you pay for the book?" "Oh, \$20." "Are you out of your mind?" **You'll have no idea what's real and what's not real, what's legitimate and not legitimate until you get a framework of Biblical doctrine in your soul and this is why we teach you the FLOT line.** We teach you the FLOT line to give you a framework of Biblical doctrine in your soul. Once you understand rebound, once you understand the filling of the Holy Spirit, once you understand the faith-rest drill, once you understand grace orientation, once you understand doctrinal orientation, once you understand your personal sense of destiny, once you understand what personal love for God is and impersonal love for others is, then you'll come to understand how you share the happiness of God and eventually what it means to be occupied with Christ. **If you build this residence of doctrine in your soul, then you have a framework for a successful Christian life.** By the way, we have a new book out called *Christian Problem Solving* and it describes every one of these. It's transcripts of shows that I've taught regarding these things and you can order the book today, free, no charge whatsoever. Just go to the website, rickhughesministries.org and order *Christian Problem Solving* and we'll send it straight to you free of charge. You need to understand this Biblical framework so that you can have the right idea of what you should and shouldn't do as a Christian because so many people don't understand the will of God. **So many people don't understand God's will, that there's something God wants you to think, to do, and there's some place He wants you to be.** God has a geographical will for your life. He wants you to be somewhere. There's something He wants you to do. He gave you a spiritual gift and this is what I didn't understand. I had to learn what my spiritual gift was. It was the gift of evangelism. Well then I had to learn how to present the gospel accurately. With all the social media that goes on

today I am convinced there is a tremendous amount of satanic infiltration into the minds of young people through social media. A lot of Christians are on social media, spewing a lot of false information. They spew little devotional thoughts and things like this but when it comes to living the Christian life, "I heard a guy on YouTube and he said I should do this, I heard a preacher on podcast and he said I should do this." People are totally confused. **Satan uses false teaching to confuse the issue of spirituality.** You know, there's a difference between being saved which is salvation and living the Christian life. In any moment of time in your life you are either spiritual or you are carnal. **Right now you are either spiritual or carnal.** Billy Graham, bless his heart, he's in heaven with the Lord. He could not be any more spiritual than you, he could not be. If he was filled with the Holy Spirit and you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then you're both spiritual and you're both saved the same way. If your pastor is filled with the Holy Spirit and you're filled with the Holy Spirit, you're both spiritual, but this is not all there is to the Christian life. You go from spirituality to maturity. Your pastor may be a lot more mature than you spiritually speaking. What's this related to? That's related to the Biblical framework of doctrine in his soul. He has more of the Word of God stored in his soul than you do. What is his soul? It's his mentality, it's his volition, it's his conscience, and his self-consciousness. As he's learned the Word of God and stored this into the framework of his soul, then he's more mature than you. If he has 1,000 cc of Bible doctrine in his soul and you have 100 cc of Bible doctrine in your soul, there's the difference right there. Now, the Christian life is not designed for you to run to the preacher every time you have a problem. That's not the way you glorify God. You can't glorify God letting somebody else make your decisions for you. **You have to learn God's Word and apply God's Word in your life and glorify God with the decisions you make for yourself.** If there's something you don't understand, I'm sure your pastor can give you a good answer but eventually you have to be able to answer it yourself because he's not the one being tested. **You are the one being tested. You are the one that Satan will attempt to distract.** You are the one that Satan will attempt to discourage and you are the one that Satan will attempt to defeat. How does he do this? When you get your eyes on yourself or on people, or on circumstances and all of a sudden everything becomes foggy leading to chaos and confusion. You won't do the right thing because you don't even know what the right thing is so you just collapse on the floor in a puddle and cry, "Why does God let all these things happen to me?" I can hear you now. Don't you know, "*All things work together for good to those who love God [that's your virtue love] and are called according to a predetermined plan*" (Romans 8:28). Jesus Christ called you. He has a plan for your life. Do you love Him? "Yeah, I love God." People tell me this all the time. "I love God." Really? Well, 1 John 5:3 says, "*If you love Me, you will obey Me and My mandates are not grievous,*" they are not hard. If you love God you will obey God and you will obey what the Scripture tells you to do. It's a lot more than the Ten Commandments I promise you. There are well over 400 commandments in the Old Testament, Codex 1, Codex 2, Codex 3. And we have a new law, a new law of love in Christ Jesus. What do you do with this? Do you even know about this? The Christian life is a life of learning the procedure that God has for you to live, but listen

to what I'm about to tell you. **God's plan is called grace and the protocol plan of God must be learned and must be executed.** If you don't believe me, why would it say, "*Study to show yourself approved unto God*" (2 Timothy 2:15)? If you don't believe me why would it say, "*Grow in the grace and knowledge your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18)? If you don't believe me why did Jesus say, "*Take My yoke on you and learn of Me*" (Matthew 11:29)? **Learn, study, grow, these are all verbs that mean you must grow spiritually as a Christian.** However, Satan has a plan also. His plan is called evil in the Bible and it's full of human good which is a distortion of divine good. Satan has a college where he teaches people his plan. It's the college of the chaos world, the chaotic world. Here it is like an octopus with all these tentacles going out. People have to learn how to be humanists. People have to learn how to be atheists. People have to learn how to be socialists. It's a lifestyle they have to learn. They don't know what it is until it gets taught to them and when it's taught to them and they say, "Okay, I believe this, I buy this, I'll do this" and they're learning from Satan. Just as God's plan has to be learned to be obeyed, Satan's plan has to be learned also and he teaches it every day through the college of social media. The biggest confusion comes from organized religion. This is the number one ace in the hole for Satan, organized religion, misleading people into believing that they're doing God's will or misleading people into believing that they're going to heaven. You go down to this church and join up and they say, "Hey brother, we're glad to have you. Let's put you in the baptismal tank and you'll be saved." No one's even explained the gospel to you yet, how the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ was for you, how the Lord Jesus Christ paid for your sin on the cross and, "*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" (Romans 10:13). They just dunked you under the water and gave you an offering enveloped and off you go. You didn't learn anything. **This is a critical issue in the church today. The Word of God is not being taught and as a result we have so much confusion and chaos in the Christian world.** It's a fog of confusion. You're not going to grow just showing up on Sunday morning for 30 minutes and checking your cell phone every few minutes to see the score of the ballgame. Growing only comes from time in the Word of God learning it under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor. This is why God gives you a man with this spiritual gift so you don't wind up manufacturing all sorts of wood, hay and straw and so when you get to the Judgment Seat of Christ you can hear, "*Well done, My good and faithful servant*" (Matthew 25:21). This means you did right things in the right way. I have to do this also. Learn it, apply it, and glorify God. If you don't have a qualified pastor in your area, I can tell you how to tap into free accurate studies and you can study and grow in your home until God shows you where He wants you to be. This is why I'm here, to challenge you to grow to be a mature believer. **When you grow spiritually and glorify God then you will be part of the group that will deliver this nation because as goes your spiritual life, so goes this nation.** We're counting on you to replicate the life of Christ but it's not going to happen overnight. You're going to have to get with it, get into the Word, and start growing. Do you want to do this? Then get in touch with me, let me know, I'll hook you up. I'll tell where you can go to get Bible studies and you can start growing in your spiritual life.

FOG Across America

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 840 aired on September 26, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I love to bass fish and I've had some interesting times on the lake. I'm thinking about one in particular when I took a newspaper reporter out with me. It happened to be a foggy morning and we were out on the lake in the fog, and this was before we had GPS on our bass boats. Today we have depth finders that have GPS mapping systems and even in the middle of the night you can see where you are on your map, on your GPS, and follow your cursor back to the boat launch. On this really foggy day I tried to go from one side of the lake to the other and never made it. I got out on the middle of the lake and somehow wound up turned around and came right back to the side I left from. I thought I knew where I was going. After this I put a compass on the boat so that I could follow the compass heading. Fog is really a tough thing to navigate. I don't know if you've ever been out in a really thick fog at night with your headlights on, shining bright. There was a wreck that occurred back in 1990, a terrible, terrible wreck between Chattanooga and Knoxville on I-75, a road I've driven many times. On this particular night, 11 December 1990, there was a series of multiple vehicle collisions caused by this terrible fog involving 99 vehicles crashing into each other. Twelve people killed and forty-two people seriously injured in this fog because people wouldn't slow down. They were pressing on in the fog, trying to get somewhere. "Gotta go, gotta go, gotta go." Somebody said, "Why do you gotta go?" The response was "I gotta get back." Fog is horrible. In a serious fog issue, no one is safe to go speeding down the highway. No one is safe to assume there's no obstruction ahead. That's what happened that night. People sped down I-75 toward Knoxville or toward Chattanooga not thinking there was anything ahead that was wrong and there was something seriously wrong. It's also true that in heavy fog bright lights don't work very well, do they? You know, you put on your bright lights and all you see is more fog. Thus you need lower pointing fog lights on your car, your vehicle, your truck. **In Matthew 5:14 the Lord Jesus Christ tells those that are following Him this, "You are the light of the world" and I want to emphasize "You."** Wherever you are listening to me this morning, in whatever city you might be in, whether it's Albuquerque, Cheyenne, Dallas, if it's in Houston, Green Bay, Sacramento or San Francisco, it's you, not me, not your neighbor, you are the light of the world if you're a Christian. **Your job is to illuminate the Lord Jesus Christ and point people to Him.** You have the same task today except there is a heavy fog across this land that can quench your light. I want to talk to you about this fog and use it as an illustration because I believe that **America is in a serious fog right now.** I think the results will be catastrophic if we don't get off this road we're on and if we don't get to safety soon. I call it the cosmic system, the cosmos, the devil's world. It operates best in the fog, the fog of confusion, the fog of chaos. The longer that Satan can keep people confused and keep your light from penetrating the darkness, the more disillusioned and the more distracted people become. **Let me give you the acrostic for F.O.G. F stands for failure of spiritual leadership. O stands for open rebellion and G stands for**

God's Word being rejected. This is the fog across America that I'm talking about today. **Failure of spiritual leadership and political leadership got us in this condition to begin with. Many of our pastors that we put our faith and trust in are turning into performers.** Of course not all but many are seeking to fill large auditoriums with emotional worship services and they are not teaching mechanics. Many believers, many Christians just like yourselves never really learn the protocol plan of God. This simply means that a right thing has to be done in a right way. This is why we teach the 10 problem-solving devices. These are part of the protocol plan of God, how you are to operate as a Christian. If a person doesn't understand the difference between spirituality and maturity, then he can't ever grow as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). You have to understand some terminology. Even as a fisherman I understand the difference between spinner bait, crank bait, chatter bait, Carolina rig, and drop shot. These are all nomenclatures for certain ways that you fish. With the Christian life you have to learn what certain words mean. Spirituality is very important. Fellowship is very important. It's very possible that you are a believer in Jesus Christ but you're not in fellowship with God because you don't understand the mechanics of spirituality. The first thing that's important in the FLOT line of your soul is rebound. This is not taught in a whole lot of churches. Very seldom does any pastor stop and say, "Before we begin our worship service this morning, we want to rebound." He might not use these words but does your pastor say, "I want you to bow your head and pray and make sure there's no unconfessed sin in your life?" Because, if you're sitting in the auditorium of a church with unconfessed sin in your life, you have quenched and you are grieving the Holy Spirit and you're not going to get anything out of the message. I don't care how good he is, you're not going to get anything out of it because the Holy Spirit can't do His job. Does your pastor ever say, "Before we worship, let's bow our heads and make sure we are all in fellowship?" This means that you are under control of God the Holy Spirit, that you're not out of fellowship by unconfessed sin in your life. This is what I'm talking about. This is why we got into this position to start with, because we have abandoned the basic principles of the Christian life and we've gone into this emotional worship. Jeremiah, the prophet of the Old Testament, warned the spiritual leaders of his day with these words from God and it really sounds a lot like he could be talking to us. Listen to Jeremiah 23:1-2, *"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture. You have scattered My flock and driven them away and have not attended to them, thus I'm about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds."* A pastor is a shepherd. The members of the church are the sheep or the flock. It is his job to shepherd you and protect you and feed you and make sure you're cared for. This doesn't mean come hold your hand when you get the flu, this is not what it means. It means that he prepares you to be spiritually self-sustaining, that you can stand on your own two feet in the middle of the adversity that you'll face as a believer in Jesus Christ. **Failure to feed the flock of God is one of the reasons we have FOG in America. This is the failure of spiritual leadership, failure to feed the flock of God.** It's a serious mistake for any person in the pulpit. The pastor-teacher is to watch over his

flock, protect his flock from what I call the canine clergy. Who are the canine clergy? The Lord Jesus Christ talked about these dogs of religious canine clergy that sought to devour people. The canine clergy wants to devour you by luring you away from solid, sound, Biblical teaching, getting you into some sort of emotional appeal that doesn't mean anything. Emotional appeals can be fine, but that's not the Christian life. This is called the doctrine of demons. Demons have doctrine. The Bible says Satan has his own communion table and he has doctrines that he teaches and one of them is social media change, that you can change the world. You can't change anybody's sin nature. You can change your actions, your deeds. *"Your flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh"* (Galatians 5:17). **If you can stay in fellowship, if you can grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord Jesus Christ, if you can become a mature believer, your light will shine brilliantly through the fog and illuminate the cross of Christ.** Listen to Jeremiah 23:16 about not feeding the flock. *"Listen not to the words of the prophets that prophesied to you because they make you vain. They speak a vision of their own heart and not out of the mouth of the Lord."* Their message is some feel-good emotional message, encouraging their listeners to buy into what is called fake Christianity. One of the writers that I like to quote calls it a moralistic, therapeutic deism. This is Rachel Bratton, a writer for the *Western Journal* and she claims, "This worldview of moralistic, therapeutic deism has quickly gained prominence across America and it's a theology that looks nothing like historical Christianity in spite of what people may claim." I agree with Ms. Rachel and I would point out that this is exactly what happens when preachers become performers, when they worry about what they wear, when they worry about how they look, when they worry about how they deliver, when they try to perform, and try to get people in the auditorium, pack it out. God proclaimed through Jeremiah 23:21, *"I did not send these prophets, but they ran. I did not speak to them, but they prophesied. If they had stood in My counsel they would have announced My words to My people, and they would have turned them back from their evil ways and evil deeds."* People aren't turning back from their evil ways. We keep sliding deeper and deeper and deeper into sin in this country. **People that should know better, people that are believers in Jesus Christ are not executing the Christian life. Their light is not shining.** They are not attracting anybody to the cross of Christ. I'd like to ask this of you. Have you been this sort of person that attracts people to the Lord Jesus Christ? I've said it before and I'm going to say it again, listen carefully. If your song service is longer than the teaching service you're getting gyped at church. This is one of the problems, we've got so many people into music over learning. I love good music, but you go to church to be fed God's Word. This is how you grow being fed God's Word. If you want to listen to the singing, buy the tape and put it in your car and drive down the road. Listen this way. But when you're in that auditorium, the pastor should be teaching you the Bible. I mean, I've been in churches where music leaders got angry at me because I asked him to cut one or two of the songs out of the service and stop after going for 30 minutes. Nobody wants to stand there and sing this long. In regard to leaders who are liars, whether they be politicians or preachers, listen to what God's Word says. Proverbs 12:32, *"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord."*

The first letter of the FOG illustration stands for failure of leadership politically and spiritually. You don't need me to tell you about political failure in this country because you can see it for yourself. You can see we are sliding into evil, socialism, and humanism. We've turned away from the very thing that we are established on and that is freedom of religion in this country. Now it's even against the law to put a cross up in the middle of the town square. It's against the law to mention Jesus Christ in the school, it's pitiful. **The second letter of FOG, the O, stands for open rebellion to authority within the nation.** When the rule of law is ignored and rejected, both God's laws and man's laws are violated. For example, in America in the years 2019 and 2020 combined, there were more than 37,000 murders, 100,000 cases of rape, over 1 million stolen automobiles, almost 1 every minute, and this crime rate is staggering. It's much worse even than some Third World countries. You know yourself, you're afraid to go to the mall, afraid of where you park. You have to park where you can keep an eye on things. People in my city can get shot at the mall and their cars get stolen especially at Christmas or Thanksgiving when thieves especially pray on older people. Listen to Hosea 4:1-2, this is what's going on in this country, *"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, no 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's us, this is exactly what's going on. This is what Hosea wrote as the fifth cycle of discipline came upon the nation Israel. It's coming upon us too. I don't have time to go into all of it but God is disciplining America, I assure you of this. **Unless we wake up and respond and turnaround, we will not exist much longer as a free nation. This is us, "Swearing, lying, killing, stealing, committing adultery, they break out in blood touches blood."** Hosea 14:9 says, *"Who is wise and he would understand these things? Who is prudent and he would know these things? For the ways of the Lord are right and the just shall walk in them, but the transgressors shall fall therein."* These trends in history that I'm talking to you about are indications that we are a sick nation. America is a sick nation and the vaccine is not something that you can put in with a needle. **The vaccine must come from the pulpits of churches across America where the Word of God is taught and honored.** It must come from the heart of the believers that will listen to it and abide by it because 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, *"If My people who are called by My name."* The answer is believers. As goes your spiritual life, so goes the future of your nation. Have you forgotten your God? Have you been so preoccupied with the gifts that you forgot who the Giver is? Have you fallen into being a casual Christian that just goes to church on Sunday, like "Hello God, goodbye God, see you next week God?" Do you think God is a genie in a magic eight ball that'll pop out when you get in trouble to make all your troubles go away? These trends in history are indicators we are sick. We're not going to survive as a free nation much longer if we continue down this path. This fog is so thick in America, no one can see what's going on. I don't see any indication the things going on around me are going to change for the better because when good becomes evil and evil is recognized as good, you can bet it's a slippery slope on the road to destruction. This is where we are today. We are on the

slippery slope on the road to destruction. How can we change it? What can we change? We have to go back to failure of leadership in spiritual pulpits, failure of leadership in political positions. What's wrong with asking for God to bless our nation, asking for God to heal our nation? No politician can change it. No politician can make it go away. I don't care who you elect. **The only thing that can save us is the grace of God. Only God's Word in the hearts and the minds of those people that live in this nation can deliver this nation from the coming disaster. This isn't likely because the last part of the acrostic is G, that God's Word is rejected.** The acrostic FOG, failure of leadership, open rebellion, God's Word rejected. Here we have it, God's Word is being rejected in this nation today. Proverbs 12:15 says, *"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."* We have a lot of fools running around today who think they know better than God. They justify. *"Right in his own eyes,"* that's justification, self-justification. Remember the stages in arrogance are always self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption, and eventually self-destruction. Self-justification is someone justifying why he's right and why God is wrong. The way of a fool is the person who says, "I'm right, God is wrong." *"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,"* he justifies why he does what he does. ***"But he that listens to the counsel [the counsel of the Word of God] is wise."*** **There are many arrogant fools in America.** The arrogant person makes up his own rules, justifies his actions. If he wants to commit adultery, he justifies it by saying, "Oh, we love each other and my spouse is not giving me the attention that I need so it's okay if I have an affair." If he steals, he'll justify why it's okay to steal. If he murders, he will justify why it's okay to murder. He's a fool. He thinks he's okay. He thinks he's right. He thinks it's okay to steal from you because you got it and he doesn't have it, even though you worked hard to get what you've got. He makes his own rules and justifies his actions. The arrogant person does not recognize the consequences for his sinful ideology. What are the consequences? Proverbs 14:16, *"A wise person is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is arrogant and careless."* Who's the wise person? This is the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who has some Scripture in his mind, who understands the plan of God. You know, this is called wisdom in the Bible and when you have wisdom, you have insight and discernment and understanding. The wise person is the person who understands what this bad decision could do. **The wise person may be like you who knows what's going on in this country and doesn't know how to fix it. I'm telling you how to fix it. It has to start with you and your spiritual life. You getting serious about spiritual growth and your spiritual relationship with your Father.** The wise person must be you because you must be cautious and you must turn away from evil. What does this mean? Does this mean sins? Does this mean bad things? No, this is the chaos of the cosmic system, the evil of Satan's plan, Satan's genius. God's genius is grace, it's always been grace. *"For by grace are you saved through faith"* (Ephesians 2:8), this is God's plan. But evil always twists grace and distorts grace. Satan can get you involved in human good schemes, trying to change the face of this country by some sort of works or crusader arrogance and it won't work. Only the gospel can change a man's heart. Proverbs 14:16 says, *"A wise person [the mature believer I would say] is cautious and turns away from*

evil.” He recognizes it when he sees it. He recognizes it when he hears it and says, “Oh no, you're not sucking me into this garbage.” This verse goes on to say, “*A fool is arrogant and careless,*” justifies why he's right and the rest of the world is wrong, and careless about the way he cares for himself. In Psalm 14:1, “*The fool has said in his heart there is no God.*” There are many people like this today. They don't think that they are ever going to have to answer for what they're doing. Every politician is going to have to answer for these decisions they're making. Every pastor is going to have to answer for not doing the job. When you have corrupt politicians and corrupt pastors that have committed detestable acts, “*The fool has said in his heart there is no God. They are all corrupt. They've all committed detestable acts and there is no one that does good, no not one.*” Because, “*All of our good is like a filthy rag in God's eyes*” (Isaiah 64:6). Even the best stuff you can conjure up doesn't impress God because God is perfectly righteous, perfectly just. He's the essence of holiness and so your good works are like a filthy rag to God. You're not going to work your way to heaven. You're not going to earn God's forgiveness. It only comes through the cross, through the Lord Jesus Christ. “*He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him*” (2 Corinthians 5:21). **The breakdown starts in the home where no Biblical standards are taught.** Proverbs 22:6 says, “*Train up a child in the way he should go and even when he grows older, he won't abandon it.*” In Deuteronomy 6:6-7, “*These words I'm commanding you today, they shall be in your heart and you shall repeat them diligently to your sons and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk up the road, and when you lie down, and when you get up in the morning.*” **You have to teach your children the Word of God.** Ephesians 6:1-2 “*Children, obey your parents. Honor your father and mother which is right in the Lord.*” “*Fathers do not abuse your children*” (Ephesians 6:4), don't discipline them unfairly, but it has to start in the home. If you have children or grandchildren, this is where it has to start. You have to give them enough information so that they know what's coming down the road. **The cosmic system is a fog. There is confusion and chaos in America like never before.** Only the grace of God can deliver us. It starts with your spiritual life and you preparing your children and your grandchildren for what's coming down the road so they'll at least recognize it. I'm grateful that you have given me a few minutes of your time. I hope I haven't bored you. I've tried to be specific. I've tried to be tough. I hope you're listening and I hope you understand like I do, we are in terrible times. There is FOG across America. **The cosmic system is fogging us in. The spiritual leadership is failing us. There's open rebellion and God's Word is being rejected. All of these create a fog.** Unless something changes, you can say goodbye America because it's headed this way. You're the answer. **You are the solution to the fog across America,** not me, you. Pay attention, put your life the right way, as it should be, in the Lord Jesus Christ. Until next week this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Spiritual Sleeper

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 841 aired on October 3, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. You have to learn to think in the terms of God's Word, what God has to say, and how you can use it and apply it into your life. I want to challenge you with this today because there's not a lot of thinking with God's Word going on. I call it spiritual sleepers. My pastor has been teaching a series on the doctrine of work and it's very interesting how God created man and told him to go to work. We're going to make a little play on these words with you here today so listen carefully. Matthew 24:42, "*Therefore, stay awake [Jesus said] for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.*" I will remind you of these words, stay awake. Listen to 1 Thessalonians 5:6, "*So then let us not sleep as others sleep, but let us keep awake and be sober.*" Paul wrote again in 1 Corinthians 16:13, "*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, and act like men. Be strong in the faith.*" **We see the mandate stay awake, don't sleep, be watchful. These few verses emphasize the need for those of us who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ not to fall asleep on the job.** I bet you've never thought of your Christian life in terms of having a job. This is what I want to make an analogy with today. As a Christian you were left here for a mission. If it were not so, God would have taken you to heaven the moment you were saved, would He not? He didn't do this. Do you remember when you accepted Christ? I hope you do. You're still here. Why did God leave you around? **As a Christian there's a mission for you to do, you have a job to do.** I know you would not sleep on the job at your place of employment, at least I hope you wouldn't but this is exactly what happens to many Christians. They get lulled to sleep in their spiritual journey and they never become impactful in the devil's world. "***Stay awake, don't go to sleep, be watchful, stand firm,***" **is this you?** Have you ever thought about it in these terms? Maybe it would be better if I said it this way. How can your life glorify God to the maximum? Do you even wish you had an impact in the devil's world or would you rather just sit back and let somebody else do it for you because you're too sleepy and you're too tired and your schedule is too busy and you just don't have time? You found time for God last Sunday to go to church, yay, whoopee, hooray, and you put a little money in the offering plate, all right for you. The rest of the week you're sleeping through your spiritual life. It doesn't work this way. **You have a job to do spiritually and probably a job to do physically.** I don't know what you do. You may be a first responder. You may be a housewife. You may be a teacher. You may be a contractor. Whatever. Just like at your job you must be punctual and you must be good at it. God expects you to be good at the job He gave you. Let's back up for a minute. God gave Adam a job. Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, remember them? God gave Adam a job. He told him to cultivate the garden and keep it. In Genesis 2:15, "*Then the Lord God took the man, put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.*" Can you imagine Adam with a big zero turn lawn mower running around cutting the grass in the garden? No, not hardly. Adam had a job to do, to cultivate the garden and keep it. This wasn't all. He had other things to do, Genesis 2:19, "*Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all*

the wild animals and all the birds in the sky, and He brought them to the man to see what he would name them and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.” Not only did Adam have to cultivate the garden and keep the garden, however he did it, but he had to name all the animals. This was a full-time job. It was quite a job to do and God expected him to be punctual with it. He was even given a helper for his job in Genesis 2:20-22. *“So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals but for Adam there was no suitable helper found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a sleep. While he was sleeping, He took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with the flesh. And the Lord God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man and He brought her to the man.”* What did she do? She was his helper, she was his soul-mate. **Principle, God would never ask you to do something that you cannot handle.** Apparently the Lord thought Adam needed some help. Not only that but Adam could see that all the animals had mates and he didn't have one and so the Lord provided *ish* with an *ishshah*, the Hebrew words for man and the woman. I use this to illustrate your life is like a garden. Your life has to be cultivated, it has to be watched over. You have to remove the weeds and loosen the soil to optimize the retention and penetration of water and air. There is a lot to be done in your life to keep it going. That's your job. **God gave you a job, to cultivate your own garden, to nurture your life both physically and spiritually. If you ignore the weeds in your life, we'll call this sin and distractions, it's a sure way to shorten your existence.** God intends for you to live a long, wonderful, healthy life. Ephesians 6:1-3, *“Children, obey your parents. Honor your father and your mother. This is the secret to having a long life.”* What does this mean? When children are rebellious toward the authority of their parents, they can shorten their lives because authority orientation is what gives you a long life and when you rebel against authority, you become a criminal. You violate the laws of the land, the rules of law, and you can shorten your life. You have to pay attention to what God has to say here. God would never ask you to do something you could not handle. Your life must be cultivated, must be watched, take care of your job, nurture your life physically and spiritually, orient to authority and do what the Lord asks you to do. Don't ignore the weeds in your life, a sure way to shorten your existence. **Anti-authority can shorten your life. Negative volition can shorten your life.** If you're a believer and you've accepted Christ as your Savior, you entered into a relationship with God, He gave you a job. Take care of your garden. Take care of your life. How's that going? Oh, I know, you've been raising kids and you've been working at your professional job and you've been trying to keep the lawn cut and the house straight and you've been trying to go hunting and fishing and shopping and buying groceries and this, that and the other, but have you set aside time for your spiritual life? Do you even think about your spiritual life? Because your spiritual life is not the same as your physical life, they are two different things. You have to be born once to get into this world but you have to be born twice to get into heaven. You know this don't you? The Lord Jesus Christ told Nicodemus, *“You have to be born again”* (John 3:3) meaning that you're born with a dead human spirit because of Adam's original sin. When you believe in Christ and God the Holy Spirit indwells your dead human

spirit, you're born again. You're made active again spiritually speaking. This is the only way you can worship God. *"Those who worship God must worship Him in spirit and in truth"* (John 4:24). Have you been ignoring the weeds in your life? Are you not focusing on your spiritual life, focusing on your physical life, focusing on your job, focusing on your kids, focusing on school, focusing on whatever, but not nurturing your spiritual life, not producing the beautiful garden in your soul that God intended you to do? See, this is what glorifies God to the max. **This is your job, to nurture your spiritual life and bring God maximum glory through your life spiritually speaking.** Maybe you never really thought about it this way, huh, never really thought about your spiritual life actually demanding that there's some responsibility that goes with it? Let me make a statement to you. God did not leave you here to waste His time nor to waste your time. That's not why God left you here. If you're ignoring your spiritual life, all wrapped up in the details of life, in the physical life, then you're not following through on taking care of the responsibility that God gives you just like He gave Adam. He gave him a job. **God gives you a job, to tend to your soul.** In Ephesians 5:15, *"See that you walk circumspectly, not as a fool but as a wise person redeeming the time because the days are evil."* What does this mean? Well, evil is the genius of Satan. We know God's genius is called grace and we know that Satan's genius is called evil. What evil is, it's not just sin. Anything that God has done, if Satan can twist it and distort, it becomes evil. The most evil thing in the world, I'm going to shock you when I tell you this, is organized religion because people involved in organized religion think they're going to heaven and they will find out, God will tell them one day, *"I never knew you, depart from Me"* (Matthew 7:23). That's evil, that's the genius of Satan. You must walk circumspectly, *akribos*, the Greek word meaning you must follow precisely correct procedure. Then the Bible goes on to say in Ephesians 5:16, *"You are to redeem the time because the days are evil."* Redeeming is *exagorazo* in the Greek and it means to buy or purchase time. **God has a precisely correct procedure for your spiritual life and you have to learn it to execute it. It doesn't just happen.** That's what always bugged me once I began to learn something about the Word of God. Nobody told me this when I got saved. Nobody told me that I had a spiritual life as well as a physical life. They kind of morphed the two together and I didn't know the difference. Nobody told me that I was suppose to grow up spiritually and become a mature believer. Nobody told me this until I got under the authority of my well-qualified pastor that helped me. Precisely correct procedure for your spiritual life, do you know what this is? "Well, let's just go to church and sing in the choir and tithe and don't do bad things. Don't drink, don't dance, don't smoke, don't go to anything but G rated movies." No, those may be things Christians do but this is not the spiritual life. The spiritual life is much more than this. **If you follow the procedure then you are buying time in your spiritual life which is then used to glorify God through testing as well as prosperity.** If you will follow this precisely correct procedure, if you do what I'm going to tell you this morning, you will buy time on the job and then you can use this time to glorify God. A lot of people fail prosperity testing. They don't consider this a test. You're thinking, "If I could just win the lottery I'd be happy. If I could just win that \$10 million lottery, I'd be happy."

