

THE FLOT LINE hosted by Rick Hughes
TRANSCRIPTS 2019 Volume 1 January–April





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 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 setting state records in 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).

BOOKS by RICK HUGHES

God's Problem-Solving Devices Bookmark

Bible Promises & Principles

Life's Toughest Years

A Divine Pardon

Understanding Your Soul

Practicing Your Christianity

A Crash Course in Basic Christianity

Christian Problem Solving Workbook

PODCAST

The Flot Line Podcast can be found on: Anchor, Apple, Spotify, Google, Breaker and RadioPublic

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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.



THE FLOT LINE
hosted by Rick Hughes
Transcripts
2019 Volume 1 January-April

I've been doing *The FLOT Line* radio show since July 2005. Every Sunday it airs on radio stations across our nation, and in autumn 2019 we made it available as a podcast. Want to know how it all began? I had done a radio ad for Bass Pro Shops. A radio producer heard it and contacted me, "Big Rick, you've got a great radio voice - you should take your ministry to the airwaves." And that was the start of *The FLOT Line*.

FLOT is an acronym for Forward Line of Troops. *The FLOT Line* teaches principles from the Bible and focuses on God's ten 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.

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 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* with your host, Rick Hughes. For the next thirty minutes you will be inspired, motivated, educated, but never manipulated." Now you can read the content of those episodes without charge or obligation. Welcome to *Transcripts of The FLOT Line*.

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Practical Principles - Part 1

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 697 aired on December 30, 2018

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

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

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

would ask anything of her since the Jews hated Samaritans. In John 4:9 she said, *“For Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.”* And she was right, but the Lord shocked her with His comments. It is interesting what He told her. And you can shock people much the same way. When you give them truth it shocks them. I'm around people, and you are too, so much of the time we just keep our mouth shut. They're so full of themselves and so full of braggadocios and think they're smarter than anybody else and we just let them ride along, we don't shock them. But our Lord shocked this woman in John 4:10. He said, *“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”* A never ending source of life is what He's talking about, eternal life. This was a divine invitation by our Savior for her to reboot her life since she made a mess of things and all of her bad decisions she had made. Jesus went on to say in John 7:38, *“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”* That's the promise of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit coming to live inside of each of us. In John 4:14 He told this woman, *“whoever drinks of the water that I give him shall never thirst again; the water I give him shall be a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”* What's interesting as you read this passage in John 4, she never gave Him a drink of water but she did receive the drink He offered. She did receive the eternal water that He gave her. He identified Himself as the Messiah whom she had heard of. In John 4:25-26, *“The woman said unto him, ‘I know the Messiah is coming and He is called the Christ; when He comes, He will tell us all things.’ And then Jesus said to her, ‘I that speak to you am He.’”* A face-to-face confrontation with the King of kings and the Lord of lords, the Savior of the world. I am Him. You can believe she was stunned! I think about when our Lord was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane and they came looking for the Lord Jesus Christ. When they said, where is He? Where is He? The Lord stood up and said “I am.” And they were knocked flat. They were knocked on the ground. The power of that. Who is that? Christ the Lord. Down they went. Here Christ looked at her and said, “I am the Messiah.” You know, it's amazing to see that. She left and went into town and told how she had met the Messiah and half the town came running out to meet Him as well. In John 4:39, *“many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him because of the testimony of the woman, and many more believed when they heard Him speak themselves.”* This is what they said in John 4, *“now we believe, not because of what you said, for we heard Him ourselves and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”* And the Lord stayed there for two days ministering to the Samaritans. It's an amazing story how the Lord handled this. And God extends to you the same invitation. You can have the river of living water springing up in your soul. A well that will never run dry. A thirst that will always be quenched. You can reboot your life just like she rebooted her life. I mean, do you think your sin is unknown to God? Do you think God is not aware of what you've done? That is a serious question I'm asking you now. Listen to me. Do you think God is not aware of what you've done? In John 4:16-18 Jesus told her, *“Go get your husband, and come here. And she said I have no husband. And Jesus said, well, that's correct. I know you have no husband for you have had five and the one you live with now is not your*