I've seen that TV show where people win lotteries and a guy helps them buy a house and that's what I need." Listen, unhappy people take their unhappiness with them wherever they go. Winning the lottery is not going to make you happy, I assure you of this. You can keep trying, it's not going to make you happy. What can make you happy? Jesus told you that, "*Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it*" (Luke 11:28). This is the secret to happiness. **God does not expect you to work for free. Here's something that might surprise you. God has an excellent retirement system for you. There are all sorts of blessing in time and in eternity.** You cannot even imagine the great blessings of ruling and reigning with Christ in the Millennial Reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a fabulous retirement system. **These are called blessings in time and eternal rewards in the future.** He will bless you in time and the excellent retirement system is the eternal rewards in the future. Your spiritual life requires several things. **It requires a commitment from you to grow up and become Christ-like which is you reflecting Jesus Christ in your thinking and in your lifestyle.** What kind of lifestyle is this? It's a lifestyle of humility and service, two things that are key here. **In order for your garden in your soul to be as beautiful as God designed it to be, you must have a mindset of humility and service.** In Philippians 2:5-6, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus who humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation.*" Humility is the opposite of arrogance. Arrogance is always manifested in three ways, self-justification, self-deception and self-absorption, which eventually lead to self-destruction. If you have a son or a daughter or a grandchild or a granddaughter and this person is arrogant, they are eventually going to destroy themselves. Why? They cannot handle authority. Where does authority come from? The Bible, God's Word. What's the first thing they reject? The Bible, God's Word. If you've got a child that's fighting with their parents over getting to school on time, if you've got a child that can't handle the authority of the mother and father and curses the mother or father and they are a Christian, they're believers in Jesus Christ, this is a sin. This is not humility, this is arrogance. This rejection of parental authority will eventually lead to an early death and loss of any rewards forever and ever. There must be a lifestyle of humility. Philippians 2:14-15 says, "*Do everything without murmuring and without disputing.*" This is what we call gritching. Figure it out, it's two words put together. "*Do all things without murmuring and disputing, so that, for this reason you can be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation among whom you should shine as lights in the world.*" The Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:14-16 told the disciples, the ones that followed Him, "*You are the light of the world. Illuminate the world with My message.*" **You can't illuminate anyone until you grow spiritually - this is a spiritual life.** You're not illuminating people just because you're a member of the local church. You're not illuminating people because you tithe. **You're only illuminating people when your life reflects Jesus Christ.** In 1 Peter 4:10, "*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.*" You have a spiritual gift if you are a Christian. Now my gift is the gift of evangelism. I'm not a pastor, never claimed to be a pastor. I'm an evangelist. You may have the gift of pastor-teacher. You may have the gift of evangelism.

You may have the gift of giving. Thank goodness for those that do. I couldn't do these radio shows unless people supported us and gave to our show and our ministry. You may have the gift of mercy. This is a phenomenal gift, it's the gift of encouragement around people that are suffering. You may have an administrative gift. There are a lot of different gifts the Bible talks about. Each one of these gifts is used to serve. **This is what God expects of you, a lifestyle of humility and a lifestyle of service using your spiritual gift. Your job description as a Christian is to grow in grace.** Peter said it this way, *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). Grow, this doesn't happen overnight. No one grows to be a mature believer overnight. I can assure you, you're not growing very quickly if all you're getting is about an hour a week of a sermon from a local pastor. Until you're willing to make a commitment to grow, until you're willing to make a commitment to sacrifice some time to study, learn, and apply the Word of God, you are never going to really grow very fast. I love to bass fishing. I love to go fast on the water. I have a bass boat that will go maybe 70 miles an hour when I'm use to it, I haven't used it much lately, but it'll go. Then there are people that have a slow boat, you know like with a little 5 hp motor, and they go across the lake put-put-put. I can zoom across the lake. How's your spiritual life? Are you just put-put-putting along or are you zooming along? I can assure you God doesn't want you to put-put-put all your life. It's time to get with it. It's time to grow in grace. **It's time to follow the job description God gave you. Grow and use your spiritual gift. This takes diligence. This takes discipline. It doesn't happen overnight.** Proverbs 12:24, *"The hand of the diligent will rule but the slack hand will be put to forced labor."* A believer that wants to grow, a believer that wants to take his job seriously in reflecting Christ, must be diligent and disciplined. **Proverbs 21:5, "The plans of the diligent lead to an advantage."** This diligence that I'm talking about, this discipline that I'm talking about, it's an attitude. It's an attitude of humility and obedience to your job description during your time on this planet. Did you hear me? It boils down to your volition. You know in your soul you have mentality, you have a volition, you have a conscience, you have a self-consciousness. Your volition is your chooser. It boils down to what you want to do. Are you willing to be obedient? Are you willing to invest the time that is necessary to cultivate the garden in your soul? Are you willing to do what is expected? Or are you so self-centered, so arrogant that you prefer to enjoy all the gifts God gave you and ignore the Giver? This is the way most people are. "Oh, I love my wife. I love my home. I love my children. I love my job. I love my car. I love my boat." What about the Person that gave all this to you? You know, you better take a look around because we live in the most wonderful country in the world and it's about to be taken away from us. What are you going to love then? There's only one thing that is going to deliver you when this happens and this is the grace of God. You better get ready because it boils down to your volition. **Are you willing to be obedient to God and His Word and be the man and the woman that God requires of you?** Are you willing to be diligent, disciplined, and be the person you're suppose to be? You say, "Oh yes I am. Oh yes I do. I want to do this." 1 John 5:3 says, *"If you love Him, you will obey Him and His demands are not hard."* We're not talking about

something hard here. What are we talking about? **Stay filled with the Holy Spirit.** You can't live the spiritual life if you're not filled with the Holy Spirit so rebound, problem-solving device #1. When you sin, you quench the Holy Spirit, you grieve the Holy Spirit, and you must rebound. You can't live the spiritual life out of fellowship with God with unconfessed sin in your life so use rebound when you sin and use it quickly and use it often. **If you're filled with the Holy Spirit, now you're set up to grow in grace as commanded.** This is why you have to *“Study to show yourself approved under God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). If you're filled with the Holy Spirit and you're growing in grace, this is what God expects out of you, then you can reveal Jesus Christ through your lifestyle and through your thinking. This is what God expects out of you so that you are like a light that attracts people. People identify with the way you think and they identify with the way you live and it's appealing to them and they're seeing Christ in you. Then you become an invisible hero. That's right, an invisible hero. You're not going to get a medal. Nobody is going to name a street after you. You're not going to have some boulevard with your name on it, but you are going to be an invisible hero that will deliver a dying client nation like the United States of America because whether you like it or not, we're dying. We're going down unless you get with it and then you can show up at the Judgment Seat of Christ and hear, *“Well done, My good and faithful servant”* (Matthew 25:21). This is your job spiritually, no if's, no and's, no but's about it. This is your job. No skipping days at work spiritually. No sleeping on the job spiritually. Keep your eyes on the enemy. Keep your eyes open. Satan's moving. He's very deceptive, very deviant, and can easily distract the believer who is not paying attention. You have a job to do. Pay attention. *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* **Cultivate the garden in your soul so that it reflects the light of God. I'm challenging you today to do this job God called you to do. He left you here for this reason, for this purpose, to glorify Him.** And you're not doing it, you're so preoccupied with yourself, you're not even thinking about your spiritual life. Everything revolves around your physical life. Stop, that's not the answer. If you get your spiritual life right, then the rest of it will fall in line I promise you. I thank you for listening. I encourage you to contact us if we can help you with any printed material, transcripts, new books like *Christian Problem Solving*, or anything. They're all free. They're all available for you. This is why we print them, this is why we provide them. Remember we have a daily podcast, *The FLOT Line Show*. I encourage you to check it out. Thank you for listening and I hope you'll come back next week, same time, same place. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Christian Socialist

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 842 aired on October 10, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. This show is about learning to think in terms of divine viewpoint, not human viewpoint. The world is full of human viewpoint. You see it every day, “Dear Abby, What do I do?” All human viewpoint. The question should be, what does the Bible say? If you listen to the news, it can be downright depressing. Murder in major cities across America and pandemic deaths skyrocket, cost of goods, fuel, groceries, all spiraling higher and higher. Are we on some sort of collision course with disaster? It certainly appears that way. Many folks think government is a solution. Do you? Do you think government can solve the problems? Many people think government is the solution to this dilemma and some people unfortunately think there is no problem, nothing wrong. A lot of young people I talk with are not even aware that there's a problem. They're only concerned about who they're going to date this weekend, who they're going to take to homecoming, who's going to win the football game. They're not thinking in terms of government and freedom in this country and what's coming down the pipeline. Much like the frog in the pot of boiling water, they're just going to sit there until they get boiled and cooked. There is a problem. Many don't think there's a problem, especially the socialist who sees government as the great deliverer, can take care of everybody, make sure everybody gets their share of the pie regardless of their work ethic. We talked about this last week, how God gives you a garden in your soul and expects you to take care of it. For a few moments I'd like to talk to you using Christian socialism as a metaphor for the believer who wants other believers to invoke God's blessing for them. They are not bad people, they're just lazy, distracted Christians who want God to make all their problems go away so they can go about their lives without any sort of difficulty. They want all the blessings but they don't want to pay the price. It's kind of like God's a genie in the sky, a magic eight ball. Rub the eight ball and God makes all my problems go away, then I can go back to living my life. This is not the way God works I promise you. I'm going to show you today why Christian socialists are going down the wrong road. A Christian socialist, what is this? **Using a metaphor, a Christian socialist wants to invoke God's blessing from the growth of other believers and isn't willing to put the work in themselves.** It's a person who hasn't grown to spiritual maturity and wants the spiritually mature believer to pray for him. Like “Hey brother, would you pray for me? I've got a problem.” “I've got to get on this airplane, would you pray for me?” “My husband, my wife or my children are sick, pray for us.” **When they go through the hours of testing, these Christian socialists want prayers and they want God to work for them and they want God to deliver them and they want to enjoy the tremendous temporal blessings God gives, but they don't have the discipline to invoke these blessings themselves.** Much like the socialist in the world today who depends on other people to provide a living for him, these Christian socialists are depending on mature believers to provide God's blessing for them. If you take our current state of national affairs in the United States, here in America, we are a client nation to God. In this

century and in the last, we have been a client nation and as such we have a responsibility to carry the gospel to unbelievers across the world as well as provide a haven for the Jew and to provide accurate Bible teaching for our own citizens. If, and it's conditional, if we fulfill these responsibilities, then God will keep His protective care over us and bless our nation. If we abandon these responsibilities, then you can say we're going to go down the tubes. What do I mean by this? If we fail to carry the gospel across the world, if we fail to provide a haven for the Jew, if we fail to protect our own citizens, we're in trouble. This client nation, the United States of America, God's uses His client nation to reach out to the world. We need a core group of mature believers that can hold this nation together. **This core is called the pivot. I want you to be a member of the pivot because it's their testimony and their faithfulness that God will funnel blessings toward.** What is a pivot member? Well, I'm going to tell you this right now. My pastor taught me this years ago when he was still alive. He was in his pulpit for 53 years. He taught that **the pivot is defined as the accumulation of mature believers living in the client nation** or under civil government in a specific geographical location. If we're talking about you living in America and we have roughly 300 million people, how many does it take to make up the pivot? Does it take 50 million, 100 million, 10 million or 3 million? What does it take? I don't know the answer to this but I know when Gideon went to fight the Midianites, God said, "You have too many," and He whittled it down to 300. I don't know what God needs but I know that He will use the pivot to deliver this nation in times of adversity. My pastor taught me the pivot is composed primarily of mature believers, grown believers, believers that are not babies. Technically this pivot may include all believers that have fulfilled the principle of virtue first as their first priority in the plan of God. What do I mean by virtue first? Here's what I mean. **The greatest virtue you have is personal love for God. "If you love Me, you will obey Me" (John 5:3).** Jesus repeats this many times and told John this many times in John 15 and 16. "*If you love Me, you will keep My mandates*" (John 14:15). Virtue first is you being in love with God, having personal love for God. I talk to people all the time and say, "Do you love God?" "Oh, yes I love God," they say but they don't obey God. Most of the time they don't know what God wants out of them and they think that if they just go to church and put in some money in the offering plate and sing a few *Do Lord* songs that this makes God happy. That's not what we're talking about. These believers in the pivot stand out in contrast to believers living in the cosmic system. The cosmic system is the devil's world. You know, you live in the devil's world. You don't belong here, you're a sojourner, you're passing through. Your home is in *ouranos*, the Greek word for heaven. Here we're in the devil's world and he has a satanic way of thinking. We have divine viewpoint. He has human viewpoint. In the client nation you cannot afford to think in terms of human viewpoint, you can't do this. You have to learn to think in terms of divine viewpoint. This is the type of believer that brings about our freedom. **This is the type of believer that brings prosperity into the client nation, the pivot believer, the mature believer, the one who has the mind of Christ. Other immature believers enjoy these benefits that the mature believers provide. What they're essentially doing is they're living off the good life of those who merit**

God's blessing or God's favor. I'm not talking about the military purchasing freedom for all members of the client nation but rather a lazy Christian who is piggybacking off the life of the mature believer expecting to receive all the blessings that God gives the nation. It's just like the socialist who won't work, the socialist that takes income from the government to sustain his lifestyle but he won't work at a job. He thinks the government owes him something just like the media dominates the thinking of many and lures them away from responsible living. Here's the real problem, here's the real enemy, organized religion. Organized religion lures believers away from true spiritual growth through the use of programs and crusader arrogance and sucking people into thinking that they're really doing something for God. Here's what Hebrews 5:11-14 says about this topic, *"We have much to say and it's difficult to explain since you have become sluggish in your hearing."* This means they are not very interested. You can go into a church and as you teach the Bible, people will go to sleep on you. But if you sing and clap and happy, happy, happy, they're all into this. Get up there and teach the Bible for an hour, you'd have a hard time getting them to stay awake without entertaining them. They are sluggish. So the writer goes on to say, *"Though some of you should in fact be teachers by this time, you now need someone to come back and teach you the beginning elements of God's utterances [the Christian life]. You've gone back to needing milk like a baby on a bottle, not solid food. For everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced in the message of righteousness because he is a baby but solid food is for the mature, those whose perceptions are trained by practice to discern both good and evil."* Let me run through this again, catch this. **There is a difference between a baby believer and a mature believer.** When you accept Christ, you start out as a *brephos*, a baby on the breast, and then you move to be a *teknon* which is a student under discipline. Then you move on to be a *huios* which is an adult son and God can honor you. **God can use you because you're moving toward being a mature believer.** Here's a question I have to ask you. What stage are you in? Are you a mature believer? You are? Well, I'm glad to hear that. Can you tell me the 10 problem-solving devices? Do you know what they are because this is the protocol plan of God. Do you know how to rebound, stay filled with the Spirit and use the faith-rest drill? Are you familiar with grace orientation and Biblical orientation? Do you have a personal sense of destiny, virtue love for God and impersonal love for others? Are you sharing the happiness of God and are you occupied with Christ? These are the 10 problem-solving devices. Until you learn these and live this way, you are never going to be a mature believer. Here's the mandate to do your job spiritually. On my show last week I told you how God gave Adam a job in the garden and explained you've got a job. Well, here's how you do your job. **Hebrews 11:6, "Without faith it's impossible to please God."** The first thing you have to understand if you're going to be a mature believer, you must learn how to use the faith-rest drill or how to stand on God's promises in time of extreme adversity. If you don't do this, you're going to be living in panic palace, worried, upset, fearful, angry, bitter all the time if you don't learn the faith-rest drill. Remember, God was in business before you got here. God will be in business when you're gone so don't worry about it. He's completely aware of what you're going through. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24 hours

a day so if you have a problem, there's something you don't like, you have been treated unfairly, take it to the Lord. Put it at His feet and go away. You can't change it. Only He can do this. When the Bible says, "*Without faith it is impossible to please God*" (Hebrews 11:6), what does this mean? It means you have to learn the faith-rest drill. Learn, this requires knowledge, you have to acquire some knowledge. Listen to God's judgment on the Northern Kingdom of Israel and their failure to follow His plan in regard to the word knowledge, the word people don't want to hear. **Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." This doesn't mean they weren't saved. It means they did not understand God's plan. He goes on to say, "Since you rejected knowledge," it is too much. You don't want to study, don't want to grow.** You would rather have a sweet little Christian life, about an hour a week in church, and believe that's all you need. Knowledge gives you insight and discernment and understanding. This is what Hosea said in Hosea 4:1,6, "*There's no knowledge in the land. [And God said] "Because of this, I will reject you from being My priest [My client nation]. Since you have forgotten [or ignored] the laws of your God, I will forget your children," [when they cry for help under the 5th cycle of discipline].* This is not just about you. It's about your children and your grandchildren. If you are not interested in learning and applying and living in God's protocol plan, you are guaranteeing the fact that your children and your grandchildren will have a miserable life because you're going to pull away the blessing of God on this nation because you aren't a member of the pivot. You should be a mature believer. **You should be tending to your job which is to make sure your soul is growing and replicating the life of Christ.** When you refuse to take time for God's counsel through His Word and when you ignore His requirements, you are a failure, a spiritual failure. Listen to Romans 15:4-6. "*For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures [two important things, stick with it and learn God's Word] we might have confidence [or hope]. Now may the God who gives this perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind [not divided mind, not fighting one another but be of the same mind] one with another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one purpose and one voice you may be able to glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" In other words, this means you can represent Christ. Are you willing to take the time to learn the protocol plan of God? "What are you talking about, take the time, Rick?" I'm talking about daily. I'm not talking about reading your Bible every day, no, I'm not talking about that. I run into people who do this. "I read the Bible through three or four times" and they think this is some kind of great accomplishment. I'm talking about are you willing to find a qualified pastor, sit down under this pastor, and study God's Word on a daily basis? It's possible. I know you can't go to church every day. Most pastors don't teach everyday but there are men across this country who have significant ministries that teach the Word of God, and you can access those ministries within the confines of your own home. You can take a Bible and a notebook and sit down right there at your table and take notes and learn and grow on a daily basis on the days that you're not in your local church. It's possible you can do this. You have to learn to do this. **You can't reject knowledge because this is the greatest thing in the**

world, one of the four things that you need, wisdom, knowledge, insight, and discernment, the fantastic four. This is the insight God gives you to understand when the devil is up to something. If you don't recognize the difference between good and evil as Hebrews said, you're not a very mature believer. What is evil? It's just taking God's plan and twisting it. It sounds good, smells good, looks good, but it's evil. What does God's plan say in regard to being saved? *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved"* (Acts 16:31). This is what it is, *"For by grace are you saved through faith. It's a gift of God, not of works lest any man should brag about it"* (Ephesians 2:8). What does evil do? Evil comes along and puts half a twist on it. Evil will sound good. *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and give up partying or smoking or cussing."* This is not getting saved. This is you trying to impress God with your self-righteous lifestyle. Salvation is a free gift from God. You don't earn it, you don't deserve it, He gives it to you freely. The Bible is clear about this. The gift of God, grace, it's a provision for you and if you don't learn and understand this, then you're going to wind up teaching your children something that's not true and not correct. Satan is very good at clouding the water, muddying the water so that people don't really see the truth and organized religion does this all the time. **When you refuse to take time for God's counsel through His Word, if you ignore His requirements, you are going to be a spiritual failure.** Listen to Romans 15:4-6 again, *"Whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, [that's so you can get knowledge] so that through the perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures,"* there it is again. Then you can be the man or the woman God intends for you to be. Here is the solution. God provides you with an owner's manual. You've got one, it's called the Bible. Read it and apply it into your life. 2 Timothy 2:15 gives you instructions on how to do this. *"Be diligent [this means consistent] to present yourself approved to God as a workman [I told you, you have a job to do. You have to tend to your soul.] who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth."* **You have a job to do and that is to develop your soul into re-presenting Jesus Christ and to glorify God.** This is why He left you here after you got saved. Just as He gave Adam a job in the Garden, He gives you a job. Your job is to reach spiritual maturity and accurately re-present Christ to all around you. You cannot be an approved workman by doing a sorry job. If your spiritual life is, *"Okay, I'll go to church on Sunday and maybe Wednesday, then the rest of the time I'll do a daily devotional,"* you're not ever going to grow to spiritual maturity. God gave men the gift of pastor-teacher, the Greek word *poimen kai didaskolos*. Their job is to study and teach you the Bible. Unfortunately a lot of pastors don't do this, they get into social ministering. Without following God's protocol plan, you will be lacking at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11-16). I would hate to see this. Remember, **a right thing in the wrong way is still wrong.** What does the Bible say? *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me"* (Psalm 66:18). If you're praying to God with unconfessed sin in your life that prayer is not going to go any higher than the ceiling. Think about all the times you have done something supposedly for God. Is it going to be gold, silver, and precious stones or wood, hay, and stubble? You're going to give an account about how you squandered your opportunities and assets that

God provided you. **Listen, the Christian socialist wants all the blessings provided by God without the effort required by God.** The Christian socialist is no different from the political socialist. They both want somebody else to provide their needs without working for them. In 2 Thessalonians 3:10, *“When we were with you, we commanded you that if any will not work, neither should he eat.”* This is a Biblical principle and it is true spiritually as well as physically. **Don't depend on others to provide spiritual blessings for you and yours but rather learn and apply the Word of God and be a part of this pivot that we're talking about. You can provide not only blessings for your own personal life, but national blessing and historical blessing as well.** The Christian socialist, he's content to remain an immature believer thus depending on the mature believers to provide God's blessing for his own personal use. Did you hear this? If you're a Christian socialist, you're content not to study, not to grow, not to acquire knowledge, but to let somebody else do it for you so that God blesses the nation. You just want to enjoy all the gifts but you don't want to get to know the Giver. If you want to do something for this country, you need to take responsibility for your spiritual life and get under a well-qualified pastor and learn all that he offers. Why? 2 Corinthians 2:11, *“So that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan for we are not to be ignorant of his schemes.”* You're in a war, the Angelic Conflict. If you don't understand Satan and have some divine discernment, you will be lured in just like everybody else. In Galatians 6:3-5, *“If anyone thinks he is something when he's nothing, he deceives himself. **But each one must examine his own work,**”* his own production. This is what you have to examine, your own life. **Look at yourself.** Are you a Christian socialist or are you on the way to being a mature believer? *“And then he will have reason to boast, but only to himself alone and not to another person. **For each one will bear his own load.**”* You're not designed to live off the blessing of other people. **You're designed to live off the blessing of your own spiritual life as God gives it to you.** Remember when David said, *“My cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life”* (Psalm 23:5-6)? **If you're a mature believer, the blessings of God overflow your life to those around you.** In Galatians 6:3, *“If anyone thinks he is something when he's nothing, he deceives himself.”* Look at your own life and take responsibility. *“The one who is taught the Word is to share all the good things with the one who teaches him”* (Galatians 6:6). *“Don't be deceived, God is not going to be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he's also going to reap. For the one who sows to the flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let's not become discouraged in doing good things, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary”* (Galatians 6:7-9). It's a challenge to live the Christian life. It's a fight every day. *“The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh and they are contrary one to the other”* (Galatians 5:17). **Unless you can be consistent in the intake of God's Word of God and stay filled with the Holy Spirit, you are never going to be anything but a Christian socialist living off the maturity of someone else.** Think about this.