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

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

Practical Principles - Part 2

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 698 aired on January 6, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes please stick around and listen. Thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, education, all designed to give you some information. Information that will help you orient and adjust to the plan of God. If you can do that and you have freedom and privacy to do that you can have the most wonderful life ever. We call our show the FLOT Line. We deal with wonderful problem-solving devices that God has given us from the Bible - the Word of God. We are not here to recruit you to anything. We are not going to ask you to join up. We are not going to ask you to give us anything. We just would like for you to listen as I try to explain what the Bible has to say for you and your life. We begin our new year, 2019, and something like 13 years of producing this radio show for you. Thank you for those that listen. Thank you for your encouraging remarks when you write. I've been made aware that there's another ministry very close to ours called Richard Hughes ministries. That's not me; rickhughesministries.org is us, in Alabama. And so, if you would like to write, feel free to drop us a note. We always love to hear from you. If you would like to have that Problem Solving Devices Bookmark let us know and we will send it out. You can put it in your Bible or put it in any book you might be reading. Everything is free here. Nothing ever costs anything. If you would like to have it, let us know. Or the book on *Christian Problem Solving* that we've written that helps identify all ten problem-solving devices: starting with rebound, and then the filling of the Holy Spirit, the faith-rest drill, grace orientation, biblical orientation, beginning to have a personal sense of destiny, coming to understand the personal love of God for you, and developing that personal love for God, and then impersonal love you develop for others eventually leading you to sharing the happiness of God and occupation with Christ. Ten problem-solving devices. Your Forward Line Of Troops. When they're in your soul, when they're staged up and ready to be used then the outside forces of adversity will not have any impact on you. **Remember, adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. Adversity is what circumstances will do to you. Stress usually is what you do to yourself.** We've been talking about soul renovation, changing our souls before we change the way we act. We have to change the way we think. We've identified that the soul has mentality and volition, it has a conscience and self-consciousness, and we've identified that from the Word of God - the Bible. And so, until you learn and apply the Word of God, you will continue to do the same old things. In 2019 are you going to continue to be the same person that you were? If in fact you're not happy with the way you live then it's time to reboot. There's a wonderful opportunity. We've talked about that in the last couple of weeks. That means to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Trust Him to be your Savior and begin your life all over again. It's true, you can. The Bible says, "*if any man is in Christ, he's a new creature, old things have passed away, behold all things become new*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). How do we do that? In Ephesians 2:8-9 the apostle Paul wrote, "***For by grace are we saved through faith [it's an act of your faith]; and***

that not of yourselves, it's a gift from God; not of works lest we would brag about it or boast about that." **So you can have a new life in Christ. You can reboot your old life and begin a new life.** And then once you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, I mean, I made that decision many, many years ago and maybe you did too. It was the most wonderful decision that I ever made in my life. At the time I didn't know it, I didn't realize the significance of what I had done when I made a decision to accept Christ as my Savior. I had no idea how it would impact my entire life. I just knew I didn't want to go to hell and I knew I wanted to be saved and I knew I was sick of being me. Not that I was disappointed, but there had to be more. I found there is much more in Christ Jesus. So I rebooted. I began my life again when I was twenty-two. From that time I have had to do a lot of reconnaissance every day. It's important that we do that. Reconnaissance is essential for any Christian because we cannot allow sin to get into our life. If we have a spiritual birth, we must have a spiritual life. Come on you know a physical birth demands a physical life and the spiritual birth demands a spiritual life. **The key to that spiritual life is you doing reconnaissance every day. And then once you identify a failure, once you identify a sin, to rebound that sin. That's our number one problem-solving device - Rebound.** The Bible says in 1 John 1:9, along with many other verses but this one in particular, *"If we confess our sin, He [God] is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and purify us from all of our wrongdoing."* It's a modified expanded translation but that's exactly what it means. There is a possibility that you will sin. Why? Because we still have a sin nature. Yes, we accepted Christ as our Savior. Yes, we do have eternal life. But that does not mean that we will never sin again while we are on this planet because we have Adam's original sin imputed to us and therefore have a sin nature. Man is born into sin. Paul put it this way in Romans 7:15, *"I don't understand the things that I do; the things I want to do, I never do, but the things I hate, I keep on doing."* You may say that sounds exactly like me. Things I don't want to do I do; the things I want to do I don't do. That's because we are two different people sometimes. We have a spiritual life and we have a physical life. The battle has always been, who's going to control the real you? Are you going to let your sin-infused human nature control you? Or will you allow God the Holy Spirit to control you? This is the battle taught in the Bible. The flesh wars against the spirit, the spirit wars against the flesh. These are contrary one to the other so that you cannot do the things that you would. So who will you let control your life? If you have a spiritual life, if you rebooted, then you have to take reconnaissance and rebound when you find out that you sin. Because you sin and I sin, sometimes we don't even recognize it. Sometimes we don't analyze it or admit what we've done, we just do it. Especially in the sins of the tongue, talking about people, maligning people, being critical of people. It's so easy to do. It's so easy to say, "Well yeah, I knew that guy when he was a good guy but do you know what he's done lately?" and then off we go, gossiping, slandering, maligning. America lives off this stuff. It's the juice of life for people. They love to hear sports talk shows. They love to hear insight and dirt on people and maligning people and gossiping about people and complaining about people. You can't afford to live like that. You have to recognize when your sin nature is trying to take over in your soul. By doing reconnaissance you