The Spiritual Sluggard

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 843 aired on October 17, 2021

Good morning America. Thank you for tuning into The FLOT Line. This is your host Rick Hughes. *“As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is”* (Proverbs 23:7). Everything you do starts with a thought that leads to an intention or a motivation and this determines your action. I don't know what you're thinking, but I can tell you there are some tough times in America today. Today we want to talk about the spiritual sluggard. You say, “What is this?” Well, it's a person that's habitually lazy or inactive, a person that doesn't take responsibility for his or her own life. This word sluggard is used many times in the book of Proverbs where the person, he or she, is condemned for their laziness. Listen to Proverbs 6:9, *“How long will you lie there you sluggard and when will you get up from your sleep?”* In Proverbs 20:4, *“The sluggard does not plow in season so at harvest time they look but find nothing.”* The sluggard that I'm talking about has the ability to work but he or she refuses, no drive, no responsibility, won't use their volition to take care of the job they need to get done. Remember I told you a couple weeks ago, God gave you a job. Just like He gave Adam a job in the garden to take care of the garden, cultivate the garden and to name the animals, **God gave you a job to take care of the garden in your soul. You are suppose to grow spiritually and become a mature believer.** This is why 2 Peter 3:18 says, *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* The sluggard has the ability to do this but he won't take that responsibility. If we make an analogy to the Christian life and who is a spiritual sluggard, we're going to come to some very pointed insights from God. Listen carefully, once you accept Christ as your Savior you were given a job by God. **Your job is to tend to your spiritual life and ultimately re-present Jesus Christ with the results being rewarded in eternity future at the Judgment Seat of Christ as taught in 1 Corinthians 3:11-16.** Many believers don't even know they have a spiritual life. The spiritual life is not the physical life, they are two different things. When you are born again, your dead human spirit is reactivated as God the Holy Spirit comes to indwell you and you're made spiritually alive. You have a spiritual birthday, that's birthday two. Every believer is going to have two birthdays, birthday one, the day you're born, birthday two, the day you believe in Jesus Christ if in fact you do this. If you don't do this, then you're going to have two death days, death day one, when you die physically and death day two you when you are cast into the Lake of Fire where Revelation 20:14 says, *“This is the second death.”* The spiritual life is mandated in the Bible for us to learn how to operate in the spiritual life, to learn what it's about, how we can glorify God and re-present Jesus Christ in our time. The mature spiritual life, not the immature baby adolescent Christian, but the mature Christian requires a lifetime of work. No one-shot decision will make you a spiritual hero. This requires you dedicating your life to study and grow in the Word of God, not rededicate. I remember years ago when I first got into the ministry I gave an invitation to come rededicate your life back in 1970 at a meeting in Mississippi. A fellow came down the aisle and said, “I want to rededicate my life,” and I said, “Great, rededicate.” Do you know what he

asked me? He had the gall to ask, “Well how do you do it?” I thought, “Well, you know, 1,2,3, rededicate me.” This didn't work and I realized that I was using some nomenclature, some words that I didn't really know what they meant myself. What exactly does it mean to rededicate your life to Christ? It doesn't mean anything. The spiritual life is you growing daily, you sticking with the Word of God. That's rededicating. Every day that you take in the Word of God under a well-qualified pastor, you are in essence rededicating your life or growing in grace. Growing to spiritual maturity is not an easy task. Why? Because it's compared to spiritual warfare in the Bible. **The spiritual sluggard is not willing to put forth the effort necessary to become a mature believer.** Did you hear me? If you think it just happens automatically, you're wrong. If you think you can go to church once a week and put a little money in the offering plate, sing in the choir, go to Sunday school, and you're going to be a spiritually mature believer, it's not going to happen this way. You're never going to get out of babyhood. How can a kid get out of the first grade if he only went two hours a week? He can't. You have got to have a daily routine of taking in the Word of God under a well-qualified pastor as you are filled with the Holy Spirit. Growing to spiritual maturity is a war because Satan tries to invade your thoughts. Your sin nature will try to lure you. It doesn't want you to do this. The world is going to lure you away and Satan will try to deceive you. Here's what the bottom line is. The spiritual sluggard is not willing to put forth the work. Listen to Acts 17:10-12. These men are not spiritual sluggards. They are indeed mature believers. *“Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea and when they arrived they went into the synagogue in Berea, a synagogue of the Jews. And these were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica in that they received the Word with all readiness and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so or not. Therefore, many of them believed and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”* This is the impact of spiritual growth and re-presenting Christ. These individuals that searched the Scripture that Paul taught, they grew in grace, they grew to be mature believers, they led other people to Christ, they had an impact. This is what you are suppose to do, search the Scriptures daily. I'm not talking about a little daily devotion. I'm not talking about a little book you got at the drugstore, a daily thought for Jesus sort of deal. Listen, this is like an appetizer. What I'm talking about is sitting down with your Bible, with your notebook at the table with a cup of coffee, with a soda or whatever you want to do, turn on the streaming, turn on the podcast, turn on the DVD, and listen to the Bible taught by a well-qualified pastor. You can do this. It's free. It's available. If you don't know how, get ahold of me, I'll tell you how. **2 Peter 3:18 says, “Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” This verb grow is not a request, this is a mandate from God** through Peter. You must grow and there is only one way to do it and that is to stay filled with the Holy Spirit and to take in God's Word consistently, preferably under that well-qualified pastor who you hear me speak of. He's your human shepherd. Ephesians 5:15-17 says this. *“Be very careful how you live your life, not as unwise [and if I can modify this, not being stupid] but as wise, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil [That's the warfare you're involved in, the spiritual*

warfare]. *Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*” Do not be foolish, don't be an idiot. Learn God's will for you. Jesus Christ our Lord said it this way. *“Take My yoke and learn of Me. My yoke is easy, My burden is light”* (Matthew 11:29-30). If you love God, then you need to read 1 John 5:3 where it says, *“If you love Me, you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard.”* Here's one of them, *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* You've got to get out of being a spiritual baby to being a spiritually mature individual that re-presents Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 4:11-12, *“So Christ Himself gave some as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.”* Why? *“To equip His people for the work of service, so the body of Christ may be built up.”* The Lord Jesus Christ distributes spiritual gifts at the point of salvation. I am not a pastor, I am an evangelist. Some men have the gift of pastor-teacher. The Greek word there is *poimen kai didaskalos*, pastor and shepherd. It is not two different people because there's only one definite article, not two, the *poimen kai didaskalos*, the pastor-teacher. His job is to equip his congregation, his flock for the work of service. Why? So the body of Christ can be built up. I can tell you, it's not easy to pastor a church. It requires many hours of studying to teach God's Word correctly. Sometimes a congregation doesn't want this. Sometimes a congregation wants personal attention. They want the pastor to visit them, pray for them, have tea with me sort of stuff. Pastors are easily discouraged from studying and digging out the spiritual truths due to unreasonable demands from their very own congregation. Your local church is designed to be a classroom first and foremost, not a lonely hearts club. You don't need the pastor visiting you every time you get sick. If you expect the pastor to come to the hospital, hold your hand, and tell you, *“My sister died with it, but you're going to be okay. Let's pray together,”* this is not what the pastor's job is. Listen, this is why they elected deacons, to handle things like this. The pastor's job is to study and teach God's Word to you so that when you do get sick, when you do get an infirmity, when you do have tragedy, you can handle it, you can deal with it without having to depend on someone else to live your spiritual life for you. If you're a sluggard spiritually you're not going to be able to do this. You're going to need help. You're going to need somebody to hold your hand, pray for you, stand beside you, try to hold you up because you won't be able to glorify God on your own. There is nothing wrong with people praying for you. There's nothing wrong with friends coming to visit you but you've got to stand alone. You've got to be a mature believer. You've got to be able to do this on your own. Be very careful, it's not easy. **It takes work to nurture and grow a congregation as a pastor and it takes work to grow spiritually as a congregational member.** Paul reminded Timothy of this in 2 Timothy 3:14-17. *“You must continue in the things which you have learned [where did he learn it? From Paul] and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them [that's Paul] and that from childhood you've known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be completely, thoroughly furnished for all good works.”* This is the job of the pastor. When did he learn it? As a child. *“That from childhood you've known the holy*

Scriptures.” His mama and his aunt taught him the Word of God and made sure it was in front of him. This is your job as a parent, to reinforce the Scripture to your children, to teach them authority orientation, Biblical orientation and this is critical for having an equipped child. The well-equipped pastor must be self-motivated. This takes a little more than just showing up to work. He must be self-motivated, which requires he must be hungry for spiritual growth and this is actually a very rare trait. I can tell you from my experience of 53 years in the ministry, I have met hundreds of pastors and I have not met a whole lot that are really hungry for spiritual growth. It’s easy to get distracted. It's easy to get involved in the congregational meetings. It's easy to get involved in building a Christian community but to get alone and dig up the Word of God, teach the Word of God, and to be concerned about the spiritual life of people in your church, this is a rare trait. With no motivation for spiritual growth it's easy to take the congregation into something called legalism as a means of spiritual maturity and eventually into crusader arrogance as a way to serve God. All of this is evil, legalism as a means of spiritual maturity, like you're a very mature believer if you don't smoke, don't drink, don't cuss, don't go to anything but G rated movies. Just go bowling, sing in the choir, and you’ll be a good Christian. I’ve got news for people. I don't like to bowl and I can't sing so how am I going to be a good Christian? Spiritually mature believers, it's a lot more than this. Crusader arrogance, this is when you try to straighten out the devil’s world, you can't do it. God didn't send you to straighten out the devil’s world. God didn’t send the Church to straighten out the devil’s world. We are sojourners. We are passing through here. **God sent us to be the light to the world, to light the world with the cross of Jesus Christ because this is what changes men.** It’s not you and me crusading against drinking or crusading against anything. Whatever you want to get on, whatever your favorite crusader topic is, you're not going to change anybody's mind. Only the Holy Spirit can do this when they come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. If you get out there in the middle of the world, you start fighting for God so to say, you're wasting your time. You must grow spiritually, then you have an invisible impact. Then you have a historical impact. Then you represent Jesus Christ. Then you become attractive as the light. That's how God lined it up for you and that is what you’ve got to do. The spiritually diligent Christian, I'm hoping this is you, will be recognized in time by Satan. He's going to know who you are and then he will seek to demonize you and to marginalize your impact. In eternity God will recognize you and reward you for a job being well done. If you're a pastor, you can get ready. If you decide, “I want to really study and really teach the Word of God,” you can get ready for the war. I have a friend of mine who was president of a large company and a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and the company meetings always took him away from church. He and his wife both got together and they decided, “We’re not going to miss Bible class anymore. We’re going to be there. We’re not going to let all this company stuff interfere and draw us away from Bible class.” Wow, did the war break out. Yeah, you can believe the persecution that came his way once he decided that he would put the Word of God number one in his life. Can you do this? Will your pastor teach you more than just on Sunday morning and Sunday night? If you are a pastor, will you take time to

study, learn, grow, and teach your congregation? I'm going to tell you something. There is a church right down the street from me and they had a great pastor. He was teaching the Word of God wonderfully but he wasn't a people person. He wasn't a glad hander. He wasn't a shake hands, have tea with me sort of person. You know what they did don't you? They ran him off. They got the kind of person they wanted, a person that would give them attention, a person that would come calling on them, pray with them, and hold their hand. Listen, there's got to be some of this, I understand. I have personal friends that I love to pray with, shake hands with, and be around but this is not how you grow spiritually. The spiritually diligent pastor of the spiritually diligent Christian is going to be recognized by Satan and he will try to demonize you and marginalize your impact. Here are some questions I need to ask you. 1. Are you a spiritual sluggard? Don't lie, tell the truth. Do you use rebound, problem-solving device #1 and recover from sin immediately when you know you've done so? Do you even know what sin is - something you think, something you say, or something that you do. Are you the spiritual sluggard that won't do these things? Do you want to recover from your sin or do you, the word some people use, backslide? I use the word reversionism, they go backwards. They're saved, they're going to heaven, they've met Christ as their Savior but instead of growing in grace as they should, they have been lured off to the side. They've gotten into some sort of evil crusader arrogance or they are just so busy with their family, so busy with their hobby, so busy with whatever that they quit growing spiritually. They may find time to go to church every now and then but as far as getting a Bible, sitting down at night, turning on a DVD or an MP3 or getting a live streaming video and studying under a well-qualified pastor, they're just not going to do it. They're going to say to you, "You don't understand, I've got children to raise. I've got dinner to cook. I've got this to do, that to do." Sure you do. It's a matter of priorities, it always is. Are you a spiritual sluggard? 2. Do you have a way to study every day as I've been talking about? If you do, do you metabolize what you learn or does it just become what the Bible calls *gnosis* which is knowledge? Knowledge is great but it has to be full knowledge. The Bible has a different word for this. It's called *epignosis*, the Greek word means full knowledge. Hearing what the pastor teaches is one thing and you assimilating this information, this is knowledge. But applying this information and living by it, this is full knowledge. 3. Does another believer have to carry your responsibilities since you're distracted by your family and your friends? Do they have to be the ones that grow to spiritual maturity and deliver this nation in time of adversity because you won't take time to do it? You don't have time. You're too busy. Family and friends come first. **What destroys a client nation like ours? Spiritual sluggards beginning with the clergy that fail to teach and the individual believer who fails to grow.** Neither one of these are going to have any kind of national impact and change the course of history. Do you think the preacher is the only one who is suppose to be spiritually mature in your congregation? No, that pastor can only take you as far as he's been himself. If he hasn't been to point B, he can't take you there. Keep in mind that the spiritually immature pastor cannot take you where he himself has never been. You must get to a spiritually mature pastor and sit under him, learn God's Word, and apply it to your life.

Spiritual growth takes work. Listen to Galatians 6:3-5. *“For if anyone thinks himself to be something when he's nothing, he deceives himself. **Let each one of us examine his own work [work, there it is] and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load.**”* It's time for you to stand up, time for you to take responsibility for your spiritual life. I purchase time on these radio stations for two reasons. First and foremost, it's to introduce you to the Lord Jesus Christ, God's anointed Son with the hope that you will accept His work on your behalf on the cross because He was not the sinner. We are the sinners. Secondly, to find in your city maybe one, maybe two, maybe three, who are motivated to be the spiritually mature believer I'm talking about and not be a spiritual sluggard. If you recognize you're hearing God's Word taught in a way that you've never heard it before, that I'm not playing games and not using gimmicks, I'm not appealing for money, just plain talk without all the religious overtones, then are you willing to investigate further what I'm saying? If so I hope you will take time to contact me through our website and tell me please, “I want to grow. I want to be this person you're talking about.” If you're willing to investigate further, then we'll give you some information. We'll guide you in your future search for truth. But remember, I am not your pastor. I'm simply an evangelist but fully capable of pointing you in the right direction. **Do not be a spiritual sluggard who is unwilling to put forth the work necessary to grow to spiritual maturity to re-present Jesus Christ. Ask God. Ask Him to give you direction.** Ask Him to give you time to study. He will provide the direction if you will provide the desire in your heart because remember, you're going to give an account for all He provided for you. The question is, did you seize the opportunity or were you so distracted you walked away from this to chase your dreams and go astray, following your own goals? Listen to Romans 11:33-36. *“On the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to Him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to Whom be glory and honor, forever and forever.”* The depth and the riches of the wisdom and the knowledge of God, this is what you're missing. **A spiritual sluggard is missing the depth and the wisdom of the knowledge of God.** I cannot tell you what a treasure it is to have the insight, discernment, and understanding as you go through the devil's world to be able to see what's happening, to be able to discern and know what's going on, to be able to interpret history properly. My goodness, it's all yours. It's all there. It's just a matter of whether you are a sluggard or whether you are willing to be spiritually aware. I hope you've listened. I hope you've paid attention. I hope I haven't offended you. I just try to lay it out as plain as I can and I hope you'll come back next week, same time, same place, same station. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you so very much for listening to The FLOT Line.

Christian Gobbledygook

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Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. Today we want to talk about a word that may surprise you, a word you don't hear used very often. As a matter of fact, you might not even think it's a word, but it is. This word is gobbledygook and I want to talk about Christian gobbledygook. Let me give you the definition of gobbledygook from the dictionary. **Gobbledygook is meaningless or is made unintelligible by excessive use of abstruse technical terms, in other words just a bunch of nonsense.** I'm using it to refer to when all reason and discernment have gone out the window when with the mechanics to living the Christian life. I hear a lot of gobbledygook when I'm talking to people all the time. I want to give you a simple question to try to prove my point to you this morning. If you're listening, stay with me. Could you please tell me what I should do to be a good Christian? This is an easy question. If I asked you this, what would your response be? Would you say, "Well brother, you need to pray." I'd say, okay, if I pray, will I be a good Christian? "Well no, you need to read your Bible too." Okay, I'm going to pray and read my Bible. Will I be a good Christian? "Well no, you need to witness for Christ." Okay, I'm going to pray and read my Bible and witness for Christ. Does this make me a good Christian? "Well no, you've got to obey God," and on and on it goes. Nobody actually gets to the real source. It's true, these are things that good Christians actually do but this is not how you become a good Christian. I want to talk about this today and talk about all this gobbledygook that people mouth and utter that means absolutely nothing. I want to give you an illustration. In the bass fishing competitive world there are guys and gals who look the part. They have the latest boats with the biggest motors and all sorts of sponsor logos wrapping their boat. They look the part with their sponsor jerseys, their sponsor hats, their sponsor sunglasses, their sponsor shoes, but they never win. On occasion they may stumble into a wad of fish and win a small tournament but it's not repeated very often. The point is, they sure look good and they sure talk good but they are never the winners. Christians are a lot like this as well I think. They go to the best church. They dress the part. They know all the right words to say but they never will be winners in God's game plan because all they know is a bunch of gobbledygook like: "Hi sister. Praise the Lord brother. I feel the Lord is moving me. God willing. The man upstairs. Our thoughts and prayers go with you. Let go and let God. Just pray about it brother. Pray for me preacher." All gobbledygook. All this religious gobbledygook means nothing. They sound spiritual, they look the part, they talk the part, but we both know the real person is just mouthing these words and playing the game. If you want to seriously learn how to be a winner Christian, then let's learn how to do it correctly. First and foremost of all, we have the problem-solving device for sin called rebound. **No one can be a good Christian who has unconfessed sin in their life.** The reason is because this quenches the filling of the Holy Spirit and you cannot live the Christian life in the energy of the flesh. You have to live it under the empowerment and the filling of the Holy Spirit. Rebound is problem-solving device #1. 1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our*

sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Problem-solving device #2 is the filling of the Holy Spirit. This solves the problem of the genetically formed sin nature that we have. I was being interviewed by a radio station in Honolulu yesterday, the day before interviewed by a radio station in Minneapolis, and the day before by a radio station in Philadelphia, and they were asking me these questions about what does this mean? Well, if you quench the Holy Spirit, this means you’ve sinned and you’ve grieved the Holy Spirit. He's not able to do His job and you have to be in fellowship to be a good Christian and this is how you grow, you stay in fellowship. **You can't grow out of fellowship. You can't serve the Lord out of fellowship.** Oh, you can go to church out of fellowship, pray out of fellowship, witness out of fellowship, but done with unconfessed sin in your life, it's never going to be rewarded by God. Let's look at this passage, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, where the Apostle Paul uses a couple of analogies. Listen as I read it to you, *“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly and I do not box as one beating the air, but I discipline my body and I keep it under control lest after preaching to others, I myself should become disqualified.”* In this passage the Apostle Paul is using two athletic analogies to motivate those Christians in Corinth to get with it. First is the runner running in a race and he compares the Christian life to this sort of competition like they would have known about in the Isthmian Games. The Isthmian Games were second only to the Olympic Games and what Paul says is emphasizing self-control. **One of the keys to receiving the winner’s wreath is self-control.** Listen again, 1 Corinthians 9:25, *“Every athlete exercises self-control in all things.”* This is the key to receiving the winner’s wreath, being in control of self. He then uses the analogy of a boxer to represent the Christian life and he emphasizes that he's not shadowboxing but he’s in a real match. The point he's trying to make is this. It takes serious sacrifice and serious work to be a winner and in the believer's life, it’s the same thing. **You are never going to be a winner for the Lord Jesus Christ, you’re never going to hear the Lord Jesus Christ say, “Well done, My good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23), if you don't learn the mechanics of the Christian life, how the Christian life operates.** It’s called the spiritual life. Many people don't even know they have a spiritual life. This was the problem that Paul wrote here in 1 Corinthians 9, *“Do you do not know?”* You should have known, you ought to be aware of this. He’s saying, *“Don't you know that everybody runs but only one of them can get the prize?”* *“Do you not know,”* is assuming they should be familiar with these athletic events. By analogy, the writer of Hebrews also makes it plain to his audience that they should understand how to execute the Christian life, but they don't. The writer of Hebrews echoes these same sentiments, they should know but they don't. Listen to it, Hebrews 5:11-12. *“I have many things to say to you, but they are hard to be uttered seeing that you are dull of hearing. For when the time is that you ought to be a teacher [you should know, you ought to be a teacher] you have need for someone to come back and teach you again the very first principles of the oracles of God and you have become as a person who needs milk and not strong meat.”* The baby believer

has a hard time concentrating on the deeper truths of God. If you require milk, this simply means that if the preacher preaches over your head, you get discouraged and you go home. "I don't like that. I didn't understand that." You are not willing to learn. When I first started learning the Word of God there were two things I had to have. I had to have a Bible and I had to have a dictionary because a lot of the words that my pastor used, I had never heard before. Post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation, I didn't know what that meant. Salvation, sanctification, justification, heck, I couldn't even spell some of these words. Then he taught about the essence of God including sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, immutability, veracity, I didn't know what these meant. I had to look them up but I wanted to learn and I wanted to get it. I didn't want to be a baby Christian all my life. How about you? Are you satisfied being a baby Christian? Are you satisfied just uttering some gobbledygook that sounds great, you look great, but you know inside you're not, that it's very shallow? In the context of this 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 passage, Paul says only the winners receive the prize. The prize was a crown of a wreath. This is true for you too. We're going to see in a minute where there are crowns that God will pass out at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and you may qualify for one of those winner crowns but it's going to take self-control and discipline. Remember, every athlete exercises self-control in all things (verse 25). Then in verse 27, "*But I discipline my body and keep it under control.*" Two things, self-control and discipline. This means he had to keep the flesh under control so that he not be declared unfit for service. He said, "*Lest after preaching to others, I myself would be disqualified.*" The word is unfit for service. God is looking for a few good men, a few good ladies. Are you fit for service? **Without self-control, that's controlling your sin nature, and without discipline, that's "Studying to show yourself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of the truth" (2 Timothy 2:15), you will never get a crown from God.** You'll show up in heaven, you will have eternal life, but you'll be minus any rewards because you are too lazy to take time to learn God's plan. Oh, you learned a little gobbledygook. You learned these little keywords, "Praise the Lord brother. God willing. Hallelujah. I'll pray for you," but it didn't mean anything to you. Here are some principles. 1. If you want to gain the prize that I'm talking about at the Judgment Seat of Christ, this is where all distinctions begin and it will continue for all eternity. If you want to gain this prize at the Judgment Seat of Christ where crowns are going to be distributed, this is what you need to understand. Listen to Revelation 22:12, "*Behold, I'm coming suddenly and My reward is with Me to decorate each believer on the basis of his accomplishments.*" I would hate to think that you're going to get before God Himself and you're going to stand there empty-handed with nothing to show for what He gave you. He gave you a Bible. He gave you a pastor. He gave you the Holy Spirit. He gave you all sorts of temporal blessings in time and you did nothing with it. You just played the game. Oh, you went to church. **Yes, you joined up, you fessed up, you gave up, but you never grew up. This is the problem.** If you want to seriously grow up you better buckle up and put on the armor of God. Ephesians 6:11 tells you, get ready because Satan has a strategy to defeat you, to discourage you, to distract you. I can assure you right now, if you decide, "I want

to be a mature believer and I want to glorify God at all cost in my life,” you will pay the price. The Lord Jesus Christ told the disciples, “They killed Me and now they're going to try to kill you because this is the devil's world.” John 8:44 teaches us that Satan is a murderer. He's always been a murderer and there is nothing he would rather do than to get rid of you before you glorify Jesus Christ. When God says, *“I'm coming to reward. My decorations are with Me and I will give them out based on your accomplishments,”* the Greek word for crown is *stephanos*. It is a reward for winning in battle and used in athletics also. **The concept - mature believers will wear these rewards in eternity. The crown is used as an analogy for the greatest honor that God can give any believer.** We're going to talk about these crowns. As a result of the fulfillment of the unique spiritual life that you're living in the Church Age where you are, there are two crowns available for you, two crowns available to every believer. One of them is called the Crown of Righteousness in 2 Timothy 4:8. The other is called the Crown of Life in James 1:12. Let's discuss these for a minute. Remember, we live in the unique age called the Church Age. We have the indwelling and the sealing of the Holy Spirit. We have Christ in us, the hope of glory. We have the indwelling of God the Father. All three members of the Trinity indwell us. We have the canon of Scripture. We have spiritual gifts given to us like pastor-teacher to help us advance in the plan of God. This is the unique age that we live in. In the Old Testament they didn't have these things. They didn't have a Bible. They didn't have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. They had the enduement of the Holy Spirit on occasion but not day by day, moment by moment, could they walk in the Spirit like you. If you get with it, if you learn these things, if you *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Savior,”* you can win the Crown of Righteousness. This is available to all believers who become winners, the ones who are what? **Self-controlled and discipline, controlling their sin nature and disciplined in their studies and their growth.** Any mature believer that has the attainment of spiritual maturity can get this crown. This crown emphasizes your capacity for enjoyment of eternal rewards, eternal decorations, and you would be what's called the invisible hero in God's plan. A spiritual winner is an invisible hero that has an invisible impact. The Crown of Righteousness that we're talking about is given because of your virtue love. What do I mean by this? 1 John 5:3, *“If you love Me, you will obey Me and My mandates are not grievous.”* **Virtue love is what motivates you to be the person God asks you to be, the person God tells you to be. This crown is given for your virtue love, for your honor, for your integrity, for you going through the various momentum testing that you will face as you grow to maturity, and for you fulfilling the royal family honor code.** I haven't taught you this yet. I probably will. What is the royal family honor code? We'll see it. In 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Paul talks about this. He said, *“I fought a good fight [he's about to be put to death], I finished my course, I kept the doctrine. In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness [what I'm talking to you about] which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day [the day of what? The Judgment Seat of Christ] and not to me only, but to all those winners who loved His appearing.”* This means you if you have self-control and self-discipline, if you control your flesh and don't let it control you. This means you don't live in carnality but you live in spirituality and

you discipline your body to take in, learn, and apply the Word of God. Every believer has the opportunity for this reward. **This is our eternal inheritance and it is the greatest possible thing given to the believer in eternity.** The sad thing is many believers don't even seem to be interested in getting this reward. I told you there are two crowns, the Crown of Righteousness and the Crown of Life. What about the Crown of Life? This declaration is awarded to the invisible heroes who have maximum production of divine good because they fulfilled the plan of God for their life. This includes all the impact that a mature believer could have, personal impact in his own area, historical impact in his time, international impact in his world, angelic impact in God's kingdom, and heritage impact as he passes on blessing to his family. **Therefore, the Crown of Life is related to the invisible hero's production from his spiritual life, his ambassadorship, and his royal priesthood.** Did you know these are two things you have? You are a royal ambassador and you are a royal priest. **You are God's representative on this earth and the rewarding of the Crown of Life is related to how you represent God.** You don't need another priest to intercede for you. You have your own priesthood, a royal priesthood. The Crown of Life is awarded for consistently being filled with the Holy Spirit, consistently taking in the Word of God, and consistently using the problem-solving devices in your life. Revelation 2:10, *“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Note that the devil is about to cast some of you into prison so that you may be tested and you will have special persecution ten times. **Keep on being faithful even unto death and I will give you the crown of life.**”* In James 1:12, *“**Happy is that person who perseveres under testing for once he has passed the test, he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him,**”* this is virtue love. There you have it, the Crown of Life and the Crown of Righteousness. There are other crowns distributed in the eternal state but these are the two that I want to encourage you to obtain. I want you to hear Him say, *“Well done, My good and faithful servant”* (Matthew 25:23), not “Howdy, have a seat. We'll get to you in a little while after we finish distributing these rewards to all of these winner believers. Obviously you're not a winner believer. You're here, you're going to be in eternity in heaven with God, but you're not going to have any crown so sit over there with the other folks. We'll get to you next.” **You have a spiritual life and this life you will carry throughout all eternity.** You won't carry your sin infected body because it's going to go back to dust, but you will carry your soul, you will carry your spirit, and they will be housed in a new resurrection body forever and forever. This eternal state will allow you to bring much glory to the Lord Jesus Christ, God's anointed Son. Our gratitude to Him for what He has done for us, our gratitude for His work and our desire to worship Him, and it will cause us to credit Him with all honors and all rewards that we could accumulate ourselves (Revelation 4:10-11). **Consider this an encouragement to get to the high ground of spiritual maturity in your life so you can represent Jesus Christ and replicate His thinking thus winning your crown, your recognition for all eternity.** Not just living with a bunch of gobbledygook that you don't even understand what it means and really it doesn't mean anything to anybody, it just sounds spiritual. On the other hand, there is a warning, a warning to the unbeliever, the person that's disadvantaged, the

person that has not received Jesus Christ as Savior. I don't know why you put it off, but there's no crown for you. There is something for you but it's not good. In Revelation 29:11-18, understand what I'm about to read to you is not because God doesn't like you. This is not true, God loves you. John 3:16 says, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."* What greater gift could God demonstrate that He loved you than to sacrifice His Son on your behalf to let Him pay the penalty for your sins, not His, yours, and you reject Him? You don't buy this. You say to yourself, "I don't believe in God, I'm an atheist." Okay, that's fine, your choice. "I don't believe the Bible, that's just written by a bunch of old people." Okay, that's your choice. I'm going to tell you what the Bible says if you'll listen, and if you'll listen and pay attention, you may want to change your mind. In Revelation 20:11-18, this is not the Judgment Seat of Christ as in 1 Corinthians 3:13-14 where the rewards were passed out. This is different. *"I saw a great white throne and the One that sat on it from whose presence earth and heaven fled and there was no place found for them to hide. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before His throne, and books were opened [notice plural] and another book [singular] was opened; that's the book of life and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and death and hell gave up the dead that were there, and they were all judged, each one of them according to their deeds. And then death and hell were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death and if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."* Now let me explain these two situations. The books are the books of your good deeds, of your good works. Remember, Romans 3:10 says, *"There are none that are good, no not one."* If you find yourself at this judgment and you think God's going to cut you a deal because you've been good, you're mistaken because He will tell you, *"I never knew you, depart from Me you that work iniquity"* (Matthew 7:23). "I didn't know you. You did not accept My Son as your Savior." If your name is blotted out of the Book of Life, this means you died the first death without being saved. Your name is put in the Book of Life when you're born. When you're born again, your name stays in the Book of Life. **You're either going to be born twice or you're going to die twice.** This is the first death for the unbeliever and the second death is when he is cast into the Lake of Fire. Think about this, please consider your decision. **Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and trust in Him while you have time so you do not wind up in the Lake of Fire.** This is fair warning for you because God loves you. He wants you to have eternal life with Him. He sent His Son to die for you, please believe this. Please pray today and ask God to save you. Tell Him you are believing in Christ, you would like to receive Him as your Savior. Until next week, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Royal Family Honor Code

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Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. Your life is about making decisions and choices and every decision you make, you're responsible for. You can't lay your problems off on someone else and sometimes we have a tendency to say, "It's not my fault." You know the saying, every time you point a finger at somebody, you've got three of them still pointing back at you. We are not a victim of our environment. We are a victim of our decisions. Bad decisions limit future options. And the absolute worst decision anyone could ever make is to reject Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior because this leaves no option for God the Father. He provided in love His own personal Son to take our place on the cross so that He might give us eternal life. When we reject this free gift of God, we leave the justice of God no option. This is the worst decision you could ever make, to say no to God's wonderful love through Jesus Christ. Today I want to talk about the royal family honor code. Many organizations have a code they live by. If you think about elite military units, they all have a code of honor. For example, the Navy SEALs is one of the most elite units in our military along with the Army Rangers, Marine Recon and several others. The Navy SEAL honor code deals with loyalty to country, loyalty to team, and loyalty to teammates. Loyalty is a key ingredient in these honor codes and represents serving with honor and integrity on and off the battlefield. You are expected to act with integrity on and off the battlefield. They also believe in being ready to lead, ready to follow, and never quit. Someone once made the statement and I like it, "Lead me, follow me, or get the heck out of my way," and that's the Navy SEALs. The Navy SEALs take responsibility for their actions and those actions of their teammates, this is another code the SEALs live by. Another code is excel as warriors through discipline and innovation and train for war, train to win, defeat our nation's enemies, and earn your trident every day. Warrior creeds like this have been around for centuries to guide the actions of special operators on and off the battlefield. The creed is a code of conduct, an inspiration, a daily reminder of the reasons that they train, the reasons that they fight. Then we have the Marine Corps code. The Marine Corps core values are honor, courage, and commitment. These values make up the bedrock of a Marine's character. During recruit training, recruits are taught these core values and numerous other values such as integrity, discipline, teamwork, duty, esprit de corps which is a common spirit existing in members of the group and inspiring enthusiasm. They live by these codes. And of course you have criminal codes as well. The infamous Hell's Angels have a code and there are other groups that have had codes and some of them, you don't even get out of without getting killed. God has a code, a royal family honor code and this royal family honor code is what we want to talk about today. It's a much greater code than those I just mentioned to you because this is more than just being moral, it's much more. It may come as a shock to you that God has a code like this, it shocks many people. Let me give you a definition. The royal family honor code is a system of spiritual integrity mandated by God and revealed in the Mystery Doctrine of the Church Age. We are in the Church

Age. No one in the Old Testament could ever see this coming. They only saw the Second Advent but God inserted a Church Age in between the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Resurrection and the Second Advent. This is the Church Age and this is us. We have this honor code in this Church Age. **It relates to personal integrity and our relationships with other people. It's a supplement to impersonal love for all believers.** It is a problem-solving device of the protocol plan of God, this royal family honor code. What does it include? Well, to start with it includes the filling of the Holy Spirit, problem-solving device #2 in your life. What does this solve? It solves the problem of your genetically formed sin nature that you fight and battle with every day. How do I know this goes on? Because Galatians 5:17 says, *“The flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh, and they are contrary one to the other.”* You have a sin nature. We don't all have the same weaknesses. Everybody is not tempted by money. Everybody is not tempted by sex. Everybody is not tempted by drugs. People have different lust patterns but it's all part of the sin nature and we have to learn how to control the sin nature. We do this through the filling of the Holy Spirit. Then the honor code includes Biblical orientation or what we call doctrinal orientation. This is orienting your life to the Word of God, letting the mind of Christ circulate in your stream of consciousness. This is where Philippians 2:5 says, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”* Where do we get the mind of Christ? 1 Corinthians 2:16 says the New Testament is the mind of Christ. We have the filling of the Holy Spirit in the honor code, doctrinal orientation in the honor code, grace orientation, this is living grace, saving grace, dying, grace and surpassing grace. A personal sense of destiny is also part of the honor code. God put you here for a reason. Of course we know you're going to heaven if you've trusted in Christ but there's a lot more to it. As long as God leaves you around there's a reason. I don't know what your age may be but He hasn't taken you home yet so there's a reason He left you here. Through the Holy Spirit and the inculcation of the Word of God any believer can develop this honor code in his life. This honor code will give you spiritual self-esteem as well as a personal sense of destiny, which is what God wants you to have. When you learn God's Word, you must not only apply these things but then God expects you to communicate it in terms of the way you live your life with other people. **Therefore, the royal family honor code centers around two words for you - truth and integrity. God gives you the truth and He expects you to learn it and live a life of integrity.** Integrity, what is this? It's an adherence to the spiritual, moral, and ethical principles related to honor in your life. Hence the royal family honor code relates to both the plan of God as well as every function in relationship to people that you deal with, even including the laws of divine establishment of freedom, marriage, family, and nationalism. You are a member of God's royal family if you're saved, if you've accepted Christ as your Savior. You are in the status quo of aristocracy, royal family of God with a royal family honor code that you are to live by. In this Church Age which is the dispensation of the royal family of God, we have a royal function. **The Lord Jesus Christ Himself is the basis for the fact that we have this honor code. He lived it and He left it for us to learn and use.** Our Lord Jesus Christ is indeed royalty, divine, royalty, Jewish royalty, and

battlefield royalty. This last category of royalty, battlefield royalty is to provide a royal family for Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father where He is currently. Therefore, this Church, you and me, we were inserted into the Jewish Age and called out as members of the royal family. When we get saved, we are baptized by the Holy Spirit, put into union with Christ, and thereby making us spiritual aristocracy. You as a believer in Jesus Christ are spiritual aristocracy. You are a royal ambassador to planet Earth representing God the Father Himself, supposedly having the mind of Christ, learning the Word of God so that you know what to say and when to say it. You cannot afford to embarrass God by being a royal ambassador and being a loser. **He expects you to represent Him with integrity and honor and this is the royal family honor code. You are aristocracy. You have standards and your standards are called the royal family honor code.** It's the Christian way of life, simply. It's compatible with a couple of things that happened at salvation. 1. You were placed into union with Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit and you have positional truth in your life. That means you are in Christ for eternity. He said, *"I will never leave you, I will never forsake you. I give unto them eternal life and they will never perish"* (John 10:28-29). You are in positional truth, you're not going to lose it. It's a gift of God, a free gift of God. You didn't earn it. You didn't buy it. Your salvation was given to you by God through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. When you believe in this finished work of Christ, when you receive this finished work of Christ, when you go to the Father and you simply say these words, something like this, "Father, I believe Jesus Christ died for me and I'm willing to accept Him as my Savior." This is the simplest prayer in the world. That's you committing to the plan of God and receiving Christ as your Savior. I know this works because Romans 10:13 says, *"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* This is exactly what I did and probably exactly what you did. So here we are, we are in the royal family of God. We have positional truth, we're not going to lose it. We have a portion of God's righteousness given to us through Christ. It's a phenomenal way to live understanding your honor code. We have righteousness from Christ. *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we may be made the righteousness of God through Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). And we have eternal life and it's all in Christ. **In Christ, found throughout the New Testament, is the basis for the fact that the honor code is superior to any other code in life, any other system in life, any other morality or frame of reference in life.** It's superior to any of this. It is the honor code of God for us, it's the Christian life, the way we live. Now, what's the enemy to the honor code? Well, there are a lot of enemies, that's for sure, but one of the greatest enemies is gossip, maligning, and slandering other people. In Ephesians 4:25, *"Therefore, having laid aside the lie, each one of you should speak the truth with his fellow believers since we are members one of another."* Let's take someone in your church you don't like, old Joe over there. You can't stand him. He's a member of the royal family of God. He's put his faith alone in Christ alone. You're a member of the royal family of God. You put your faith alone in Christ alone. You have no reason or no right ever to malign another believer. You have no right to ever lie about another believer or misrepresent him, this is called gossip and slander. You are terribly out of line if you do this and it will bring

discipline in your life. You let God deal with other people. He didn't send you to straighten anybody out. You have a hard enough time keeping your own life straightened out so remember this. There can be no royal family honor code function without self-esteem. This means you have to have confidence in your own worth or your own ability. Another way to put it is self-respect. How can you respect yourself if you keep failing, if you keep maligning, criticizing, backbiting, slandering other believers? This is a terrible enemy to the royal family honor code. Any of these great military units I talked to you about, they have such integrity, such esprit de corps within themselves, they don't ever run each other down. Even though they're human, even though they may fail on a mission or something, they're not going to run each other down. It's teamwork. **We are a team, the family of God. We are in the royal family of God, and you have to understand we're not allowed to malign and criticize each other.** I know you've been a victim of criticism, so what are you going to do about it? I use to have a friend of mine that said, "I'll write your name in my book and I'll get even with you sooner or later." This is wrong. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24 hours a day, God can handle any grievance you have. If you've got a problem with someone, take it to the Supreme Court of Heaven and use problem-solving device #8, impersonal love for all mankind. You can love the weirdest, most obnoxious person of your whole congregation, the most obnoxious person in your city if you love them based on who you are, not based on who they are. Impersonal love is the same love that God loved you with when it says, "*God so loved the world*" (John 3:16). You weren't exactly a righteous person at that time. You were a sinner. You were saved by grace but He loved you while you were yet a sinner. You can love other people using the same type of love based on your character, not their character. We have to remember this. There has to be self-respect as one of the keys to your life. Without self-respect you are going to be disoriented to life all the way around because no one can be successful in marriage without self-respect. You cannot entertain yourself or handle simple problems like loneliness or problems like any type of social problem you run into without having self-respect. The only way you can have this is to live by an honor code. If you look in the mirror and you see a liar, if you look in the mirror and you see a loser, then you have no self-respect, you're not living by the honor code. But if you're living by the honor code then you look at yourself and you have nothing to be ashamed of. You know you've lived up to what God told you to live up to. But a lack of self-esteem in almost everything in life is disastrous. If you don't like yourself, if you don't think that you're successful in your own life, if the greatest disaster in your life is a failure to learn, the failure to understand, the failure to think in terms of the royal family honor code, then you're in trouble because this is the greatest system of integrity ever known to any man, anywhere, anytime. **This honor code is related to the laws of divine establishment and also using impersonal love.** Listen to Romans 13:8, "*Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another*" [There it is, love one another, this is what the Lord Jesus Christ said]. "*By this all men will know you're My disciples, that you love each other*" (John 13:35). This royal family honor code including impersonal love for one another is a tremendous advantage because it keeps you free of jealousy. It keeps you free of bitterness. It

keeps you free of implacability. It's a wonderful way to live, loving one another, not because I'm a wonderful person, not because they are wonderful people, but because you are a wonderful person because this love comes from you, not from them. It's impersonal. Romans 13:8 says, *"For he that loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law."* What's this talking about? It's the divine law of establishment. The first half of this verse deals with spiritual self-esteem and the last half of this verse deals with human self-esteem. Listen to this one, verse 9, I'm going to continue this passage. *"You shall not commit adultery [that's human self-esteem], you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and if there's any other mandate [and there are] then it's summarized in this doctrine, you shall love your neighbor as yourself."* This is the backbone of the royal family honor code. This is how you know that you are living by the code, that you can love the people that hate you, that you can love the politician that hates you, the politician that wants to change your life, the politician that you can't stand. Do you love him? Can you love him? Did God forgive him on the cross through Christ? Did Christ die for him or her? The answer is yes. We have no right to hate anyone. This is not allowed in the honor code because the honor code demands that we live under establishment principles and it far exceeds any morality. Listen, the unbeliever can be moral. I'm not talking about moral, I'm talking about something that's far greater this. The honor code demands that we live under the establishment and through the perception of the Word of God and through the filling of the Holy Spirit, two keys there. If you're not taking in the Word of God, you're not growing. If you're not taking in the Word of God then you're not going to be able to let the Holy Spirit teach you anything. This is a balance of residency in your life. Think about it as a seesaw. If you put a fat boy on one end and a skinny boy on the other end, the skinny boy is up in the air. The balance of residency for you is the filling of the Holy Spirit on one end of the seesaw and the integrity of the Word of God in your soul on the other end of the seesaw. **There has to be a balance of you operating under the filling of Holy Spirit and you operating under the perception of the Word of God on a consistent basis in your life. This gives you the honor code to live by.** This honor code demands that you be patriotic. It demands that you respect your government. It demands that you have authority orientation. It demands that if you're available, that you serve in the military and provide freedom for your country. It demands respect for law and order and Christian relationships with your government. Romans 13:1-7 talks about this. You can read this one for yourself, it will shock you because it says, *"There is no government that God did not allow."* Whatever we have in this country today, God allowed it and He allowed it for a reason. You need to figure out the reason. What's He trying to show us? What's He trying to teach us? We have an honor code that develops around truth, integrity, impersonal love, and grace orientation. Treating people by grace, living by grace, this is how you got saved, you are saved by grace. Remember Ephesians 2:8 says, *"For by grace are you saved through faith. It's a gift of God not of works lest any man should brag about it."* Impersonal love, problem solving device #8. We have right there grace orientation and impersonal love. What is grace orientation? It's problem-solving device #4. If you don't have the bookmark that lists all of these, request it from me and get it. If you don't

have the book *Christian Problem Solving*, order it today and read about these for yourself. Here it is, the honor code centers around you living a life of truth and integrity, having integrity in your life, using impersonal love in your life, and operating under grace in your life. Now, are there violations of the royal family honor code? Absolutely yes there are. *“There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to Him [the royal family honor code]. Haughty eyes [this is arrogance], a lying tongue [this is a liar], hands that shed innocent blood [this is a murderer], a mind that devises wicked and evil plans [this is conspiracy or rejection of authority, revolution, civil disobedience], feet that run rapidly to evil [this is a troublemaker], and a false witness who utters lies”* [who utters slander, who utters gossip] (Proverbs 6:16-19). If you ever want to see the seven sins God hates, go there, open your Bible, read them. These are all violations of the royal family honor code. Perjury is a violation of the royal family honor code. All of these sins in Proverbs are a violation of the royal family honor code. **Without the function of the royal family honor code, without understanding the protocol plan of God in your life, you will never be distinguished from the unbeliever.** People won't be able to tell the difference. Without the royal family honor code in your life you will be useless and worthless by comparison. **It demands that you distinguish in your life between things that are essential and things that are nonessential.** You must distinguish between these two. The essential things are the Word of God for you. The nonessential things become everything else in life. **With the essential things, you must always be inflexible.** You can't flex on the essential things. The nonessential thing you can be flexible about. You can do with them or do without them. Revenge is always a violation of the royal family honor code. When you're wrong, let the Supreme Court of Heaven handle the case. The royal family honor code demands that we leave retaliation and vengeance in the hands of the Lord because it's blasphemous to supersede God as the judge. **The honor code is the only system we have that makes dying a part of living because dying is the greatest challenge to your application of the Word of God in your life.** As you grow old and draw your last breath, you're going to die. In Philippians 1:20-21, *“According to my intense concentration and resulting hope that in nothing will I ever be disgraced, but in integrity, even now as always, Christ should be exalted in my person whether by me living or by me dying. For my living is Christ and my dying is an advantage.”* There it is. This is a quick study on the royal family honor code, living it in life and living it in death. God has given you this challenge. I pray you've listened, I pray you've learned, and I pray you will apply it into your life. The royal family honor code is a significant doctrine you need to learn to live by and understand. Thank you for listening. I hope you'll come back next week, same time, same place. This is Rick Hughes host of The FLOT Line radio show and I'm so glad you spent a few minutes with us today. Write if you would like to hear from us or order some of the books. Remember, they're all free of charge. Until next week, thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

RMA

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 846 aired on November 7, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. We don't make any appeals for money because I live by a verse that Paul the apostle wrote in 2 Corinthians 2:17, *"For we are not like many who pedal the Word of God but from sincerity, but as from God, we speak Christ in the sight of God."* I don't claim to have a better understanding than others on the airways that you may listen to but I do proclaim liberty from selling my books. Christian marketing, selling God's Word, is atrocious. I think it's totally wrong. I think it's dishonoring. Grace living frees us from human dependency and my associates and I have learned that if God is in it, He will pay for it. Our job is to proclaim the message, teach God's Word and let the Father handle the finances. He does, He has, and He always will, enough said. Today I want to turn our attention to an amazing opportunity for you and me to live by. **It's called an RMA, having a relaxed mental attitude, it's a great way to live.** This is possible if you assemble a FLOT line in your soul, a forward line of troops. This is a military acronym for the mainline of resistance in your soul if you learn and apply God's 10 unique problem-solving devices. This keeps you from letting the outside sources of adversity from becoming the inside source of stress because as you hear us say every time we're on the air, adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. Turmoil in the nation's capital, you've got it. Chaos in the nation's streets, it's here. Confusion in the nation's schools, consternation in the homes, what in the world is going on? Are we witnessing the downfall of the once great America? Are we perhaps seeing the birth of a new way of thinking across these states that will lead to a new lifestyle in our nation's history? Now, I know what I think is happening but I'm not here to talk about politics. It's never my job. I'm not a politician. The question I want to ask you this morning is this. How are you handling things in this daily changing environment in client nation USA? Should we be concerned? Absolutely, we should be concerned. Should we worry? Absolutely not. **No way should you ever worry. Jesus Christ controls history.** You need to remember this. God was in business before we got here and He'll be in business when we're long gone. He's in charge. **Adversity is inevitable. Stress is optional.** In John 16:2 the Lord was trying to get the disciples to have an RMA, a relaxed mental attitude. Here's what He told them, *"They [they being the religious crowd] will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think this, that he's offering service to God."* Now, each of these men were told their lives would be at risk for following Jesus Christ. In John 15:8, *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me first."* This attitude of hatred for our Lord Jesus Christ and the rebellion against God's rules of order are still prevalent today, especially in client nation USA. Nothing has changed. Why? Well, Satan is still the god of this world as he always has been. The question we must answer is what are the mechanics to maintain a relaxed mental attitude during this time of turmoil and chaos in our country? I think I have the answer. The Lord Jesus Christ faced the greatest opposition in history. In Matthew 4:1-11, you can read yourself the first few verses where He had a confrontation with Satan, it's

well documented. In John 15:11 Christ told the disciples that in spite of the conflict they would face that as He Himself maintained an attitude of joy so they could be made complete by experiencing the same joy in the trials they would face. **The truth is we can be happy in the face of an uncertain future if we keep an RMA, a relaxed mental attitude.** Now the question is, what in the world is an RMA? What's a relaxed mental attitude? First, you have a conflict and the conflict has the potential to cause suffering. The question has to be asked, can we avoid conflict in this devil's world? The answer is no. Can we stay free of worry? The answer is yes. This is when the faith-rest drill must kick in and this is where this relaxed mental attitude comes from, using problem-solving device #3, the faith-rest drill. Isaiah 54:17 is a great verse for you to claim to act as a shield of faith over your life, “*No weapon formed against you shall prosper and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their righteousness is from Me,’ saith the Lord.*” When you have conflict, there is a solution - using the faith-rest drill. If you don't understand the faith-rest drill, you need to. Contact us to get our book, *Christian Problem Solving*. It's free, no charge. You'll learn about the faith-rest drill from this book. I don't have time to cover it right now but there are three stages to it. If you will use one of the 7,000 promises God has in the Bible for you, then you can stop the outside sources of adversity from becoming the inside source of stress. This means you don't have to worry. You don't have to be afraid. You don't have to be antagonistic. You don't have to be bitter. There is a better way to live. It's called the Christian life with a relaxed mental attitude. When you have a conflict, the conflict calls for you to have courage, yes it does. In Psalm 56:3, “*Whenever I am afraid I will trust in You.*” This is courage and this is faith. **Has it ever dawned on you that fear is a mental attitude sin? Fear is a symptom of assuming an unassigned responsibility.** Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior controls history and the Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24 hours a day. What do you have to be afraid of? Turn it over to God, let Him handle the circumstances. If you think somebody's going to get away with something in this country, you're wrong. Our Father knows exactly what's going on. He's well aware of what's happening in this nation and nobody, including no politician, is going to get away with anything in God's system of justice. It calls for courage, trust the Lord. **Trust requires faith.** Trust God will handle the situation. You can't straighten it out. God didn't send you to straighten it out. God didn't send me to straighten it out. The more we get involved in anger, worrying, and complaining about what's going on politically, the more it distracts us from what our real objective is which is to “*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” (2 Peter 3:18), and to re-present Christ to our friends and our family. **Whenever you have a conflict it calls for courage and this courage, if you apply an RMA and use the faith-rest drill, can produce confidence in God's provisions and in God's protection.** Philippians 4:13, “*I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength.*” These are the words of the Apostle Paul again. It doesn't make any difference what the objective is, what the task is, you can do it in Christ Jesus. This is a prepositional phrase “*in Christ Jesus.*” Occupation with Christ is problem-solving device #10. Are you a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ meaning

have you received Him as your Savior? If you have, you are in Christ. You are a new creation. *"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away and all things become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). You are in Christ Jesus and so you should have confidence through Christ who gives you the strength. How does He do it? By means of the Holy Spirit who indwells you and lives in you. Christ our Lord promised He would send the disciples a Helper. *"When I leave"* He told them He was going to send the Holy Spirit to mentor them, tutor them, help them to recall what He taught them. And then they put it in a book called the Bible. Initially they wrote letters that were assembled later into the Bible. These are our two assets, the Holy Spirit and the Bible. God provides men with a gift called pastor-teacher whose objective is to stay filled with the Holy Spirit and to study and teach the Bible so that we can learn God's Word and apply it unto our life and re-present Jesus Christ to our friends. This courage that is called for produces confidence and courage produces contentment as well. Notice all the C words. We have a conflict, we need to apply courage, and then we have confidence, which results in contentment. What does this mean? In Philippians 4:11 the Apostle Paul said, *"I have learned how to be content in whatever circumstances I face."* This means no animosity. This means no looking back and complaining about what you should or should not have done. **It's contentment, it's a wonderful way to live. It's the greatest capacity for life you could ever have. If you're not content God won't give you blessings.** I believe there are many of you that are out there today that would like to receive some gifts from God and He would like to give them to you, but He can't do it right now because you can't handle it. You are not content with what you have. If you're content with what you have, then God can fill your cup up and it can overflow. But if you're not content, then whatever He gives you is not going to be enough. It will distract you. **This is an aspect of contentment, it's staying away from distractions in your spiritual life. You can't grow spiritually if you're not content.** This means whatever He gives you, it doesn't matter if it's a lot or if it's a little, it doesn't make any difference, just keep a relaxed mental attitude. Stay content knowing that Jesus Christ is in control of history and God has a plan for your life. Are you content today? There's nothing wrong with having goals, ambitions, and objectives in your life but just remember, these are not the source of happiness. Happiness comes from what Jesus Christ our Savior taught us in Luke 11:27. *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it."* **If you hear the Word of God and you keep the Word of God, then you will develop capacity righteousness and the ability to be content in every situation.** This contentment is a wonderful thing and it leads to a conclusion and this conclusion is you using an RMA, a relaxed mental attitude. What a great way to live. What's it really like if you have an RMA? Well, it's demonstrated by being able to think under pressure. Remember, the Bible talks about the Fantastic Four: wisdom, knowledge, discretion and understanding. **An RMA is demonstrated by thinking under pressure.** A prizefighter, when he gets into the ring, doesn't get in there and just start swinging away. He's thinking about how to counterpunch, he's timing his opponent's punches toward him, when to slip a punch. If you have an RMA, you think under pressure. You don't get angry, you don't get upset, you don't get

frustrated. **You must recall pertinent Bible doctrines you've learned and then apply them to the situation.** This is using the faith-rest drill. Have you ever seen your dog who gets excited to see you and his tail starts wagging like an agitator on a washing machine, just going back and forth? Sometimes your mind gets like this. If you're under adversity, if you're under pressure, if you're under adverse circumstances and you can't concentrate, you're not going to be able to use the faith-rest drill. You have to claim a verse to calm down, claim a verse to stabilize your thinking. This is where the Isaiah verse comes in handy. *"No weapon formed against you will ever prosper."* You can claim this verse. This can be your verse, recite it to yourself, *"No weapon formed against you shall prosper and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is your heritage, 'says the Lord."* So relax, recall the pertinent doctrine you've learned and apply it to the situation. Hear it and keep it. This is what Jesus Christ says, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it."* This is faith. You learn it and you apply it. An RMA, what a great way to live. It's a result of using some impersonal love with people. One of the biggest tests in life is people testing. I was talking to my grandson last night. He was telling me about a situation at school where some guy said he wasn't very good at playing football because he dropped a pass and it hurt his feelings. Well, how do you deal with people that hurt your feelings? How do you deal with people that say bad things about you, "You're a loser, You're no good." You use impersonal love, one of God's problem-solving devices. I'm sure there are people in your community, people in your neighborhood, people in your church, people in your school that don't like you and say things about you. This is the way the world is because everybody has a sin nature. I don't care who you are, somebody's going to dislike you and it may be for weird reasons. I mean, I've had people turn on me and never talk to me again and I don't know why. I don't pay them any attention. A relaxed- mental attitude is a result of impersonal love and impersonal love is a wonderful problem-solving device, problem-solving device #8 in the 10 problem-solving devices on your FLOT line. It cannot be corrupted by flattery. It cannot be corrupted by human rapport, emotional rapport. It cannot be corrupted by being arrogant. It is free from mental attitude sins. **If you have an RMA, a relaxed-mental attitude, you can love even the worst type of people because you love them based on who you are, not based on who they are.** As I've told you so many times before, this is exactly the way God loved you. Remember John 3:16, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."* Have you forgotten what a jerk you were when God loved you? You weren't perfect. You didn't have righteousness and He loved you. How did He do it? He loved you with His love, He was loving you based on who He is not based on who you are. Once you believe in Christ and you're brought into the royal family of God, then it becomes a personal love. You're His child. Prior to this it's an impersonal love. You can use the same impersonal love in your life to love people that don't like you, people that malign or criticize you, gossip or slander you. You can love them and stay free of any revenge motivation by using impersonal love and that's part of an RMA. **If you have enough of the Word of God in your soul, you can think under pressure.** You can recall the pertinent Word of God you need to use under pressure

and you can use impersonal love when dealing with people that don't like you, people that put you down, people that malign you. This relaxed mental attitude is an amazing thing. It's an attitude of being a mature believer. One thing it indicates is that you've got a great sense of humor. Yeah, I told my grandson, "Laugh it off. If the guy says, 'You're no good,' laugh at him and say, 'Yeah you're right. I'm no good, but I'm trying to get better. Pray for me brother.'" This is a good way to turn him off by having a good sense of humor. This sense of humor indicates that you have capacity for life as a mature believer. If you're content you can have this sense of humor. If you're not content you'll always be frustrated. You will always be angry because there's something you don't have, something you want, something you wish you had or think you deserve to have but don't. If you're looking at other people and judging your life based on what they have, you're out of line. Once you begin to have personal love for God, problem-solving device #6, and once you begin to be occupied with Christ, problem-solving device #10, then you will no longer be threatened by things in your life that use to disturb you. You will lose that inferiority complex which is part of your own arrogance and you can replace it with what we're calling a relaxed mental attitude. You've turned it over to the Father. You've claimed your verses of Scripture. You're standing on faith and you're letting God handle the details. There's nothing to worry about, you never have anything to worry about with a relaxed mental attitude. Now you're never going to be relaxed in a human relationship until you acquire impersonal love. This is important, you have to understand this. It's unconditional, it doesn't put conditions on you loving them. You can love them regardless of who they are and this means that you can accept people, you can tolerate people as you find them. God didn't send you to straighten people out, remember this. You'll stop being critical, you'll stop looking down your nose, and you'll stop being legalistic and saying, "Well, that person is not going to heaven, he said a bad word. That person is not going to heaven, he drinks beer." This is not true. The only people that don't go to heaven are the people that refuse to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, this is plain and simple in John 3:18. Impersonal love, this wonderful problem-solving device is actually you having a relaxed mental attitude by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit rather than being overtly friendly or some sort of hypocrisy. It's you being filled with the Holy Spirit, claiming God's Word, relaxing, letting the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ handle the circumstances in your life. **Living with an RMA gives you harmony, harmony in the thinking and the function of your spiritual life.** You're not second-guessing yourself all the time. **When there's harmony among believers, this requires humility, grace orientation, and virtue love.** Do you know something else? **When you have a relaxed mental attitude, you can have creative thinking.** It's strange, when we get under stress our personality can change into an emotional, hypersensitive, caustic person. We even get sarcastic sometimes when we get under stress. And you're doing this to yourself. When under stress, our routine and even our good eating habits become nonexistent and the end result is that we hurt ourselves. We run ourselves down. We think crazy. We can't sleep. We can't think. We can't eat because we're under stress. And when you're under stress, you can't plan for long-term things in your life. You can't even make short-

term decisions and this is why people can self-destruct, because stress feeds on stress and eventually becomes a lifestyle. It becomes a coping machine for you and the stressed-out person needs a stressful life to keep him from thinking in terms of reality, from taking stock of his life, and what's really going on. The stressed-out person's number one priority is himself and himself only and his obsession with himself. **When tranquility and contentment become a major part of your life, people will no longer hurt you. People can no longer shock you. People can no longer cause you to react and then you have capacity for life, capacity for love, and the happiness that God provides for you.** Then you will have the capacity to see objectively with a relaxed mental attitude, everything that use to disturb you, can no longer do it. What a wonderful way to live. The opposite of this RMA is stress, that's what I said, Stress in the soul always results in the sin nature controlling your life. Stress in your soul destroys the spiritual life and may cause you to get into reversionism, going backwards. If you combine this with sin nature control in your soul, then you completely destroy any capacity you have to live your life, to love life, to have happiness **because stress can destroy the inner spiritual strength of the soul.** When you combine stress with the sin nature, it results in inner tension, and it causes you to have mental disorders and multiple personality dysfunction. Unchecked and perpetuated, stress in the soul produces a psychotic Christian. God doesn't intend for you to be a psychotic Christian. God intends for you to be a maturing Christian who thinks right and what does this mean? *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). This is what God intends. *"Who humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation"* (Philippians 2:7), that's the end of arrogance right there. A person with an RMA is not arrogant. The person with the RMA is not justifying why it's okay to lash out at someone. He's not self-absorbed. He's not judgmental. Remember that this arrogance system starts with self-justification, self-deception, and self-absorption and this always leads to self-destruction. You can't afford to go there. I mean come on, your life has been on the edge for a long time now because you don't have an RMA. You haven't learned enough of the Word of God to even function with an RMA. You don't even know what these 10 problem-solving devices are and they've been in the Word of God forever. This is not something new. You must get ahold of your life. **You must be the man or the woman God intends for you to be and it's time you step up to the plate and take charge of your life and develop this RMA, a relaxed mental attitude.** Now listen, before we end this show, I have a new book that we've written. It's a significant revision of an old book called, *A Crash Course in Christianity*. It's your game plan on how to grow to be a spiritually mature believer and it's laid out clearly. Everything is supported by Scripture and it's organized under Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 of the Christian life. It's free If you want it, contact us. What a great opportunity it is for me to give you this information. I thank my Father that He is still allowing me to communicate this truth to you. What a great privilege it is for me. I trust you're listening and it's making a difference in your life. If you have a question, get in touch with us.

Cosmos Diabolicus

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 847 aired on November 14, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I want to announce our new book we've got coming out. It's at the press now. It's called *A Crash Course in Christianity*. This is a rewrite of an older book and it's excellent. So if your game plan is to grow spiritually, it's all laid out and supported by Scripture. You will really enjoy it. Today I want to talk to you about something that I think will be very interesting to you. We want to talk about cosmos diabolicus. The word *cosmos* means the world, you're familiar with this, and *diabolicus* means the devil. It's Latin in origin and from the Koine Greek meaning diabolical or diabolic, belonging to the devil. The cosmos diabolicus is the universe and in theology the cosmos is the created heavenly bodies, the sun, the moon, the wandering stars and the fixed stars. The concept of the cosmos as a created universe and its arrangement has been important in Christendom since it's inception. It is used a lot in the New Testament and in the Old Testament as well, over 180 times. Let me read you something about the cosmos. Psalm 19:2-3 says, "*Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.*" **Anyone that wants to know God can look at the cosmos and realize somebody created it.** Psalm 147:4-5 goes on, "*He telleth the number of the stars. He calleth them by their names, and great is our God and of great power; His understanding is infinite.*" Our God put these stars in place and they teach us things. They are also an analogy about the Christian in eternity, the mature believer. If you grow to be a spiritually mature believer, **Daniel 12:3 says this about mature believers in eternity, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."** Then in 1 Corinthians 15:41-42, "*There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars. For one star differs from another star in glory. And so it will be with the resurrection of the dead.*" Obviously when we get to heaven there are different stages of rewards and many believers will shine brightly. Those that have fulfilled the plan of God to become mature believers will be brighter than other believers using this analogy of the stars. If you look up at night you'll see some stars that are bright and some that are not so bright, barely seen. You don't want this to be you in eternity. You want to glow, you want to be seen in eternity. You want to hear God say, "*Well done, My good and My faithful servant*" (Matthew 25:23). **The cosmos diabolicus refers to the devil's world and we know that Satan took dominion of this when Adam and Eve fell in the Garden.** Why is there chaos on the planet Earth? This is the question we have to ask today, why so much chaos? What's going on? Well, the Bible says there will always be chaos and there will always be evil as long as Satan rules the world, the cosmos, this earth. The chaos is only terminated by the Second Advent of Christ and His Millennial Reign for 1,000 years on this planet when He comes back. **Satan does not have the power to control all the inhabitants of this world nor the ability to produce a perfect environment on this earth.** He would like to do this. He would like to be vindicated for his sin in heaven and he would like

to not have to go to the Lake of Fire. If he could produce a perfect utopia, then he'd be happy with that but he can't do it because mankind has a sin nature. Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke about this in Matthew 24:6-8. *"You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled for all of these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom will rise against kingdom. There will be famines, pestilence, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginnings of sorrows."* You can see that Jesus predicted throughout all of your life and my life, there will be trouble on this planet because it's a fallen planet. It's controlled by Satan himself. Although he's a super genius, he's a fallen angel, the world is too much for him to rule. He can't do it, he's never been able to do it. The chaos that exists is simply an expression of his failure to pull together under his great power successful rulership of this world. He can't do it. **The inevitable consequences of man getting involved in Satan's cosmic system is chaos, psychologically, socially, personally, nationally, and internationally.** There's a system out there and this system is what Satan tries to pull you into. **It's the cosmic system, the cosmic vortex.** Another word for it would be the zeitgeist or the German word spirit of times. When a believer or nonbeliever gets sucked into the spirit of the times, it's like a vortex or a tornado. He gets trapped, he can't get out, and it may take him down the road 20, 30, 40, 50 years and belch him out somewhere where his life is ruined. There is a cosmic system going on and you cannot afford to be trapped in this cosmic system. You have to learn to think as God would have you think and that's why Philippians 2:5 says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* You can't think in terms of human viewpoint, you can't think in terms of cosmic involvement because Satan is always trying to straighten out his world. That's what political battles are all about, trying to make a better America, do this, do that, we'll be better off. If we elect this person we'll be better. If we change these laws we'll be better. If we give everybody some money we'll be better. Birdseed, this is ridiculous. Men have sin nature and nobody is going to change this. Anybody that believes and buys into this lie of Satan about the cosmic system making things better actually becomes identified with Satan and as such they serve his desires and his plans. I think this is going on in Congress right now. This happens when believers convert temptation into sin by means of their own volitional decisions. Remember Galatians 6:8 says, *"As a man sows, so shall he reap."* You have volition, you have the chooser in your soul. You can choose to live free of the involvement in the cosmic system and free from being under control of the cosmos diabolicus by living under the control of the Lord Jesus Christ and divine viewpoint thinking, operating under the systems of establishment that God set up in His Word. It's your choice. We will sin after salvation, it's inevitable. None of us is perfect. You sin and I sin, we do it every day. 1 John 1:8 says, *"If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us."* When we sin, it's inevitable that some people, because of this sin, because of their volitional decisions, they will come under the power and the influence of Satan's cosmic system, come under the power and influence of cosmos diabolicus. This sin is often an appeal to our arrogance and this is exactly what happened in the Garden, appealing to the arrogance of Eve saying, "No, God just doesn't want you to be as smart as He is so that's why He told you don't eat that fruit

because you'll know what God knows" (Genesis 3:4-5). In her arrogance she justified why it was okay to take a bite. That's the way arrogance works. People that are arrogant always justify their sin and then they deceive themselves into thinking it's not really a sin or it won't really hurt them if they try it. This leads to self-absorption and being 100% absorbed with the sin. Eventually it leads to self-destruction in the person's life. We are all going to sin. We are all going to come under the temptation of the flesh, the world, and the devil. **This is one of the reasons that America is being brought to her knees right now, national and political arrogance.** We are suffering and this suffering may be by means of the weather. It could be military failure. It could be economic failure. It could be disease. All of these are designed by God to cause a change of mind, to wake us up so we will reverse our course of thinking which will never happen without a spiritual revival. Satan will do all that he can to stop this. He's trying to shut down the teaching of the Word of God any way that he can so that man has no choice but to rely on human viewpoint thinking and the system of cosmos diabolicus. Man can't solve his own problems in spite of what Satan promotes as equality or national reconciliation, which is in reality just get rid of the opposition. The grace of God has taken suffering, usually caused by our own volitional choices or the rulership of Satan over this world, and He has converted this into a system for blessing where people can use their volition in a couple of ways. You can use your volition to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. You can believe in Him and be promised, *"There will be no more pain, no more tears, no more sorrow. The old things will be passed away"* in eternity (Revelation 21:4). When you make a decision to believe in Christ, you don't invite Christ into your heart. I hear this all the time. People say, "Invite Christ into your heart." Nowhere in the Bible does it tell you to invite Christ into your heart. Now the Holy Spirit works in spite of our misunderstanding sometimes. Acts 16:32 says, *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."* John 3:16, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."* To believe means to trust that the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ was God's original plan. It was done on behalf of you and you accept this as your ticket out of the Lake of Fire. You believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. You believe in what He did for you and you express your faith in prayer telling God the Father you are willing to believe that Jesus Christ is your Savior and He died for you and you accept this. This is salvation. It's not inviting Christ into your heart. Satan is in the reeducation business. He wants to reeducate us and there is not a day that goes by that you don't hear some goofy idea from some goofy politician about how we can solve our global warming or how we can solve all our racial problems or how we can solve all our need for fossil fuel or how we can solve all the international conflicts that we are facing or how we can solve the internal breakdown of society with the rule of law being ignored. **Satan is in the reeducation business and he's trying to reeducate people to think in a different way, not God's way. You can't solve problems apart from God, it's not possible.** Because of Satan's rulership in this world is why we have these problems. You live in the Church Age and this age exists for us to challenge Satan during the absence of the Lord Jesus Christ on the earth. Christ is in heaven at the right hand of the Father,

but don't worry, He's coming back. While He's not here, we are to re-present Christ to the world. We are to re-present Christ to our friends and challenge Satan during this time, not to go on the offensive but to stand our ground. Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father and the Church exists to utilize all the divine power God has available so we can defeat Satan's purposes. I want you to understand because of the great power experiment of the Church Age, this time you live in, this dispensation is a crossroads in history. We call it the intensified stage of the angelic conflict. This is the final blow to Satan's power on earth in the spiritual realm. When this Church Age is over, when the Lord Jesus Christ returns after the seven years of the Tribulation, Satan is locked up in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years. We have the opportunity to stand against Satan. We have the opportunity to glorify God by lifting up the Lord Jesus Christ as the Light of the world. We have the opportunity to preserve our nation by being salt, the preservative of the nation. But only as a mature believer, not some game-playing Christian, not some caricature of Christ, the real thing, the real person. **Satan's power on earth in the physical realm will never be broken completely until the Lord Jesus Christ comes back at the Second Advent. In the meantime, we live in the most exciting, the most wonderful, the most unusual period of history.** The fact that we are declining today in America is a reminder that God has a purpose for our life in all of this. It's a challenge for us *"To grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). It's a wonderful time to live! But those that reject Jesus Christ as Savior have no other choice than to be sucked into the cosmic system, to live under control of cosmos diabolicus, and they will reject the laws of establishment. Whenever a person gets into this system where he rejects all the laws of establishment, he begins to think in terms of the cosmic system and the chaos. He is a worthless person with a worthless life because his thinking is now under demonic influence. He has a worthless mind and this is talked about in the Bible in many places. **For example, the worthless mind is the status of reversionism known as the blackout of the soul for Christians. It's possible that a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ can get involved in sin, buy into the lies of the cosmic system, and scar up his soul.** Therefore Ephesians 4:17 says, *"This I say therefore and testify in the Lord that you should not walk like the Gentiles walk in the emptiness of their mind,"* the futility of their mind, the empty mind. You're told to have the mind of Christ. You're told to *"Stop thinking in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think, but think in terms of humility as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word"* (Romans 12:3). When people have futility of mind, they are not thinking. **You're either going to live by what you think or live by what you feel.** Most of the bad decisions you make, you make based on what you feel. People that have a worthless mind, Ephesians 4:18 says, *"They have their understanding darkened."* Are they alienated from the life of God because of their sin? No, this is not what it is saying. *"Because of the ignorance that is in them from the blindness of their own heart."* How do you blind yourself? The word blindness is a wrong translation. It's the Greek word *porosis* and it's a word for being calloused or hardened. **When people buy into the cosmos diabolicus and start to operate under this system instead of divine viewpoint, they scar up their souls.** They get into areas

they don't need to get into. They justify sin and don't accept that it is wrong. They say, "It's okay I can go ahead and do it." The end result is that they no longer feel guilt and they no longer feel shame. This is what it means to be hardened in the heart. **The worthless mind is a hard heart that doesn't feel any sort of conviction from the Holy Spirit.** Let me say this. If you're a Christian and you have believed in Jesus Christ and you are personally involved in a sinful encounter right now and it doesn't bother you, you've got a real serious problem. You're probably under divine discipline and you may be on your way out under the sin unto death until you wake up and realize what you're doing. This is how sin works, it hardens your heart. It makes you to where you don't feel any conviction from the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is quenched and grieved by your repetitive sin and your involvement in whatever it is you're involved in. It could be an adulterous affair, it could be pornography, it could be theft, it could be political systems, whatever. If you're a believer and you're in it, it is possible that your heart has become hard so that you don't even feel wrong about it anymore and you have justified why it's okay to do it now. Listen to Romans 1:28, this is how the worthless mind works and evil takes over, *"And since in full knowledge they rejected God after careful examination of Him, God delivered them over to a worthless mind to do those things [evil things] which are improper."* If you will read Romans 1:26-28, you will find that the person that gets involved in this immorality has a worthless mind, a mind that's not worth anything. They can't make any decisions that are accurate. They have scar tissue of their heart. Their soul becomes blacked out. They are separated from the plan of God and it's a sad state of affairs because they die trying to justify why they're right and the world is wrong. **If you reject the Word of God in your life you have a worthless mind.** It's called lukewarm in Revelation 3:14-20. *"To the angel of the church of the Laodiceans, write this. These things says the Amen, the Faithful, the true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God. 'I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. So then because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth because you say, "I'm rich and have become wealthy and I have need of nothing," and you do not know you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich, and white garments [that's the glory, shining in eternity in the white garments] that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed. Anoint your eyes [open your eyes] that you can see [yourself as you really are]. Because as many as I love, I rebuke and I chasten [that's divine discipline]. Therefore be zealous and repent [change your mind]. Behold, I'm standing at the door knocking. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me.'" This is not a salvation verse, this is a verse for believers that are out of fellowship with God with a worthless mind, sucked into the cosmos diabolicus, falling for the plan of Satan. Hebrews 5:11-14 says the worthless mind is unteachable. *"Of whom we have much to say, it's hard to explain since you have become dull of hearing. For by this time you ought to be teachers yourself. You now need someone to come back to teach you again the very first principles of the oracles from God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who**

partakes only of milk is unskilled in the Word of righteousness, for he's a baby. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." and this is not meaning good and bad. Good is human good and evil is the genius of Satan. **This is what the genius of Satan produces, human good.** Ephesians 2:8 clearly says, *"For by grace are you saved through faith, not by works."* Human good is works. If you think you can go to heaven by being a good person or in the end God's going to weigh all your bad and weigh all your good and you're going to come out on the good side, wrong. The only way you will ever set foot into heaven is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross for you. This is the only way. The unteachable mind is a worthless mind, dull of hearing, can't concentrate, can't pay attention to the Bible. He's too busy thinking about other things and the result is he's a casualty in the angelic conflict, where God wants you to be a warrior. God wants you to stand up and be counted. **God wants you to represent the Lord Jesus Christ, to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.** Galatians 5:4 says, *"You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by the Law; you have fallen from God's grace,"* worthless, a casualty in the angelic conflict. In Philippians 3:18 the believer out of fellowship is the enemy of the cross. Paul said, *"For many walk of whom I told you often, and now tell you again even weeping, they are enemies of the cross of Christ."* The worthless mind has left his first love, *"Nevertheless I have this against you, you left your first love"* (Revelation 2:4). He's shipwrecked, 1 Timothy 1:19 says. *"Having faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and concerning faith have suffered shipwreck of their souls."* Worthless Christians with worthless minds, their lives amount to nothing. They just occupy space. They are nothing but trouble for their family, nothing but trouble for those around them. Because they are so self-centered and so arrogant, they have an unrealistic self-image of who they are and what they are. They are members of the cosmos diabolicus. They are operating under Satan's viewpoint, under Satan's plan, human viewpoint, not divine viewpoint, not the plan of God. I hope this is not you. I want you to wake up and consider what I'm saying today. **You cannot afford to be trapped in the cosmos diabolicus.** You must wake up. You have an opportunity to shine as bright as the stars when you get to heaven. You don't want to get there and hear the Lord tell you, "Oh, have a seat over there. I'll see you in a few thousand years." You want to hear Him say, *"Well done My good and My faithful servant."* I hope you're listening. This show is designed to help you grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If you're listening wherever you may be, as we get to the time to sign new contracts would you just let us hear from you. Send us a email through our website. That way we will get an idea who's listening in what cities and will know where to extend our contracts and pay for an additional year. Thank you. Next week, same time, same place, looking forward to seeing you then. Until then, this is Rick Hughes, host of The FLOT Line, thank you for listening.

Will America Be Destroyed

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 848 aired on November 21, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stick round. We're going to cover a subject that is very critical, very important - will America be destroyed? There can be no doubt, the future of this great nation is in the balance. Every day we see indicators that alarm us in regard to the direction in which we are headed. Chaos in the immigration sector, confusion in the health field, consternation in regard to food and fuel, and conflict with foreign forces, combative politics that we see every day in the news, and enemies wondering who is actually in control over here. I believe that the determining factor of what will happen to this country is based on the course of our spiritual direction, not who's running the country. It is based on what we are thinking in our souls. There is no doubt at one time we were very Christian oriented, that's the United States of America I'm speaking about. Great evangelists traveled back and forth across America holding massive crusades, calling people to Christ in the 40s all the way through the turn-of-the-century. However, religion got into politics and many preachers became performers and that was the end of this. Terrible wars like World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, along with financial suffering, drove many people to their knees asking God for protection and for deliverance. Then great prosperity called many of these same people into a lifestyle of lasciviousness and greed. See preoccupation with gifts and forgetting the Giver is the trend that led us into the valley of spiritual decline and the coming destruction of this great nation if in fact it does happen. If we lose the great client nation United States of America either through military defeat or internal chaos, the question has to be answered, exactly whose fault was it? I believe the blame is twofold. **The failure of pastors across this land to teach the accurate mechanics to salvation and the spiritual life.** Ritual without reality won't cut it. We don't need performers, we need instructors. **And the failure of believers to be the light and the salt of this nation.** What I want to do in this radio show is look at these two areas very closely and remind you, we are at a crossroads in history. It is very possible what we know as a free United States of America may not exist in the next few years. It won't be the fault of any politician. It won't be the fault of the Democrats or the Republicans. **The destruction of America will be our fault because we did not advance our spiritual lives, we did not do our part.** I'm going to show you where it says this in the Bible. Let's look at these two areas very closely. First of all, you may have heard me say there's a great FOG across America. **F.O.G. is an acronym for three things: F failure of spiritual leadership; O open rebellion to the rule of law; and G God's Word is rejected and ignored.** Let's start with the failure of pastors to teach God's Word and this does not imply that all men who pastor churches are failing to teach the Bible. There is no doubt that many are not spending time studying or teaching the Word of God to their congregations. One of the greatest distractions of the religious community that I find is Christian activism. In other words, churches and Christians trying to clean up the devil's world. Here's something that might shock you, listen

carefully now. It's not your vote that will change our future. It's your spiritual life that will change our future. **When Christians grow to spiritual maturity their impact as members of the pivot is what God uses to bless this land.** Why does He do this? It's called an invisible impact. These invisible heroes also leave an historical impact. It's true that we are sheep and sheep need a shepherd to protect them, a shepherd to nurture them, and your pastor is your shepherd assigned by God to feed you and watch over you. Listen to what the Scripture says in Acts 20:28, *"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you an overseer. Be shepherds of the church of God which He bought with His own blood."* Then in 1 Peter 5:2, *"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them, not because you must but because you are willing as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve."* Let me say this again, *"Not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve."* God does not condone or allow any pastor to make a fortune off of His name. In Jeremiah 23:1-2, *"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture," declares the Lord. Therefore, this is what the Lord, the God of Israel said to the shepherds who tend to My people, 'Because you have scattered My flock, you have driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,' declares the Lord."* This was a different time and a different generation, it's not the Church Age, it's the age of Israel, but listen again, *"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture," declares the Lord."* This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who are suppose to be watching over His people, *"Because you have scattered My flock, you have driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the Lord."* These three verses I have read to you, Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:2, and Jeremiah 23:1-2 indicate God's instruction to those who shepherd His flock, the flock being believers, you and me. The shepherd, the pastor must feed his sheep if they're going to grow and produce. I've said it before and I'll say it again, if the song service is longer than the preacher's message, you're getting gypped. Sadly, unrealistically, some pastors have these unrealistic demands from the congregation who want special attention. They want the preacher to come have tea with them. If a pastor is doing his job, he doesn't have time to run around and hold everybody's hand. It's true people get sick, get in the hospital, and they want the pastor to come pray with them and pray over them as if this is going to produce some kind of miracle. If you are a spiritually mature believer, you don't need somebody coming down there saying, "My brother died with it but you'll make it, hang in there." You need to be able to stand on your own two feet spiritually, glorify God with your thinking and decisions, and not insist that some pastor come hold your hand and pray over you. I believe this with all my heart and I see this happening more and more. Pastors need to be studying, need to be spending time in the Word, but they can't because of the unrealistic expectations of the congregation demanding personal attention. The cosmic system, cosmos diabolicus, you've heard me talk about it, this system is a recruiting tool for Satan. The lure of the world, the cosmic system, calls believers to chase the dream, the dream to achieve financial security, the dream to be happy. Sadly, unfortunately, happiness is not found

in people, it's not found in circumstances. The Lord Jesus Christ made it clear in Luke 11:28, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it."* Even pastors who are forced to work along with their pastoral responsibilities are subject to buying into this thinking. I've seen pastors that fleece their congregation trying to sell them things or get involved in multilevel sales. Ministers are not called to be paupers, but they are also not allowed to fleece the sheep. Let's notice Hosea 4:6, this is why God might allow a nation such as us to fall, a client nation. **America is a client nation to God. We represent God across this world. We are a haven to the Jews. We protect His Word. We send out missionaries all over the world.** This is a client nation to God. If we go down and it's very likely, it looks like we are, let me tell you why we're going to go down. No, it's not what you think. It's not because there's a lot of sin, not because there's a lot of murder, not because there's a lot of immorality. Listen to this passage in Hosea 4:6 as to why God may allow a client nation like us to fall. *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you forgot the laws of your God, I also will forget your children."* Oh-oh, *"I also will forget your children."* **Principle - by failing to learn, failing to execute the Christian life you are guaranteeing the poverty and the hardship of your children and grandchildren in the future.** In other words, you have got to gain knowledge in order to execute the Christian life. But knowledge of what, what kind of knowledge? This knowledge is called the protocol plan of God. Who is it that is designed to teach you this knowledge? Well obviously it's your shepherd, it's your pastor. How is it going today in client nation USA? Does it look like they're doing a good job? Does it look like we're holding the enemy back? I mean Satan has succeeded in getting God kicked out of all our public schools. Satan has managed to replace all of the good, divine establishment oriented policies with his kind of social mandates which try to impose unity and equity among the students and their families. It hasn't always been this way, it's changed. It changed a long time ago when we got into politics as Christians instead of teaching, learning, and living God's Word. So many churches have now become miniature Dolly Worlds, I hate to say it but it's true. They do it in order to attract new members. Ministers that you know and I know are writing and selling books, buying jet airplanes, building massive churches, even paying professional performers to entertain their congregation while they're serving coffee and doughnuts. Is this true? Absolutely it's true. In spite of this sort of distorted view that I'm painting with my word picture to you, there are many wonderful churches evangelizing and teaching but are they enough? We have over 332 million citizens but how many of these citizens of the United States are on the road to becoming mature believers and taking their place within the pivot? Could there be 33,200,000 mature believers in our nation? Why do I say this figure, 33,200,000? Because that's 10% of 332 million citizens. Do we have this many mature believers in America? You answer the question. What about 5%? Are there 16,600,000 mature believers in America? Or 1%? Would you say there are 3,320,000 mature believers in America? What would it take for God to spare this nation, for God to deliver us from the incoming doom and disaster that we're facing politically, militarily, financially? In Genesis 18:23-33 you'll find what God did

with Abraham, *“Abraham came near to God [and this is in regard to Sodom and Gomorrah] and he said, ‘Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous people in that city, will You indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from You [Abraham said] to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?’ The Lord said, ‘If I find in Sodom fifty righteous people within the city, I will spare the whole place on their account.’ Abraham replied, ‘Now behold I have ventured to speak to the Lord although I am but dust and ashes. Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?’ And He said, ‘I will not destroy it if I find forty-five righteous people living there.’ Abraham spoke to the Lord again and said, ‘Suppose forty are found there?’ And He said, ‘I will not do it on the account of the forty.’ And then he said, ‘O Lord, do not be angry and I will speak; suppose thirty are found?’ And He said, ‘I will not do it if I can find thirty.’ And then he said, ‘I have ventured to speak to the Lord. Now suppose there are twenty righteous people?’ And He said, ‘I will spare it if there are twenty.’ Then he said, ‘O, may the Lord not be angry and I shall speak this once again; suppose ten are found?’ And He said, ‘I will not destroy it on account of ten righteous people.’ As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham, the Lord departed and Abraham returned to his place.”* You know the story, there were none righteous found in Sodom and Gomorrah, not one. The whole town was melted and Lot was told to leave and not to look back. What are these verses implying that I just read to you? Here it is. How many righteous people will it take for God to spare us? What are righteous people? Who are the righteous people I'm talking about? Righteous people have the righteousness of Christ imputed to them at salvation and they are growing to spiritual maturity, becoming members of the pivot. Have you made this decision to believe in Jesus Christ? 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *“He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him.”* This is how you get this righteousness we're talking about. Are you a member of the royal family of God and are you a mature believer that can make up the pivot and sustain the nation? That's the question. Remember Gideon only needed 300 to defeat the Midianites and Amalekites, the number which Judges 7:12 said, *“Were as numerous as locusts.”* He didn't need millions, he didn't need thousands, he just needed 300. **If we are going to avoid destruction from God's divine discipline, we must have a pivot of mature believers. This means either you are part of the solution or you are part of the problem. Which one is it? It's the job of the pastor to recruit and train the pivot so they can stand against the forces of Satan in the cosmic system.** At this very moment we are involved in the angelic conflict and we must step up. We must represent the Lord Jesus Christ in the conflict. Listen to what God said in Ezekiel 22:30. *“I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land so that I would not destroy it, but I found no one”* “I could not even find one,” God said, “that would stand up and be righteous.” The Northern Kingdom of Israel had sinned and forsaken God, much like we've done today, and as a result God was about to punish them and disperse

them among the nations. Can one man deliver a nation from divine discipline? Could it be you? Could it be your spiritual life? Ecclesiastes 9:14-17, *“There was a small city with few men in it and a great king came to it, surrounded it, and constructed large siege works against it. But there was found in it a poor wise man and he delivered the city by his wisdom. Yet no one remembered that poor man. So I [Solomon] said, ‘Wisdom is better than strength.’ But the wisdom of the poor man is despised and his words are not listened to. The words of the wise heard in quietness are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools.”* Principle, learn it quickly. **A pastor who teaches God's Word consistently and accurately can be that one wise man who can raise up many other wise men and women whose spiritual lives can indeed hold back the wrath of God.** Every week I get calls, emails from people just like yourself across the country, from Maine to California looking for a well-qualified pastor in their area. People that are hungry to grow but they have no spiritual food available. Oh, there are churches around them, most of which have ritual without reality, but very few faithful Bible teachers who proclaim faith alone in Christ alone. In these cases what I do is refer them to my own pastor who makes all of his messages available either online via streaming or on DVDs, MP3s or USB drives and they are free. You can get these messages and study them at home with a cup of coffee, a notebook, and a Bible and grow this way if you can't find a church. Ask the Lord to show you to your right pastor. The failure that I want to talk about now is the second stage of why we might be defeated, the failure of believers to re-present Jesus Christ. In Matthew 5:13-16, *“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 men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand and it gives it light to all who are in the house. So let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”* Our Lord uses these two metaphors to inspire His followers in their mission to re-present God to the lost world. When you talk about salt, it's a preservative and it's a flavor enhancer. **The salt metaphor is the mature believer preserving his client nation by means of his invisible and historical impact as a member of the pivot. His spiritual life holds back God's national discipline and instead brings national blessing. The light metaphor is the concept of enlightenment, the mature believer illuminates the cross of Christ and His victory over death by means of the Resurrection.** The cosmic system loves to function in the darkness and our job is to light up Jesus Christ in contrast to the darkness of the cosmic system. In Acts 26:18, *“Open the eyes of them so that they may turn from the darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sin and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”* In Ephesians 5:13, *“But all things become visible when they're exposed to the light for everything that becomes visible is light.”* In John 3:19, *“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world and men loved the darkness rather than the Light for their deeds were evil.”* A mature believer, I'm asking you to be this person, will be a beacon of hope to a lost nation. You will be the light to the world, this is

your job. You can be a beacon of hope to this nation. Your mature spiritual life will attract and draw folks to you. Imagine going down a dark road at night and you have automobile trouble, your car breaks down, you're stuck, and your cell phone is out of range and won't work. You are wondering, "What do I do? How do I get help?" You look across the field and there's a house with a light on it. You go to the light. You go to get help. This is what you must be. **You must be the light in the dark world, the light that re-presents Jesus Christ. Others must be able to see Christ in you, that's why you must learn and deploy the FLOT line in your soul. The FLOT line, God's 10 problem-solving devices, are the essence of how to live the Christian life.** They are part of the mechanics to the Christian life. Rebound, confessing your sin, handles your sin problem. The filling the Holy Spirit deals with the problem of your genetically formed sin nature. The faith-rest drill deals with the problem of unexplained circumstances. And there is grace orientation, Biblical orientation, a personal sense of destiny, personal love for God, impersonal love for all, sharing the happiness of God, and occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ. These are the unique problem-solving devices we have. As a mature believer, if you operate in this sphere of having a FLOT line in your soul, you attract and draw people to yourself. There's something else I need to warn you about, darkness hates light. Why? Because light exposes sin. This is why as a mature believer you will be demonized, you will be marginalized, and maybe even put to death because of your testimony. In John 16:1-4 listen to what the Lord Jesus Christ told the disciples, *"These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. These things they will do because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have spoken to you, so that when the hour comes [that's the hour of your death], you will remember that I told you it was coming. These things I did not say to you at the beginning because I was with you to comfort you,"* and now He alerts them. This is how serious it is. **We are in an angelic conflict. Satan is a known murderer and a known liar. He will do all that he can to keep control in the darkness and to keep darkness over the world. The FOG that crosses this nation is real and we must wake up.** We must realize it. Will America be destroyed, that's how we started this show, or will America survive? Will we be destroyed? I can't say for sure but I can look at the trends of history and see we are on a dead end street. We're barreling down this dead-end street, 90 miles an hour, and if something doesn't change we will not survive. What does the change require? You getting serious about your spiritual life, studying under a well-qualified pastor on a daily basis, staying filled with the Holy Spirit, walking by faith, re-presenting Jesus Christ, and you becoming the light of the world and the salt of the nation. You are the only thing that will deliver us. This is why I brought you this message today. I pray you're listening and paying attention because you are the solution. Not your vote, your spiritual life is the solution. Will you do it? Will you stand in the gap and make up the hedge? Will you be this person? I'm reminded of Isaiah 6:8, *"Here am I, send me."* **"Lord, here am I, send me." Will this be your prayer today?** Until next week I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

Key Volitional Decisions

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 849 aired on November 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. It will be a short 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education, always done without any manipulation. We don't solicit money. We don't hustle people to join anything. We're not trying to get you to fess it up, give it up, not to do anything but listen up as I try to give you insight into the Word of God and how you can understand, verify, and identify God's plan for your life. If you want to do this, you are free to orient and adjust to the plan. That's up to you. My job is to be accurate, to get it right in a no-nonsense sort of way. I hope you're enjoying the show. I love to hear from you. Today we want to talk about one of the most critical things in your life. I don't get into politics. I'm not here to solve any political problems. I want to get into your thinking and how you think. I want to talk about the word that starts with V, it is volition. Volition is part of your soul that God gave you. God gave you a body, a soul, a human spirit. In this soul you have mentality. This is the ability to think and logic, reason, and comprehend. You have volition, a conscience and self-consciousness. The volition is what we want to talk about today because you are a product of your volitional decisions. There are many decisions we have to make in life and some are critical, some are not. Every decision that we make has a lasting effect in our memory and in our actions. Like me, you can probably think back when you were young and remember things that you did and maybe you are not able to do them anymore. They are fragrant memories, sweet memories, and you remember these things. Your volition took you there, you did it and you remember it. Some of the results were good, some of the results not so good. There are some things you would probably like to forget you did. You might have even surprised yourself. It's really sad when people do things that they didn't think they were capable of doing and then somehow they get to thinking that God gave up on them. God has not given up on you. **If you're alive and you're listening to my voice, God still has a plan for your life.** He has not thrown you under the bus. You might have done something stupid, we all have, but He still has a plan for your life. The driving force is your volition mixed with your desires. Every action that you do starts with a thought and moves to an action and usually it's about your priorities. For example, in my life I finally came to a place where priorities were more important than my passions. If you've listened to this show very long, you know that I love bass fishing and I was a very successful angler in local tournament competitions. Several of my friends encouraged me to go beyond local events and try national competition. However, that would have required travel to different states and big entry fees and my ministry to schools across the Southeast already required me to be on the road at least twenty weeks out of every year. To do something else, I would have had to give up something and it boiled down to my passion versus my priorities. Yes, I love to fish, I love to compete in tournaments, but it wasn't my priority. My priority was what God called me to do. So how could I give up God's calling to chase a dream that man offers? That's what I mean when I

say life requires decisions and choices. I know some people today that could be in the ministry, that could be great communicators of the Word of God, but they chose to go into the entertainment field. They chose to go into other areas. I'm sure at some point in their life they will turn around and regret it. It may have already happened in your life. You went down a road you didn't want to go down and it left you in a place you didn't want to be. You made a decision, you made a choice. You used your volition. The greatest decision I ever made, the number one, single greatest decision I ever made was to become a Christian. That's the night I heard God loved me, that He sent His Son to pay for my sins, and I understood that particular night that I had to make a choice. Would I accept Jesus Christ as my Savior or would I put it off? It needed to be done that night, not a week from then, that night. Right there at that place. In my volition I made the decision. I didn't know it was my volition at the time. I didn't understand the terminology but I knew that I made a decision that night to pray and ask God to save me. It was a simple prayer. I think it was called the sinner's prayer and when I prayed that prayer I didn't feel anything. The lights didn't flicker, no angel spoke to me, but my life was changed forever. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"If any man is in Christ Jesus, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away and behold, all things have become new."* That's the night that Rick Hughes became a new person in Christ Jesus. Likewise, you're the product of your decisions. Proverbs 23:7 says, *"As a man thinks in his heart, so he is."* Hosea 8:7 says, *"They sow to the wind and they reap the whirlwind."* This is all about your volitional decisions. I want to ask you one simple question. It's an easy question for you to answer with a yes or no. If you died tonight, would you go to heaven? You may think it's impossible to know this for sure but that's not true. It is possible. **You can know for sure that you will have eternal life with God.** How can I know it for sure? In 1 John 5:11-13 the Word of God records these words, *"This is the testimony that God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life and he who does not have the Son of God does not have life [we're speaking about eternal life]. These things I have written unto you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."* This verse in 1 John 5:11-13 guarantees you eternal life based on your volitional decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to accept Him as your Savior. John 1:12 clearly says, *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."* **In Romans 10:13, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." This volitional decision is the single most important decision you will ever make.** I would like to ask you a question again. I asked you one question, if you died tonight would you go to heaven? If the answer was, "I don't know," or the answer was, "I'm not sure," if the answer was, "I want to but I don't know how," I'm going to ask you to pray with me right now, a simple prayer, and ask you to receive Christ this very moment as I'm speaking to you over the radio. Let's do it now. If you would like to know for sure you are going to heaven, nail it down, be positive that you're going to heaven, let's pray together now. **Silently repeat this prayer after me, "Heavenly Father, I believe Your Son Jesus Christ is my Savior. I am willing to accept Him as my Lord. I believe He died for me and I receive Him today. In**

Christ's name. Amen." These words were simple. They could have been different words but they are simple. This was you expressing yourself to God and this was you asking God to save you. Remember John 1:12 says, *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God to those who believe in His name."* You just received Christ as your Savior. By this simple act of faith, you appealed to God and Romans 10:13 says, *"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* You did it, right now you just did it, and you just received eternal life. You just started on a journey that will never end. It's amazing that your volition can do this for you. **This is the single greatest decision you will ever make.** If you did this, if you prayed a simple prayer with me like this, will you contact me as soon as possible and let me know? I'll send you a book called *A Crash Course In Christianity*. It's brand-new, we just got it off the press, and anybody that wants to have the book can ask for it and it's free of course. Now, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself made a volitional decision in regard to your faith when He said this, *"I will never leave you, I will never forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5). This is His decision He's making in regard to you. He lives in you now. *"Christ in you the hope of glory"* (Colossians 1:27). He is in you and that's a divine promise from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, He will never leave you. This promise is rooted in the Scripture. Listen carefully, John 3:16-18, *"For God so loved the world [that's you and me] that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* You just expressed your faith to God. **You just told God you believe His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the Savior of the world and you asked to be saved. You have eternal life.** You will never be condemned. God the Father used His very own volition to sacrifice His only Son and He also uses volition to guarantee you'll never lose that free gift. You made your volitional decision to receive Christ. Christ made a volitional decision to go to the cross and promises He will never leave you. God the Father made a volitional decision to send Christ to die for you. It's wonderful. **Your volition is very important because it guards the gate to your soul, the mentality of your soul, the thinking of your soul.** Your volition must stay intact. It must stay clean. It must make good and proper decisions. This does not happen overnight. **If you are willing to dedicate yourself to becoming a mature believer, it requires a series of volitional decisions every day. The first one is are you willing to name your sins on a moment by moment basis? This is problem-solving device #1, rebound.** I surprised myself after I got saved when I sinned. It didn't take too long either and boom. I thought I was saved and now look what I just did. You will sin. 1 John 1:9 says, *"If we will confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all of our unrighteousness."* It could be a mental attitude sin such as fear or anger. It could be a sin of the tongue such as maligning or gossiping or lying or criticizing. It could be an overt sin, something you do outwardly, it could be adultery, it could be pornography, it could be theft, it could be a lot of different things. You can go to the Father and admit your sin

to Him and He will forgive you, I promise you this. See, sin breaks fellowship with God. Sin quenches the Holy Spirit and grieves the Holy Spirit. It's necessary for you to be willing to name your sin on a moment by moment basis, not when you go to bed at night. Immediately when you realize you've committed a sin, then stop and ask God to cleanse you. Just tell Him, "Father, I lied. Father, I lusted. Father, I was afraid." **This is 1 John 1:9, you are naming your sin to God. Then are you willing to discipline yourself and use your volition to study God's Word every day under a well-qualified pastor?** Not play games with God, but seriously devote time every day to feed on the Word of God and to metabolize what you learn so you can become a member of the pivot. To metabolize means to cycle it into energy. Just like you eat food, it has to be metabolized. **The Word of God comes into your mind, you understand it, you comprehend it, and then you have to apply it. This is the metabolization of the Word of God.** When it's applied it's called wisdom. Are you willing to spend some time every day to feed on the Word of God? This is going to require a volitional decision on your behalf, and there will be tons of distractions, tons of reasons why you don't have to do this. 2 Timothy 2:15 mandates, "*Study to show yourself approved [not disapproved] unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed [not embarrassed], rightly dividing the Word of God.*" In other words, God wants you to learn His plan. He wants you to study, learn and apply it so that you don't have to be ashamed of your failures. Study is an imperative verb in this passage and it's a command. That means this is not a request, it's a command. You may say, "Well, how much am I suppose to study? I mean I do a little ten minute devotion at the start of every day." That's not enough. To study the Word of God daily means that you take in the Word of God from a qualified pastor on a consistent basis. I'm not talking about a mere appetizer, I'm talking about a meal, the full meal served to you by a well-qualified pastor. You say, "How do I do this? My church only meets on Sunday and Wednesday." You're not getting enough. There are people that teach the Word of God and disseminate the information free of charge. It is possible for you to take a cup of coffee, sit down at your kitchen table or your desk with a notebook and a Bible, and take in the Word of God every day. I know because I do it myself studying from my pastor and you can do it just like me. **Are you willing to stand boldly and claim Christ publicly?** This is a volitional decision. In Matthew 10:32, "*Therefore, whoever confesses Me before men, him will I also confess before My Father which is in heaven.*" **1 Peter 3:15, "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you along with meekness and fear."** I can remember people coming up to me in a restaurant saying, "Are you praying?" Yes, I'm praying. Are you embarrassed to bow your head and pray when you're with your comrades at a meal? I know, you're thinking, "I pray but I don't bow my head. I don't close my eyes." Are you willing to publicly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is your Lord? Are you willing to publicly acknowledge that you are a Christian? What does this mean when it says, "*Give a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear?*" Hope is the word *elpis*. It means confidence in the Greek, absolutely confident that you're going to heaven. You're confident that God forgives you for your sin. You're confident in the plan of God and you talk

about it with meekness and fear. Meekness is the Greek word *prautes*. It means gentleness. It means you don't browbeat people. You don't take a Bible, hit them over the head and say, "You're going to go to hell if you keep smoking that cigarette brother." This is not what the Bible says. "You're going to go to hell if you drink that beer brother," and you wave a Bible in front of them. This is not what the Bible says. This is not being meek. Being meek means gentleness, concern, care and compassion. **Look at the person in front of you. He may be lost, dying and going to hell. God didn't send you to straighten him out. God sent you to give him the answer.** God sent you to give him the life preserver, Jesus Christ the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). You are to do it very gently. You could ask a simple question, "If you died today would you go to heaven?" And see what they say. Maybe they'll be angry about it. Maybe they'll be embarrassed about it. Maybe they won't give you an answer but if they say, "No," you could say, "Would you like to know how?" If they say, "Yes," you can take them to the same verse that I took you to, 1 John 5:11-13. You can show them in the Bible where they can know for sure they have eternal life and you can help them pray the sinner's prayer and watch them receive Christ as their Savior. This is "*in meekness and in fear.*" The Greek word for fear is *phobos* and it means respect or fear of displeasing God. You don't want to displease God which means you don't want to do the wrong thing. **One of the worst things you could do is to misrepresent God, to give someone an inaccurate salvation interpretation and misrepresent Him.** What do I mean by this? To give a soul saving message of salvation is an awesome responsibility but you have to get it right and you have to present it in the right way. First of all, do not ever mix any sort of works with salvation. Don't tell this guy or gal that they can go to heaven if they give up what they're doing. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "*For by grace are you saved through faith, it's a gift from God not of works lest anybody brag about it.*" Don't tell somebody they've got to quit drinking to go to heaven, they've got to quit smoking to go to heaven, they've got to quit cussing to go to heaven, this is not true. This is not how you get saved so don't mix up works with salvation. Never confuse baptism with salvation. Baptism is an identification with the Lord Jesus Christ but it's not the means of how you get saved. Listen to the Apostle Paul, "*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also to the Greek*" (Romans 1:16). **What's the power of God unto salvation? The gospel. What's the gospel? The death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.** Now listen to what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:17 in regard to baptism, "*God did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of words lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.*" Don't ever confuse baptism with salvation, they are not the same thing. A person who receives Christ as Savior may indeed be baptized, but this is not how he gets saved. Baptism is a sign that he's been saved, that he's identifying with Christ. **Another volitional decision you have to make is will you finish the race by keeping your priorities straight?** Listen to Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7, "*I fought a good fight, I finished my course, I kept the faith.*" There will be many distractions along the way. The flesh will demand that you fulfill the lust patterns you have. The world will serenade you with its lure of happiness found in the details of

life. Last but not least, Satan will attempt to divert and defeat you since you are in a spiritual war. Will you finish the race? You're not going to live a perfect life. No one lives a perfect life. **We all sin, we all fail, but we've got to get up and keep moving.** We don't go sit in the corner and cry and say, "Oh, I let God down. I did something so bad, God doesn't love me anymore." This is not true. You must finish the race. You must get up when you fail. You must rebound your sin, confess it to God. You must stay filled with the Holy Spirit. You must get back into the Word of God. **Keep moving forward and don't look back.** Paul said, "*Forgetting those things that are behind me, I press forward toward the prize*" (Philippians 3:13). **The prize is to hear these words, "Well done My good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:23).** Now the final challenge. **Do you have the discipline and do you have the strength to walk alone if you need to?** Micah 6:8 says, "*He has answered you, O man, what is good and what does the Lord require of you [listen carefully] but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*" There are going to be times you will have to go it alone. Remember David said, "*Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for Thou art with me*" (Psalm 23:4). If you decide to become a mature believer, if you decide to become part of the pivot that helps deliver your nation in the future, you may have to go it alone. A lot of people are going to peel off and not stick with it. I know more that have peeled off than stuck with it, I promise you, and I have met thousands of people who told me they wanted to grow. They wanted to be this or that and two weeks later, you can't find them. In 1 Peter 2:21, "*For even hereunto were you called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow in His steps.*" He went alone for you and me. In Matthew 10:35, "*For I am come to set a man at variance against his daughter and the daughter against her mother and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law and a man's foe shall be they of his own household.*" It's possible that your spouse might not see it like you do. It's possible they will be offended that you want to study the Word of God on a consistent basis. It's possible they are going to demand you stop doing this because they have needs of you. **You need to be willing to go it alone even though your family and your friends may turn against you.** These are key volitional decisions you must make. You don't have to decide them all right now. **You made the decision to believe in Christ. Now you have to make the decision to rebound consistently - make the decision to take in the Word of God - make the decision to grow in grace and knowledge - be willing to stand boldly for the Lord Jesus Christ - and have the strength to go it alone.** Then there will come a time when you're going to be called on to go it alone. I hope you're not afraid to do this. I hope you're willing to stand firm and to glorify God. I thank you for listening to me today. We have a new book called *A Crash Course in Christianity*. It is free. If you'd like a copy of this book, don't hesitate to go to the website and order it or simply write us or call us. Tell us you want the book *A Crash Course In Christianity*. Until next week now, I'm your host Rick Hughes. Pray for us that we'll be back same time, same place, same channel giving you another message from the Word of God. Thank you for being with me today. I appreciate it very much.

The Word of God in Your Heart

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 850 aired on December 5, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. If you're new to the show, FLOT stands for the forward line of troops. What we're teaching is that there are 10 unique problem-solving devices found in the Bible, nothing that I discovered. My pastor taught them years ago. If you learn them and use them, they will keep the outside sources of adversity from becoming the inside sources of stress. We all know adversity is inevitable but a lot of people don't realize stress is optional because adversity is certainly what circumstances do you and stress is what you do to yourself. This is why the Christian life is so unique, a wonderful way to live without worry, without fear, without bitterness, without antagonism, without revenge motivation, this is a relaxed mental attitude. This is living a great Christian life and this is living the life the Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated you can live. Listen to The FLOT Line and learn and take advantage of the materials we offer for free as listed on our website. Such as our new book called *A Crash Course in Christianity*. I'm really proud of this book. It organizes a Christian's life by the three phases: salvation, time and eternity. We also have a new book called *Christian Problem Solving* which deals with the 10 problem-solving devices. We have the *Transcripts* books, transcripts of every radio show we did in the year 2020 and every radio show we did during the year 2019. These transcripts are all available for you in book form. If you want them, they are free. All you have to do is contact us and we'll send them right on out to you. Today we're going to talk about something that is very dear to me. When I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior, one of the first things that happened is a football coach gave me a Bible. He told me that I needed to start reading that Bible and he said I probably should start reading in the book of John. Well, I took that small New Testament back to my apartment and my roommate thought I was nuts bringing a Bible home. I began to read the book of John and I found that God knew all about me in eternity past. A lot of things in that book sounded exactly like me and that's when I began to have a love affair with the Bible, with the Word of God, learning the Scripture. Now, I've never really tried to memorize Scripture. This has never been my forte, memorization. A lot of organizations like the Navigators talk about Scripture memorization, but I have memorized Scripture from repetition. As you hear it repeatedly you learn it and you repeat it and you learn it and you repeat it and you learn it. It's like the guy in the military learning to march when you hear it enough times, you can do it in your sleep. That's the way I've learned my Scripture, listening to my pastor teach it to me over and over and over, it sinks in and stays there. There's a Scripture that I have never forgotten and I want to give this Scripture to you today. **Remember this verse for the rest of your life, Psalm 119:11, "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart so that I might not sin against Thee."** Let's get some principles on this verse before we dissect it. **It was an instructional verse in the Psalms that gives us insight about how to avoid the lust of the flesh, our sin nature, the lures of the world, and the deceptive abilities of Satan, by hiding the Word of God in our heart.** Today we're going to find out what this means. Who wrote this?

It wasn't David, it was someone else, and the writer did not have the available spiritual assets that we have today because there was no filling of the Holy Spirit. There were no New Testament writings such as Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Romans, or Acts, nothing like this. The psalmist saying "*Thy Word have I hid in my heart*" is referring to the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. This includes the mandates of God, not just the big ten but the complete Codex One through Codex Three or what we call the 613 different mandates in the Law of Moses. Obviously nobody is going to memorize all 613 Laws of Moses but you might be able to recite the Ten Commandments which are the freedom code. There was also a dietary code, the military code, and much more. All of these were needed to ensure that the Israelites established and succeeded in the land that God had given to them. Today we have 66 books in the canon of Scripture, the Bible. There are passages in the Bible written to specific people, however, these are principles that are equally important to us, even though they were not written to us. For example, Psalm 119:11, the verse that we're studying, "*Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.*" Here's what we know about the Word of God or the Bible. We know this from Hebrews 4:12, "*For 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 of the joints and the marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*" Here the writer of Hebrews makes an analogy to the Bible and a Roman two-edged sword, not the *rhomphaia* which is a big one-edged sword, not the *xiphos* which is a small, little stabbing sword, but the Roman *makhaira*, the two-edged sword that conquered the world. It says here that, "***The Word of God is alive [works very effectively] and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and it divides our soul and our spirit and the joints and the marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and the intents of the heart.***" **When we hear the Word of God taught, it cuts into the mentality of our souls and the way we think.** It reveals what our thinking is like and it reveals when we have negative volition, when we are contrary to the will of God. **The Word of God reveals to us God's plan.** That's why it's like the two-edged sword. In 1 Peter 1:25 Peter wrote, "*The Word of the Lord endures forever and this is the Word by which the gospel was preached unto you.*" We'll talk more about this shortly. **The Bible will be with us for the rest of eternity.** I don't know if you realize this but it'll never go away. Why? The **words of God** found in the canon of Scripture are **alive**, this means they have a life of their own. They're **powerful**, this means they can overcome the darkness of this world. They are **sharp and discerners of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** The Word of God, when you learn it and put it into your soul, reveals to you who you really are. It's like a mirror and it lets you see yourself as you actually are. There is a poem called "The Man in the Mirror" about if the world made you king for a day, what would you do? The Word of God cuts right into your soul and shows you who you really are, not what people think you are, not what you dress up to be, but who you really are based on what you think. Proverbs 23:7 clearly says, "*As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.*" This is why the Word of God is alive and this is why it discerns what you're thinking. Now the writer of Psalm 119:11 wished to hide the Word of God in his heart so it would help him to resist sinning.

2 Corinthians 10:5 has something to say about this concept of controlling the thoughts in your heart. We're not talking about the heart that pumps blood in your chest but what's in your head is your heart, your *kardia*, and your mind, your *nous*. When the New Testament writers wrote about the heart, they were talking about the responsive part of the soul called the heart. The mind is where we receive information, *nous* is the Greek word, and in the heart, *kardia*, is where we store this information for use. When we are talking about the discerner of the heart, let's look at 2 Corinthians 10:5, "*Casting down imaginations, casting down every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*" **The Word of God controls what we think.** The Bible says that we are to think in divine viewpoint terms not human viewpoint. Human viewpoint is what the world would have you think. It's what Satan would like for you to think. It's the evil that's in this world, it's close to the truth but it's not the truth. Evil is very dangerous because it counterfeits God's plan. The Word of God taught accurately and clearly will help you bring your thoughts into captivity so that the lust of your flesh or the lures of the world or the deceptive tactics of Satan don't capture you and get you out of fellowship and cause you to crash and burn. Now, sin can be one of three things. It could be something that you think, it can be something that you say, and it can be something that you do. Remember, problem-solving device #1, rebound, deals with sin where 1 John 1:9 says, "*If we will confess our sin, God will be faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all wrongdoing.*" If you heard you would never sin again after you accepted Christ, they lied to you because 1 John 1:8 says, "*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*" I remember meeting a guy that told me he didn't sin anymore. I said you don't? "Nope, I don't sin. I got saved. I don't sin." By the time I got through talking to him, he was so angry he was sinning. He was ready to strangle me because I frustrated him. Yes, we all sin, but Romans 6:12-13 says this about our sin, "*Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you should obey it in the lusts thereof. And do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourself unto God as those who are alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*" See, you're alive from the dead. You were dead in your trespasses and sin and when you accepted Christ you were born again. So it says, "*As those who are alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*" And in Romans 6:14, "*For sin shall not have dominion over you for you are no longer under the law but under grace.*" I was talking to a person on the radio today in an interview and they wanted to tell me that we are still under the Mosaic Law. According to this verse, "*Sin shall not have dominion over you; for you are not under the law, but you are under grace.*" There it is clearly, right there in the Bible. I did not try to straighten this person out. I'm not in the business of straightening anybody out. I just said that's nice, thank you and let it go. You are not under the Mosaic Law. You are not going to heaven because you keep the Law. You cannot keep the Law. The only person that fulfilled the Law was the Lord Jesus Christ and this is why He was qualified to go to the cross and to pay for our sin. He was resurrected on the third day because He was the innocent Lamb of God without spot and without blemish that takes away

the sin of the world. “*Don't let sin control your mortal body so that you would obey it in the lusts thereof.*” Everybody has a lust pattern. Some people lust for money. Some people lust for sex. Some people lust for drugs. The worst lust is lust for power, such as we see with politicians. Lusting for power is evil because so many people want to control everybody else and tell them what to think, what to say, what to do, and we don't like this. I don't like it and you don't like it. What does it mean to, “*Hide the Word of God in your heart.*” Well, first of all you've got to possess it. You can't hide it if you don't own it. The Apostle Paul called the Bible a treasure. He said, “*We have this treasure in our earthly bodies*” (2 Corinthians 4:7). This is the Scripture that we've learned and applied. Here is exactly what sin does so you'll understand it. **Sin will steal your treasure of the Word of God in your soul.** If you get enough sin and you get into reversionism, you're still saved, you're still going to heaven, but you're going backward instead of going forward. You wind up eventually under the sin unto death from God's discipline. You'll have eternal life, you'll be there forever but it will be minus any rewards. Your treasure was stolen. So you must understand the importance of not letting sin reign, not letting sin steal your treasure. How do you do this? By putting the Word of God in your heart. What does this mean, to have God's Word in your heart? Let's go back to what I told you earlier. The *nous* and the *kardia*, two different parts. When you listen to a pastor teach you the Bible, you listen with your mind, your mentality. You are listening, you're comprehending, you're understanding, but it hasn't done you any good yet. It's called *gnosis*, knowledge. What you must do is transfer this *gnosis* and make it *epignosis*. The word *epignosis* is the word for full knowledge. Full is *epi* and *gnosis* is knowledge. In the *nous*, when you hear information taught by a well-qualified pastor it becomes *gnosis* or knowledge but it hasn't done you any good yet until you transfer this knowledge by faith and store it in the compartment of your heart where it becomes wisdom. You will have just heard it and will probably forget it anyhow because you didn't take any notes. You just remember one or two things the preacher said, that's it. Shame on you if you go home and you can't remember what he said. **You want to store the Word of God in your *kardia*, your heart, as wisdom.** This is why it's so important we have a communicator called a pastor-teacher. His job is to communicate clearly to you the Scripture, the Word of God, and not just once a week on Sunday morning with a gospel message and a little bit on Wednesday night. He is to teach you the Word of God consistently. I believe on a daily basis, that's my own belief. **I think we need to feed on the Word of God daily.** If he's teaching the Word of God, he's communicating God's Word to you. Then the Holy Spirit, if you are filled with the Holy Spirit, if you're using problem-solving device #2, the filling of the Holy Spirit, will capture this information and make it spiritually perceptible. You'll understand it and then it goes down into your *kardia* where you comprehend it. Now I've heard it, I've understood it, I've comprehended it, and now I have to comply with what I've heard. These are the four C's of learning God's Word in the Christian life. The communicator teaches it, the Holy Spirit captures it and helps me comprehend it, and I comply with the instructions. Now, this is why *gnosis* doctrine is not *epignosis*. *Gnosis* doctrine is simply knowledge you've heard but not applied. *Epignosis* doctrine is doctrine you've heard,

believed, and applied into your life and stored in your heart. The writer of the Psalms had the Old Testament ritual that he would demonstrate his belief in his Redeemer and his spiritual life revolved around the rituals and sacrifices, using the faith-rest drill. However, we are different. We are not living in the Old Testament. We are living in the New Testament. We are living in the Age of Grace. Dispensational truth tells us it's a different time. We have the Mystery Doctrine of the Church. They didn't have this, they didn't understand this. Now the Shekinah Glory of the Old Testament lives in you. We have a ritual also to remind us to appreciate the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and it's called communion. I warn you, when you take communion out of fellowship, 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 talks about it, you get yourself in a jam with God because you disregard the instructions that God gives you. If you don't want to be under discipline from God, confess any sin in your life before you drink of the communion cup, before you take the article of bread. Don't do this with unconfessed sin in your life or you are going to get yourself in trouble with God. **Communion is our ritual to remember the finished work of Christ on the cross.** The Torah that this man learned in Psalm 119:11 sustained his faith in times of chaos and conflict. **In our time, Scripture, God's Word, is to keep us from falling into sin or doubt or despair in regard to God's plan for our life.** Doubting God's justice is a terrible failure. What do I mean by this? Well, the Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24 hours a day. When you get an unfair deal in your life, nationally, politically, spiritually, whatever may happen in your life, what are you going to do about it? I use to have a friend that said, "I'm going to write it in my little black book and go get even with them sooner or later." You are not authorized to get even with anybody. **If you have a complaint about the way you're being treated, you must take it to the Supreme Court of Heaven which is open 24 hours a day.** In prayer you can go to God the Father, you can lay it at His feet, and you can say, "Lord, this is what happened to me at work. This is what happened to me in the community. This is what happened to me, wherever, wherever. Please take care of it for me, vindicate me." This means that God will clear your name. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24 hours a day. If you doubt God's justice, that's a lack of faith. The Scripture must be reinforced so as you learn the Word of God, you have to reinforce it. Learn it again and again because this gives you additional strength in times of testing in your life, times you may go through momentum testing. All young believers go through momentum testing to see if they'll stay with it or if they're going to peel off. Or you may even go through some sort of evidence testing which is exactly what Job did. **Scripture learned and Scripture applied is what gives you the strength to handle things in your life.** The psalmist said, "I don't want to sin against Thee. I want to hide Your Word in my heart so I don't sin against Thee." What does he mean by this? Psalm 51:4, *"Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest and be clear when Thou judgest."* **When you sin, your sins are against your heavenly Father. Your sins are against the Father's mandates and it is to God you must confess your sin.** Don't go to confess it to anyone else, it's not valid to confess it to a friend or confess it to someone else. Confess it to God. *"If we confess our sin,"* who did you sin against?

Here it is, ***“Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned”*** (Psalm 51:4). When you sin mentally by lusting, or when you sin physically by stealing, or when you sin by falling into the lure of Satan and being deceived by Satan, getting into some goofy thing that Satan's got going on and you finally recognize you have sinned and you finally recognize you've messed up, go immediately to God and confess your sin to God. *“He is faithful and just to forgive you.”* He's not going to kick you out of His royal family. He's not going to disown you. As a matter fact, He's going to put pressure on you until you do come clean. That's called the discipline of God where Hebrews 12:6 says, *“Those that He loves, He disciplines and scourges sometimes with a whip.”* It's all designed to get you to come clean and to admit your failure. If you doubt the justice of God, this is a horrible sin because it's a lack of faith on your part. You don't need some kind of accountability partner. People talk about this, “You need an accountability partner to tell your sins to.” Birdseed, this is not true. You don't need an accountability partner, you've got God the Holy Spirit who holds you accountable and you've got God the Father you name your sin to. **Once God's Word is heard, once God's Word is applied into your heart, the objective is for it to become wisdom.** What is this? **Wisdom is insight and discernment based on the full knowledge of God's Word that you possess in your soul.** Let me remind you of something. Be careful because the rate of forgetting can exceed the rate of learning and this is why it's really important for you to keep studying on into your later years in your life. As people get older their cognitive abilities decline and when Ephesians 5:16 says we are to redeem the time, I believe it is telling you that you can buy days. You can buy days by studying God's Word, being faithful to take in God's Word, and keeping your mind sharp. You might not be able to physically do what you use to do but you can sure pray and you can sure use your mind. Keep studying daily even though you may be in your 70s, in your 80s. **Keep taking in God's Word daily and you will extend your life and you'll glorify God. Scripture learned and applied will enlighten every decision you make.** It's critical for you to understand this. In Psalm 119:105, *“Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”* I don't know if you have been out in the woods at night but without a light you will stumble and trip over the trees that lay down and take a nap at night. They stand up in the daytime but at night they lay down to take a nap and if you go walking in the woods, you trip over them and fall without a light. **The Word of God lights your path so you don't trip and fall.** When you take God's Word, learn it, and believe it, it will protect you from self-destruction. Listen to Psalm 119:9, *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Thy Word.”* **Listen to Isaiah 40:8, “The grass withers and the flowers fail, but the Word of God endures forever.”** You want to put it in your heart and store it in your soul because it is going to last forever in eternity. When you get to heaven, you'll have a different body, a resurrection body, but everything you've learned about God's Word will be in the mentality of your soul. This is why Matthew 24:35 says, *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Word shall never pass away.”* This is the power of the living Word of God and you have the Holy Spirit living in you and empowering you. Amazing! I sure hope this is making sense and you'll come back next week.

Hardened Hearts

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 851 aired on December 12, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. Thank you for contacting me and letting me know you are listening and learning. This encourages me. Before we get started, let me remind you to always make sure you're in fellowship. 1 John 1:9 says, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and to purify us from all wrongdoing."* As a Christian, if you're trying to grow spiritually, listening to the Word of God taught, with unconfessed sin in your life, it won't work. Why? Because you quench the Holy Spirit and you grieve the Holy Spirit by not confessing your sins. Anytime you're trying to study the Bible, always make sure you look inside first and make sure there's no unconfessed sin in your life. Today we're going to talk about how to self-destruct. Every day and every night somebody is murdered across this country often in major cities. Open rebellion to the rule of law in America is prevalent - home invasions, drive-by shootings, road rage, assaults on airplanes, the list goes on and on. It seems that many of our citizens have no restraints on their emotions. The question is, why does this happen? How can someone murder another person and not even feel guilty about it and have no remorse about it? **Are hearts so hardened that people don't even consider the consequences of taking the life of another person?** According to the FBI statistics there were 21,570 murders in America in the year 2020. For your information, the first murder ever recorded in history was the murder of Abel by Cain, his brother, who killed him in jealousy as recorded in Genesis 4:8. This may surprise you, Moses committed murder as a young Jew living in Egypt. If you don't believe this read Exodus 2:11-14. This may say one thing to you, God can forgive a murderer and He does. God can forgive anybody for anything. Moses was a great man of God and he committed murder in the early part of his life. The number of murders, 21,570, is shocking and is indicative of the hardness of the hearts of many people in this great nation. Let me read to you a passage out of Ephesians that will explain why things like this happen. Ephesians 4:17-20, *"This I say therefore and I testify in the Lord [this is the Apostle Paul writing to the church at Ephesus] that you do not walk as other Gentiles walk in the vanity of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them because of the blindness of their heart. Who being past feeling have given themselves over to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greed. But you have not learned this from Christ."* Now, let me break this down for you. *"This I say therefore and testify in the Lord that you henceforth walk, not as other Gentiles walk."* "Walk" in the Greek means to live your life and Paul is saying don't emulate the life of the unbeliever. **Don't emulate the life of the unbeliever, the disadvantaged person that doesn't know Christ as Savior.** *"Don't live like the Gentiles live in the vanity of their mind."* The word "vanity" means emptiness or a vacuum. I remember coming home and my younger daughter had a hard-boiled egg peeled and she said, "Watch this dad." She put some paper down in a bottle and lit the paper on fire and set the hard-boiled egg over the neck of the bottle. As that paper burned all the oxygen up inside that bottle, it

looked like an invisible finger pushed that egg down into that bottle. That was the pressure of the atmosphere. Once there was a vacuum in the bottle, then the egg popped right down in there. This is an illustration of people who have a vacuum in their mind. **If they don't have any divine viewpoint, then Satan can throw things into their mind very easily. People get trapped and lured like that.** Paul said, *"Don't live your life like Gentiles live their life with nothing in their mind [an empty mind, not thinking, not comprehending, not paying attention, certainly no Biblical wisdom] having their understanding darkened [this means they have no norms and no standards], they're alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them [there it is, lack of understanding] because of the hardness of their heart [translated blindness in the King James but it's hardness, porosis is the Greek word and this means a callousness]."* **It's possible that your heart can be scarred over and become calloused and hardened.** If someone's heart becomes so calloused, so scarred over, how could you tell? Listen to verse 19, *"Who being past feeling [this means no guilt, no shame anymore] have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness with greed [in other words they can't get enough of it, they love it, and they're going to keep doing it]. You did not learn this from Christ."* In contrast in Matthew 11:29-30 Jesus said, *"Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me. My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* This is what the Lord Jesus Christ taught. So Paul is telling them not to emulate the lifestyle of the disadvantaged unbeliever because if they do they will have nothing in their mind. **The unbeliever has a lifestyle that is learned through observation and indoctrination with the world. The lifestyle of the flesh is an addictive narcotic to those who are in this frantic search for happiness.** Paul warns the believers in Ephesus not to emulate this lifestyle since it produces a distorted and disturbed mindset, an empty mind, a vacuum in the mind, nothing there. He calls it vanity in the mind. *"Vanity"* is the Greek word *mataiotes* and it means emptiness. The unbeliever Paul described can't even think for himself, cannot conceptualize for himself. He's essentially brain-dead being led around like a puppet on a string. This is what happens when you ignore the Word of God. You've got to make decisions based on one of two things, either what the Bible says, divine viewpoint, or what the world says, human viewpoint, which Satan has been able to influence greatly. We call it evil. What's your basis for making a decision? If there is emptiness in your mind, then you are going to believe whatever the devil tells you to believe. Paul goes on to say that because of this emptiness in their minds, their hearts have scarred over and they no longer feel any guilt, they no longer feel any shame. In fact, they are now greedy for sinful activity and will stop at nothing to get what they want. This is a heart of scar tissue. It has no remorse and no shame. It's possible you've got scar tissue. Do you want to take a test and find out? Let's say, if you're doing your taxes and the government says you're going to owe so much more money and you don't report what you made and you lie on your taxes, does this make you feel bad? Do you feel guilty? Do you feel shame or do you justify it by saying, "Well, they steal money from me anyhow?" If you were walking down the hall at school or at the office and you found a \$100 bill laying there, it is not yours, would you pick it up and say, "It's my lucky day," and put it in your pocket and walk away or would you go try to find who it belongs to? What I'm

asking you now is do you justify cheating on your taxes? Do you keep what is not yours? The words of the Lord Jesus Christ were clear when Paul quoted, *"You did not learn this lifestyle from Christ."* Whenever a person receives the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, he begins a new life, a different life. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, *"If any man is in Christ he is a new creature. Old things are passed away and behold, all things become new."* The new life in Christ is antithetical to life in the cosmos diabolicus or what we call the devil's world. It's a new life. It's a new culture, a new lifestyle. You may search out new Christian friends since their lifestyle is more like yours because the lifestyle of your lost friends is offensive to you. This new lifestyle, this new culture that God has brought you into, is called the Royal Family of God. It requires some things from you. God has some demands from you. Just like the lost world has its own devious agenda that requires exposure and indoctrination into the call of the world, you now must familiarize yourself with the demands that God puts on you. **God's demands are seen in every verb that's written in the imperative mood in the New Testament.** Every verb that's written in the imperative mood is a command. This is God telling you what to do. For example, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* The imperative mood verbs are commands from God. The first one is the word rejoice, this is a present active imperative, and means it's a command, it's not a request. *"Rejoice always,"* *chairō* and this is the word for happiness, to have the happiness of God. Remember what Luke 11:28 says, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it."* The Lord Jesus Christ even said in Matthew 15:11, *"I've told you these things so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be full."* There never is a time that we are to complain, to gripe, to moan. *"Rejoice always,"* quit your moaning and quit your gritching, quit doing anything like this. There it is, straight up in the Bible. I didn't make it up, there is a mandate. Then, *"Pray without ceasing,"* another imperative mood verb. It's the present tense, it means there never is a time you are not to pray without ceasing. God expects you to pray. Do you remember we talked about this and we even have a bookmark on it. If you don't have the bookmarks, contact me and we'll send you, *Ten Reasons Why Your Prayers Might Not Be Answered*. I hate to think that you're praying and not getting answers. There are reasons. *"Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing [and then here's another mandate], and in everything give thanks [eucharistēo, this is the Greek word, imperative mood, no complaining, no griping, there it is again], for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you,"* God's will. I was watching a guy the other day talking about how to know God's will. Can you know God's will? Yes, you can know God's will. It starts off with the 10 problem-solving devices. I can assure you there are 10 things right there that are the will of God for you to understand, know, and use in your life. There are a lot of verbs like this in the Bible. Ephesians 5:18, *"Be filled with the Spirit,"* this is a mandate. 2 Peter 3:18, *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,"* this is a mandate. Here is a question for you. If God tells you to do something in the Bible and you don't do it, what's this called? This is called sin. **If God tells me to do something and I don't do it, then I'm disobeying God and this is sin.** The Christian life

is a lifestyle of learning. All these verbs mean you have to learn. These are our marching orders, they are not requests. We have to learn how to live the Christian life and it requires us to do some things that a lost person would never consider doing. This is why the Christian life is so unique. What am I talking about? What would it require us to do that unbelievers would not do? Well, here's one, *"You've heard it said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I'm telling you, love your enemies and bless those who curse you, and do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you"* (Matthew 5:43-44 and Luke 6:27-28). If you are in politics and you're getting maligned and criticized and people have been talking about you and slandering you, there's an opportunity for you. *"Bless those who curse you, love your enemies,"* this is not a request, this is a mandate. Can you handle this? Do you understand impersonal love and personal love for God, two different things. Personal love for God and impersonal love for all mankind, these are two problem-solving devices. I hope you know them, if you don't get a hold of me. Let me send you the book on *Christian Problem Solving*. **If you don't understand the problem-solving devices of God, then the mandate of impersonal love like I just read you there in Matthew 5:43-44 is impossible.** *"Love your enemies, bless the ones that curse you,"* that is not in your human nature to do this. **This is why the Christian life is not based on human nature, it's based on the filling of the Holy Spirit and the content of the Word of God in your soul.** Without an understanding of those 10 problem-solving devices that verse right there is impossible to do. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit can lead you to understand impersonal love, one of our problem-solving devices, by means of the personal application of Scripture in your life but you cannot apply what you don't know. Here's something you should know because of the political climate in America, Romans 13:1-3. You should know this. *"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. [that's the rule of law] For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authority resists the ordinances of God and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but are a terror to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Then do what is good and you will have praise from the same."* This is a pretty important verse to remember, *"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities [this is the rule of law]. No authority exists except apart from God and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."* Now, what's your stand on politics? Here again is where the Holy Spirit has to lead you to understand what the Bible's teaching you. You can't apply what you don't know. According to this verse, the present leadership in this country is not appointed by man, but is allowed by God and for a very specific reason. God didn't send you to overthrow the government. God didn't send you to straighten this country out. God mandates you to *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). The Lord Jesus Christ said, *"Let your light shine and you need to be the salt of the earth"* (Matthew 5:13-16). Stay out of politics, God can handle politics. He put people in positions of authority for a reason. The reason may be to discipline us or the reason may be to bless us, I don't know, this is God's realm. We have to remember what the Scripture says. Continuing on with our

topic of hardened hearts, **any believer who refuses to acknowledge and abandon addictive sins will find themselves building scar tissue and be under God's discipline.** We read you that verse to begin with, “Don’t live your life like the Gentiles live their life in the hardness of their heart,” this is the scar tissue. The heart gets hardened when you commit sins over and over again. Your heart gets hard. This is what the Bible is telling us here. You've got to acknowledge your sin. You’ve got to abandon the addictive sins or you will be building scar tissue in your soul, your heart will get hard, you’ll feel no guilt, and you’ll feel no shame. You'll find yourself drifting away. You'll find yourself in the ocean of doubt. Listen carefully to 1 Timothy 4:1-2, *“The Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”* To sear the conscience is the word for cauterize, *kausteriazō* is the Greek word. It means to cauterize. When your conscience is seared it's like a cow that is branded, it leaves a brand, mark, scar. The mentality of the soul can be scarred with memories of failures, memories of personal flaws just like cattle branded or seared with a hot iron leaving the owner’s mark forever. Once you blow through all your norms and all your standards you learned as a child from your parents or Sunday school or whatever, you blow through them, put them aside, and in effect you betray your own soul by selling out to sin and selling out to evil then your heart becomes hardened and your heart becomes bitter. Bitterness sets in, a hardened heart with bitterness is a sad thing to see. That's why Proverbs 14:30 says, *“A sound heart is the life of the flesh but envy the rottenness of the bones.”* The heart here is talking about their minds, it’s not talking about the thing you have in your chest, it’s talking about what's in your head. You have a *nous* and you have a *kardia*, a mind and heart in your head. It's the beating heart of your soul and to have a healthy, sound heart means you’ve got to stay out of envy, jealousy, and bitterness. In Ephesians 4:31-32, here's a mandate from the Word of God, this is not a request, *“Let all bitterness, let all wrath, let all anger, let all clamor, let all evil speaking be put away from you along with all malice. And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”* This is a big thing. Bitterness is the word *pikria*. It means to be emotionally angry or upset. Wrath, anger, *thumos*, *orge*, fighting, angry, thunderous, and clamor. This is an onomatopoeia, that's making the word sound like how it’s pronounced, *krauge*. making the sound of a crow, like a crow cawing. Clamor is you going, “Well, will you look at this, look at that, I can't believe they said that, can't believe they did this,” and on and on. *“Put aside your evil speaking. Let it be put away from you along with all malice,”* it’s the desire to hurt somebody. This is the desire to get even, to bring pain, influence pain. Instead Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:32, *“Be kind one to another, tenderhearted [there we go, grace orientation, treating people in grace, treating people with impersonal love], forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”* Here's a good question for you. Has somebody double-crossed you in the past few years and you haven’t forgiven him? You hate him, you're angry at him, you can't stand him and do you have to see him when you're in church? Your hair on the back of your neck stands up, you're angry because “There is that jerk over there that

did that to me.” This verse is talking about you. Put your bitterness, your wrath, all your anger away, all your evil speaking, put it away. *“Be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ’s sake forgave you.”* Did He forgive you? Absolutely. Every time you rebound you get forgiven and this is how you start to eliminate the scar tissue. You’ve got to get rid of the scar tissue that you built up. **To get rid of a hardened heart you have to use rebound to handle sin and let the Word of God flow into your soul to wash out the pollution.** The flowing of God’s Word through the compartments of your conscience begins to heal those damaged places. You want to hear where this is? 1 Peter 1:22, *“Since you have purified your soul in obeying the truth [this is cleaning out the pollution of your soul] through the Spirit [this is the filling of the Holy Spirit] in sincere love [this is impersonal love of the brethren and love for one another].”* There you go, this is how you do it. Do you have scar tissue built up in your soul? Do you want to get rid of it? Then purify your soul by obeying the truth, take in the Word of God, learn the Word of God, apply the Word of God, grow up spiritually, and you’ll get rid of this scar tissue. *“Having been born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible seed through the Word of God which lives and abides forever”* (1 Peter 1:23). I will close by saying this. **If you think you have scar tissue in your soul, the first and foremost thing you should do is admit your sin to God, reclaim the filling of the Holy Spirit, and start a daily routine of assimilating and metabolizing the Word of God under a well-qualified pastor.** Then those scars and those memories, they’re not going to go away overnight but in time they will be flushed out. The Word of God will flush them out and replace your thinking with divine viewpoint and the shame and the guilt will be gone. The hardness of your heart will be gone. But you can bank on Satan and the world trying to lure you back. He’ll try to lure you back into your guilt but remember when you rebound when you confess your sin, God blots it out forever. You don’t have to confess the same sin ten times, once is enough. Paul showed us how the unbelievers live. He told you don’t live like this. I gave you verses to authenticate God’s mandates. Now it’s up to you. I hope it’s been an interesting show. I hope it’s been a challenge to you. I hope you’ll take this to heart because if you can cheat on your taxes and it doesn’t bother you, cheat on your spouse and it doesn’t bother you, you’ve got a problem. You’ve got a problem in your conscience, you’ve got scar tissue. I hope you’re listening. I hope you’re paying attention. It’s your life, you only get one shot at it, get it right. Until next Sunday this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

God's Peace

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Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. We're using a military analogy, FLOT, to explain how a believer like yourself can learn God's 10 unique problem-solving devices and deploy them in the thinking of your soul so that you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever turn into the inside source of stress. We always say adversity is inevitable but stress is optional, especially in the Christian life. You don't have to worry, you don't have to be afraid, you don't have to be bitter, you don't have to be antagonistic. There's a better way to live, it's called living with the mind of Christ. My job is to help you verify and identify this concept and then maybe you would like to orient and adjust. I hope so because we're about to go into the year 2022. I never thought I'd even live this long, how about yourself? Did you think you'd live to see 2022? Here we go! Before we get started, remember we always trust the Lord to provide our funds. We don't hustle money on this radio show. Nothing is for sale. We believe if God is in it, God will pay for it and He always has. We have various printed material available to you, just contact us. We have a new book called *Christian Problem Solving* and it identifies each of these 10 unique problem-solving devices in detail and we'll talk about some of these today. You remember what they are, don't you? Rebound, confessing your sin to God. The filling of the Holy Spirit, allowing the Holy Spirit to control your life. The faith-rest drill, walking by faith, and seven others that we will talk about. Today we want to get into a subject that is very interesting as we approach the New Year - God's peace. **God's peace is available to all the world.** In the book of Luke we find the angels of the Lord, which was a messenger angel at the time, appearing to the shepherds in the field, the ones that were keeping watch over their flock. The shepherds were suddenly confronted by this angel. Some people say these were the sacrificial lambs used in the temple sacrifice, the Paschal lambs. I'm not sure but whatever they were doing they were shocked when this angel appeared to them. Listen to Luke 2:8-14, "*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were sore afraid [they were scared to death, they freaked out]. And the angel said unto them, 'Do not be afraid [calm down, you're not going to die]. I'm bringing you good news of great joy and it shall be to all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will toward men.'*" These verses indicate God's mercy. The Greek word for mercy is *elios* and means expressing compassion to those in need. **Mercy is a product of God's love extended to every person on this planet through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, His anointed Son.** God loves you so much. "*But beloved, don't be ignorant of this, one day with the Lord is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.*

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:8-9). This is God's mercy demonstrated in His patience with the unbeliever. **Mankind can never produce peace on earth because of the sinful nature of each individual but individually you can have peace with God meaning you’re free of His judgment.** Listen to John 3:18, *“Whosoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.”* What do you have to do to escape condemnation? *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved”* (Acts 16:31). Paul wrote it this way. He said, *“I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation to all who believe it, to the Jew first and then to the Gentile”* (Romans 1:16). The good news, the gospel, the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is your ticket to heaven and it's how God demonstrates His mercy to you and how you can have peace with God. Romans 5:1 very clearly says you can have peace with God, *“Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Not justified by works or by sacrifice, justified by faith, *“For by grace are you saved through faith, it is a gift from God not of works lest any man should brag about it”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). Let me ask you a simple question. Are you at peace with God? If not, then I pray you would receive Christ as your Savior. You can do it with me right now by silently praying a simple sinner’s prayer, “Heavenly Father, I know I'm a sinner. I believe Christ died for me and I'm willing to accept Him as my Savior.” This is all you have to do, it’s just an act of faith. Romans 10:13 says, *“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* and you can have peace with God. You will not face any judgment. God loved you so much in mercy that He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for all of our sins. **Peace with God is available to anyone who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ, they will never face judgment.** There is also the peace of God. Peace with God, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the peace of God. The peace of God is seen in John 14:27-28 where Jesus said, *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you [in other words, the world could take it back]. Let not your heart be troubled and do not be afraid.”* Our Lord Jesus Christ knew what He was facing that night. He knew that Judas had betrayed Him. He knew He was going to the cross. He had tried to tell them He was going to be killed, would be resurrected and He was at peace with it. This doesn’t mean He was happy about it. He prayed, *“Father, let this cup pass away from Me if possible, but nevertheless not My will but Thy will be done”* (Luke 22:42). But He was at peace with God the Father's decision and He went to the cross in peace. Our Lord spoke these words recorded in John 14:27 on the eve of His arrest, ***“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid.”*** He spoke these words on the eve of His arrest by the Jewish Sanhedrin which was the highest court in the Jewish land. They were under Roman authority and before the Lord Jesus Christ could be put to death, He had to be judged by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate who ironically found Him not guilty. Luke 23:4, *“Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, ‘I find no*

fault in this Man.” How was it possible that Jesus knowing what was coming had this sort of peace in His soul? It’s the same peace He’s now bestowing upon His disciples. His two admonitions in John 14:27 explain exactly what this sort of peace can provide for anyone who believes in Him and follows Him and this includes you. First of all He said, *“Let not your heart be troubled.”* The Greek word *tarasso* means anxious or distressed. Remember they didn’t have the whole picture yet. They had not grasped His betrayal. They had not grasped His arrest. They certainly had not grasped His crucifixion so He did not want them to be troubled. “Don’t be anxious, don’t be distressed. It’s all coming.” Then He said *“Neither let it be afraid.”* The Greek word for afraid is *deiliao* and means don’t be intimidated by all of these things that are going to happen. Later He even had to reveal to them that they would be sought out and killed. Listen to John 16:2, *“They will put you out of the synagogue. In fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they’re offering a service to God,”* and in fact they were all put to death, a martyr’s death, with the exception of John who was exiled to the isle of Patmos where he lived out his life and wrote the book of Revelation. This peace, this *eirene*, this quietness, this calm of the peace of God is available to each one of us simply by using problem-solving device #2, the filling of the Holy Spirit. How are you filled with the Holy Spirit? You are indwelt with the Holy Spirit the minute you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you can’t lose this. And you are filled with the Holy Spirit the minute you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ but you can quench the Holy Spirit and grieve the Holy Spirit by committing sin. When you sin you lose the filling of the Holy Spirit and you become carnal, not spiritual. If you go to God the Father and use rebound, problem-solving device #1, 1 John 1:9 where it says, *“If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to purify us from all our wrong doing,”* if you do this, then you will be instantaneously, automatically filled with the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 says, *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”* That’s the Christian life right there. What a wonderful way to live, at peace. This is the peace of God at work in your soul. **There is no greater peace for the believer than to know you are exactly in the middle of the will of God, fulfilling God’s plan in time for your life.** It’s a test for me as we broadcast these radio shows to have peace. As we face the financial stress of paying for 113 radio shows every Sunday morning you have the tendency to worry. Can we afford it? Can we do it? God through the filling of the Holy Spirit gives us peace not to be afraid. He’s in charge. If God’s in it, He pays for it. This is exactly the way we operate. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us, *“Don’t be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”* *“The peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,”* in other words, it doesn’t make sense. How can you face adversity, and for example what we face every Sunday paying for these radio shows, and still have peace? It’s beyond comprehension. Yet God supplies it through the filling of the Holy Spirit. We are mandated, *“Never be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and pleading with God [thanksgiving] make your requests known to Him, and the peace*

of God which surpasses all comprehension will guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7). Do you know what you're doing? You're just taking the load off your shoulders and putting it on His shoulders. You're saying, “I can't handle this Father, You can, I'm going to give it to You.” Then you can sit back and watch whatever God does. Your mind and your heart are guarded, protected. This means that you are not intimidated with fear. This verse that I just read to you in Philippians 4:6-7 is a description of a relaxed mental attitude which is the result of using problem-solving device #3, the faith-rest drill. When you function inside of God's plan for your life, you can overcome doubts and fears that the world will throw your way. **Client nation America may face severe testing and severe discipline from God due to our failure of spiritual leadership and our disrespect for God's Word.** Social unrest, criminal activity, racial tension, frustration, all add up to a bleak future for America. Throw into this a worldwide pandemic and you have a prescription for chaos. Can you have peace in the middle of all of this? The answer is yes. **In spite of what may come you can have peace and objective optimism by staying filled with the Holy Spirit and using the faith-rest drill, problem-solving devices #2 and #3.** If you don't understand these, contact us for our book *Christian Problem Solving*. We'll send it to you free of charge. Study it and understand how to be filled with the Spirit and how to use the three stages of the faith-rest drill. Now this peace means no worries for you. Why? Because the Lord Jesus Christ controls history. Listen to Matthew 6:25-27, “*For this reason I say to you, ‘Do not be worried about your life as to what you will eat or what you will drink nor for your body as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow, they don't reap, neither do they gather crops into the barn and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more important than that bird? And which of you by worrying can add a single day to his lifespan? So don't be worried.’*” Psalm 55:22, “*Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you. He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.*” This is peace. **This is having a phenomenal relaxed mental attitude and objective optimism, a great peace in the middle of the fog and the chaos that have descended over this country.** Peace with God is your salvation. This comes through the finished work of Christ on the cross. James 4:4 says, “*You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God. Therefore whoever wants to be the friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God?*” Are you an enemy of God? Have you rejected Jesus Christ as your Savior? Have you decided to stand alone and point your finger at God and say “I don't need You?” You are in serious trouble my friend. The unbeliever is at a disadvantage with God. I've had people say, “I don't believe in God.” Well great, good for you, bully for you. Did you look on the moon? Maybe God was on the moon. “Oh no, I didn't look on the moon.” Well maybe Mars, maybe He was on Mars or on Venus. See, in order for you to say there is no God you've got to look everywhere in the universe at one time because if you leave one place out and God is there, you're cooked, you're history. So you have to say, “I don't think there's a God.” Now, in your own arrogance you're saying you're smarter than God. You don't think there's a God, right. Proverbs 3:33, “*The curse of the Lord is on the*

house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the righteous.” Exactly how do you become righteous? Listen to 1 Peter 3:12, *“For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and His ears attend to their prayers but the face of the Lord is against the evildoers.”* In Romans 3:10, *“As it is written, ‘There are none righteous, no, not even one.’”* The only way that we gain any righteous standing with God is through the Lord Jesus Christ. In 2 Corinthians:5:21, *“He has made Him to be sin for us, the One that knew no sin so that we could be made the righteousness of God by means of Him.”* **This is how we have standing with God, through Jesus Christ. Romans 5:10, “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more being reconciled we shall be saved by His life.”** The question I must ask you is are you at peace with God? Do you have the peace of God in your soul? Have you received the forgiveness of the Lord Jesus Christ through your faith in His Son? Have you done this? If not, now is the time to settle your eternal future. Just a simple prayer of faith can solve the issue and propel you into the New Year where you can begin to experience the peace of God along with the peace with God. In 2 Thessalonians 3:16, *“Now the Lord of peace Himself shall give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.”* There are two things He wants to give you, peace with God and the peace of God. **When you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and grow to spiritual maturity, you can become an agent of peace.** In 1 Peter 3:8, *“So all of you should live together in peace, try to understand each other, love each other like brothers and sisters, be kind and be humble.”* There is so much in this verse. We’re talking about impersonal love and personal love, problem-solving devices #7 and #8. **Impersonal love is the ability to love a person that you don’t even like because you’re loving them based on your character not theirs.** It’s the same way God loved you. *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son”* (John 3:16). Weren't you a jerk? Weren't you a sinner? Weren't you lost in your sin and separated from God and He loved you? He didn't love you with a personal love. He loved you based on His character not your character. Once you believed in Christ and received Him as your Savior and became a member of the royal family of God, now He loves you as His child and this is a personal love. We have to learn how to use the problem-solving device of impersonal love. When it says, *“Live together in peace,”* this means no bickering, no backbiting, no fighting, no gossiping, no maligning. *“Try to understand each other, love each other like brothers and sisters, be kind and be humble.”* The humility profile is what the Lord Jesus Christ had in Philippians 2:7-8. It says, *“He humbled Himself”* and *“He made Himself of no reputation.”* Being humble is the key and by doing this you become an agent of peace. You can live with people in peace and you love each other. In Ephesians 4:3, *“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”* *“The bond of peace”* is having a relaxed mental attitude under the filling of the Holy Spirit using the faith-rest drill and operating under impersonal love. This is how you do it. I just said a mouthful. I know I just gave a lot of doctrine, I could have taught you for hours on what I just said. **The bond of peace is an amazing way to live. In Romans 12:18, “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”** What a wonderful way to live. There have been times you didn't like certain individuals or

got frustrated with them. There have been times in my own life where I've disassociated with individuals. **What you have to remember is God didn't send me or you to straighten anybody out.** We have enough problems trying to keep ourselves straight without trying to straighten out other people that we don't like and don't understand. If we want to live at peace with other people we don't judge them. Therefore Matthew 7:2 says, *"Don't judge or you will be judged because any measure you measure out is going to be measured back out to you again."* If you want to get yourself in a jam, stick your nose in God's business. Go try to straighten somebody out that God's dealing with. Tell him what you think about him. Let him have it and you are asking for divine discipline. Agent of peace is what God wants you to be, living together in peace, in the bond of peace. There's a great preacher named John MacArthur and he said, "In a world marked by conflict the ministry of peacemaking is an indispensable one. Learning about peace, how to spread peace, is critical and this is the ministry the followers of Jesus have." **We are called to be agents of peace in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God."** This is our opportunity to make peace. How do you do this? You maintain a relaxed mental attitude through the filling of the Holy Spirit and be a messenger of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ. These are the Similitudes of Matthew 5:13-14, *"You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world."* **This is you being the messenger of God. "Go forth unto all the world preaching the gospel" (Mark 16:15).** You are a messenger of God's forgiveness to your friends, to your children, to your family. **You're an agent of God's peace when you do this.** You are bringing people to peace with God. The gospel gives them peace with God. This is your job, to give them the Lord Jesus Christ through the gospel message so they can have peace with God. You can be a messenger of God's forgiveness. Avoid any revenge motivation or retaliation. That's not peace of God, that's frustration, anger, emotional revolt of the soul, that's you trying to get even with somebody that stuck it to you. If you've got this kind of attitude, you do not have the peace of God in your life. It's very important, keep your mouth shut when you're angry, when you're frustrated, or when you're bitter. You have to learn to keep your mouth shut. Do not run people down. Do not judge people. Do not malign people. That is not a peacemaker, that is a troublemaker. That is the person that God lowers a hammer on, the troublemaker. In Proverbs 6:16-19 you can see a list of the seven sins that God despises and one of them is the troublemaker. Don't be this person, be the agent of peace. **You have peace with God through faith alone in Christ alone. You can have the peace of God by staying filled with the Holy Spirit, learning God's Word, and using the faith-rest drill and impersonal love.** You are God's agent of peace. My prayer is you will do this and make an impact on those in your periphery, in your surroundings, in your world. I hope this is a show to propel you into 2022 as an agent of peace so you can see the marvelous things that will happen through the gospel, giving the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ. Until next week, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

The Guilt Pit

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 853 aired on December 26, 2021

Good morning and welcome to The FLOT Line. We teach God's 10 problem-solving devices so you can use them as you function in your life. I hear from many listeners who speak of regrets, regrets from years past, things that they may have done and think cannot be forgiven by God. Maybe you've got something like this going on. You think God's going to hold it against you. **There's only one unforgivable sin in the Bible and that's the rejection of Jesus Christ as your Savior.** This is called the unpardonable sin because if you do not accept the free gift of salvation that God gives you, then the justice of God is forced to judge you at the Great White Throne of Judgment. You can't save yourself. *"There are none that are righteous, no, not even one"* (Romans 3:10). *"All of our righteousnesses are like filthy rags in God's eyes"* (Isaiah 64:6). I really enjoy hearing from all of you that responded "Keep this radio show going in my area." Thank you. I wish I could meet and talk with you face-to-face. I pray these shows will guide you in the right direction to grow spiritually and eventually become a spiritually mature believer. Today we're going to talk about the guilt pit. Many people think they've done things that cannot be forgiven and they are caught up in the guilt pit. Philippians 3:12-14 is our passage we want to take off with. This is the Apostle Paul writing and this is what he said to the church at Philippi, *"Not as though I had already attained or become perfect, but I follow after so that if I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended it [that's to reach full spiritual maturity], but the one thing I do, I forget those things which are behind me and I reach forward unto those things which are before me, I press on toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* Paul did not live in the past. He did not look back at the many mistakes that he made before the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him. He had done many crazy and wild things. He was even there at the death of Stephen the martyr, but those things were in the past. When you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:17 clearly says, *"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away and all things become new."* Everything is new. From the day you believe in Jesus Christ, you're born-again. You receive a new spiritual body, a new spiritual life. Remember, you are born spiritually dead and physically alive. You have a body, you have a soul, and you have a dead human spirit. When you accept Christ as your Savior that human spirit is made alive by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and now you have a body, soul, and spirit. Let's remember, whatever you've done in the past, I say it again, whatever you have done in the past is gone and when you use rebound it gets gone again. Let's talk about this because many have trouble letting go of past sins, past failures. Some of you have things that still haunt you to this day. I bet you may even replay it in your mind at night before you allow yourself to go to sleep. You may wonder whether or not God can or whether not God will even forgive you for what happened. Maybe you're fearful that God will bring it back up in heaven and everyone will know what you did. Let me assure you God will not be showing a movie projector when you get to heaven with

all of your sins. Everybody won't be seated in the auditorium, eating popcorn, watching all of your failures. This is not going to happen. Christ paid for all of your sins, past, present and future. All of my sin, all of your sin was poured out on Him on the cross and judged by God the Father. This is why 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *"For He [God the Father] has made Him [Jesus Christ] to be sin for us, the One who knew no sin [this means He never sinned], so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."* **The only way that we'll ever get to heaven is to equal God's righteousness. The only way we can ever equal God's righteousness is to have the righteousness of Christ imputed to us when we put our faith in Him and believe in Him as our Savior.** The weight of sin and the failure of sin is addressed by Christ in Matthew 11:28-30. He said, *"Come unto Me all of you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest [in other words I'll carry the burden of your sin]. Take My yoke on you and learn of Me for I am meek and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* The Lord Jesus Christ promised you that He would carry your sin for you so that you don't have to be judged for it. He was judged in your place. This is not the way organized religion works. Organized religion would like to lay a guilt trip on you, trap you in the guilt pit by proclaiming certain things to be sins that are not sins, and thus trying to manipulate you and bully you into buying into their viewpoint. That's where you have to be very careful about what organized religion will do. If you study the New Testament you will see that this is what crucified the Lord Jesus Christ, organized religion. They were constantly attacking Him for things that were not sin. "Don't do this, don't do that," this is all garbage. This is all evil. People say, "If you do that brother, you're not going to go to heaven. Brother, if you do that, that's a terrible sin" and the Bible doesn't even mention it as sin, doesn't even bring it up as sin. Let's look at a couple of major sins committed by people that God used in spite of their failures. Why do I want to look at these? So you can be encouraged to rebound, advance, and not look back. The first one I want to show you, and this may shock you, Moses, the greatest man of the Old Testament committed murder. Moses was a known murderer. In Exodus 2:11-12, *"And it came to pass in those days when Moses was grown [he was about 40 years old] that he went out unto his brethren and he looked on their burdens and he spied an Egyptian smiting a Hebrew, one of his brethren. He looked this way, he looked that way, and when he saw no one was looking he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand."* This was murder and for it a warrant for his arrest was put out. Moses fled out of Egypt to the back side of the Midian Desert where he stayed for 40 years. While he was in the back side of the Midian Desert he married a Midianite priest's daughter. He was 80 years old when God appeared to him in a burning bush and said, "I want you to go back to Egypt and bring My people out of slavery." Moses said, "I can't, there's a contract out for me. They'll arrest me." The Lord said, "Don't worry about it, those times are gone" (Exodus 4:19). So in Exodus 4:20-25, *"Moses took his wife and his two sons and set them upon a donkey and returned to the land of Egypt. Moses took the rod of God in his hand. And the Lord said unto Moses, 'When thou goest to return to Egypt, see that thou doest all of these wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand and I will harden his heart and he will*

not let these people go. And you shall say unto him, “Thus saith the Lord, Israel is My son, even My firstborn and I'm telling you, let My son go so that he can serve Me. And if you refuse to let him go, I will slay your son, even your firstborn.” “[Now listen carefully] And it came to pass, by the way in the end that the Lord met Moses and sought to kill him.” Wait a minute, what's going on there? Well Moses had committed a sin, he had not circumcised his two sons as he should have done, so God rendered His justice. His wife's name was Zipporah. This is very interesting, “Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and threw it at his feet and said, ‘You are a bloody husband’” and she left him. Moses then went on into Egypt and brought the Jews out and when they came out they headed for the Promised Land. The father of Zipporah whose name was Jethro, the priest of Midian, brought Zipporah back to Moses. I’ll read it to you in Exodus 18:1-6, “Now Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses’ father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people, how the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt. Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, took Moses’ wife Zipporah, after he had sent her away, and her two sons, of whom one was named Gershom, for Moses said, ‘I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.’ The other was named Eliezer, for he said, ‘The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of the Pharaoh.’ Then Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was encamped at the mount of God. He sent word to Moses, “I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her.”” They didn't stay and Moses later remarried. This may shock you that Moses was divorced. We couldn’t let him be a deacon in the church today if he was divorced, right? Wrong, you’re dead wrong. Numbers 12:1-3, “And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married, for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they complained and said, ‘Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? Has He not spoken also by us?’ And the Lord heard the complaining.” Here we have Moses, the greatest man in the Old Testament, who committed murder when he was 40, divorced his wife, remarried an Ethiopian woman and this set off quite an event. Numbers 12:3 goes on to say, “Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.” Are you divorced and you think God's holding that against you? **Are you in prison because you committed some atrocity like murder and you think God can’t forgive you? God can and does. Christ died for all of your sins. Everything you've ever done He died for, He paid for.** Even David, one of the greatest kings of Israel committed adultery having sex with another man's wife. In 2 Samuel 11:1-5, “Then it happened in spring, at the time when kings go forth to battle that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all of Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed in Jerusalem. Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, ‘Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?’ David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her [this means he had sex with her]; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she

returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, 'I am pregnant.'” Now David's got a problem, he's made another man's wife pregnant with his child so what did he do? 2 Samuel 11:14-17, “*And it came to pass in the morning that David wrote a letter to Joab and send it by the hand of Uriah the Hittite [the man whose wife he had impregnated, he was a great fighter for David, he was a mercenary and in this letter he wrote to Joab and said] 'Send Uriah to the front of the hottest battle and pull back and leave him alone by himself so he can be smitten and die.'* It came to pass when Joab observed the city that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew the strong valiant men were fighting and the men of that city went out and fought with Joab and there fell some of the people of the servants of David and Uriah the Hittite was killed.” David thought his problem was solved. **You can't solve the problem of sin without using rebound. Sin leaves scars and sometimes more problems.** Here's David, the man who killed Goliath the giant, having sex with another man's wife, impregnating another man's wife, and then murdering her husband to cover up his sin. This was all discovered, all brought out and David paid a big price from God's discipline. But let me remind you, **God can use you in spite of your failures.** Peter denied the Lord three times in Luke 22:54-62, “*Having arrested the Lord Jesus Christ, they led Him away and brought Him to the house of the high priest; but Peter was following at a distance. And they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and had sat down together; Peter was sitting among them. And a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, 'This man was with Him too.'* But he denied it, saying, ‘*Woman, I do not know Him.*’ A little later, another saw him and said, ‘*You are one of them too!*’ But Peter said, ‘*Man, I am not!*’ After about an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, ‘*Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too.*’ But Peter said, ‘*Man, I do not know what you are talking about.*’ Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, ‘*Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.*’ And Peter went out and wept bitterly.” Have you denied the Lord and you think God can't forgive you? Have you committed adultery or some horrible crime and you think God can't forgive you? Let's go through some principles so you'll understand this. Nothing catches God by surprise. In Proverbs 15:3, “*The eyes of the Lord are in every place watching the evil and the good,*” so He's watching. **You can't hide anything from God.** He's omniscient, this means He's all-knowing. He's omnipresent, this means He's immanent and transcendent, He's everywhere. In Job 34:21, “*For His eyes are upon the ways of man and He sees all of his steps.*” God can read your mind. He can read your thoughts. You may turn the lights out, get into bed, cover yourself up with a blanket, bury your head under the pillow, but God is still there. He knows what you're thinking, this is His omniscience. He knows that every believer has a sin nature. Every one of us is born with an Adamic nature. **We are born with a sin nature and when we accept Christ as our Savior, the sin nature doesn't disappear.** It is still there in this body that we must get rid of to go to heaven. We've got to get that resurrection body. We all have a sin nature. Even sweet little old ladies have sin natures. Romans 7:15-17 is clear about this. Paul talked about his sin nature,

the battle that he had with it. Do you want to hear it? *“For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. Now no longer am I the one doing it, but sin that dwells in me.”* Yes, Paul had a sin nature. Even though he was converted, even though he was a great disciple of God, an apostle, he had a sin nature. You have a sin nature and the solution to the failure of the sin nature is exactly what we talk about every Sunday morning, rebound. 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and purify us from all of our wrongdoing.”* David found this verse to be true also when he confessed his sin. We may see that here in a minute. Every believer has a sin nature and rebound is the solution. Once you rebound, confess your sin, God does what He said He would do. He will cleanse you from your sin. **The biggest mistake in the guilt pit is you go back and dig up your past failures.** You go back and wallow in the guilt. **Rebound removes the guilt.** Listen to what David did when he rebounded, I’ll read the passage. Remember this is the man who committed adultery with Bathsheba, impregnated Bathsheba another man's wife, and killed her husband to cover up the sin. Listen to what David said in Psalm 32:3-5, *“When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy on me [that's discipline]; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’ and You forgave the guilt of my sin.”* There it is, the same rebound in the Old Testament that you do in the New Testament. Psalm 32:3-5 is the same as 1 John 1:9. Now David wasn't filled with the Holy Spirit like you are. He operated under a different system of spirituality but he definitely had been endued by the Holy Spirit. God used David. We see this when he was called and anointed to be the future king of Israel. Moses committed murder. In Luke 22:61-62, the Lord hears Peter deny Him and Peter was aware that Jesus saw him deny Him and it broke his spirit. He cried. *“The Lord turned and looked upon Peter and Peter remembered the words of the Lord, what He had said unto him, ‘Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ Peter went out and Peter wept bitterly.”* Here's an interesting point. **Peter denied the Lord three times but the Lord did not deny Peter.** Peter threw the Lord under the bus but the Lord did not throw Peter under the bus. **You may turn your back on the Lord, but He will just love you from behind.** This is the amazing thing about God, His ability to love you through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. When you believe in Christ and receive Him, you become a member of God's royal family. He may discipline you. He may correct you. He may give you an attitude adjustment but He loves you and He does it in love. This is why Hebrews 12:6 says, *“Those that He loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.”* He has to discipline us or we would self-destruct. You may be on your way to self-destruction now. You may be seeing a psychiatrist or psychologist because you have past guilt that you can't deal with. **Listen, Christ died for your sin. Admit it to God, put it away, forget it and don't look back.** This is what Paul said, *“One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on*

toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14). **Redeem the time - you only have so long to live.** The objective is to “*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” (2 Peter 3:18). If you can put that stuff behind you, get out of the guilt pit, live your life under the filling of the Holy Spirit, problem-solving device #2, learn the faith-rest drill, problem-solving device #3, orient to God's grace in your life, and begin to get some Biblical orientation, God will give you a personal sense of destiny. He will show you why He saved you. He will show you what He wants you to do. These are all problem-solving devices that eventually lead to occupation with Christ. Jesus did not deny Peter. Listen to Mark 16:5-7, “*And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man sitting on the right side clothed in a long white garment and they were frightened. And he said to them, ‘Don't be afraid, you're looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified but He is risen. He's not here. Behold the place where they laid Him [take a look]. You go your way and you tell His disciples and Peter [did you hear that? Go tell His disciples and Peter] that He goes up before you into Galilee and there you shall see Him as He said unto you.’*” Peter didn't think he was a disciple anymore. Peter figured he had blown it so he went back to fishing. He was a commercial fisherman and he just went back to fishing. Here the angel is telling those that came to the tomb, including Mary, to go look for John. “Go tell Peter he's still a disciple.” I imagine those are the sweetest words that Peter ever heard. Jesus said, “Meet Me in Galilee.” I'm sure Peter wasn't excited about that because when he met up with the Lord he'd have to look Him in the eye with the guilt, “I denied you. I know I denied you.” The Lord Jesus Christ has amazing love and said, “I don't care, I love you so much. I know you denied Me. I told you you were going to do it. I knew the pressure would be too great on you but I love you. I forgive you.” This is true for your life too. **God loves you and God forgives you.** I don't care what you've done. Through Christ, your sins are forgiven. **After your failure, after the dust has settled, if you're still alive, God has a plan for your life.** In Jeremiah 29:11, “*‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for prosperity, not for disaster, plans to give you a future and plans to give you a hope.’*” Do not let Satan drag you back into the guilt pit. Philippians 3:13 again, Paul said, “*I count not myself to have apprehend it yet [in other words, I'm not there yet, I'm growing to spiritual maturity] but one thing I do, I forget those things that are behind me and I reach forth to the things that are in front of me.*” **Forget what's behind you. It's over. If you stay in the guilt pit, this is Satan defeating you, casting doubt into your mind.** You think maybe God didn't forgive you and is waiting to get even with you. Something bad happens and you think “I knew God would get me sooner or later.” You're mistaken, this is not how God works. Do not live your life in the guilt pit. Satan would love you to so he can manipulate you. **Relax and live the life that God provides for you through Jesus Christ's judgment for you on the cross and His forgiveness of you when you use rebound.** What a wonderful Savior we have, to take all of us, unworthy, and forgive us and cleanse us when we use 1 John 1:9. I hope you're listening and I hope you come back next week, same time, same place. Until then, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to The FLOT Line.

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

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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