will look back, you will inspect your life and say, “Dang, I shouldn’t have said that. Dadgumit, I shouldn’t have been that way.” Even driving it’s easy to let your sin nature take over when you get frustrated and angry with people that don’t exactly appreciate you on the interstate. And the more crowded our interstates get, especially in our bigger cities, some of you I feel for you in Portland and Houston and in Dallas and places like this. We don’t have that much traffic where I live in Cropwell, Alabama. But we’re not too far from Atlanta and I’ll tell you right now, if I don’t have to go to Atlanta I don’t go to Atlanta just because of that. And so living can be a test every day. It is easy to sin. Sometimes our mental attitude sins are the most unrecognizable because we get arrogant and we’re blind to that arrogance in our lives. Blind arrogance I mentioned last week how when we get blindly arrogant sometimes we get involved in impetuous actions. Things that we don’t need to do. Things that cause us to waste time. Social media is the open door for impetuous people, people that would act before they think. Because the whole world is a critic and basically the world doesn’t mind telling you what an idiot you are on social media. But our critic is not the world. Our critic, my critic, you have to realize, by the way, before I go any further, when you’re in broadcasting on 25 radio stations or you are speaking across the country in various venues, you are going to have critics and have people that don’t agree with you. People that see it differently, and for some reason or other since when they see it differently they take it upon themselves to try to straighten you out. It’s always hilarious to me, people that don’t have the moral courage to invest in a radio show and do something like this but they want to straighten you out. I’ve always figured it’s best to let God do the straightening. I know that when I’m an idiot, the Lord can straighten me out just fine without another idiot trying to tell me what an idiot I am. The world is full of idiots. I admit I’m an idiot a lot of times. So the world is a critic. The Word of God is the real critic. *“It’s alive and it’s powerful and it’s sharper than a two-edged sword ... it’s a critic of thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12). That’s what the Word of God can do. It can cut right to the quick of our life. So in the stage when we get blindly arrogant we don’t see ourselves as we really are. I mean, we would rather tell somebody else what we think we are. In other words, let me say it again this way; when we get blindly arrogant we don’t see ourselves as we really are. We see ourselves as we think we are. We look into the mirror of arrogant self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption and that empowers us to act irrationally in our life. So if we don’t do some personal reconnaissance, we can’t handle our personal responsibilities for the spiritual life. We have been mandated to *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18). We have been mandated to *“study to show yourselves approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). We have been mandated as the Lord said, *“Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28). Those mandates are there. And without personal reconnaissance we can’t fulfill those mandates. So we have to take reconnaissance day by day, moment by moment, and then rebound when we see our life in retrospect, when we see our failures. But if you start to reminisce about what you assume are your misfortune you get into an area you don’t really need

to go into. Here's a principle, Bible doctrine is for the misfortunate. We all have problems. If you have a social disadvantage of having no impact in your life, if you want to dump your guilt and shame in the garbage pile of the cosmic system, that's the world out there. I mean come on, we cannot allow these things to dwell in our minds and reflect on our failures in retrospect. Maybe abuse we suffered at the hands of someone and we reflect back on our past misfortunes, our past failures, we're just not supposed to do that. Listen to what Paul put it this way, I want to try to make this clear to you, Paul said in Philippians 3:13, this is a touchy subject here by the way because a lot of people feel empowered to, in retrospect, reminisce about the bad things that happened to them and maybe even write them down, thinking that it will help other people if they read about their particular things that happened, that maybe it would inspire someone else. You know there's a lot going on today with that. Bad things have happened to me so let me write it down, tell everybody about it and maybe it'll help you to hear about what happened to me. Wrong! Wrong! No, when you start looking back at the misfortunes; if you start reflecting and reminiscing on that, Paul said in Philippians 3:13, "*Brethren, I don't regard myself as having laid hold of it yet [the completely mature spiritual life]; but this one thing that I do [I love what he's about to say here, I'll bet you know it]: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.*" And then in verse 14, "*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" The key word there is forgetting. That's the key word. "*Forgetting what lies behind.*" That's hard to do sometimes. "*Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.*" That's the spiritual life; you reaching spiritual maturity in your life. And so he said, "*I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" Here are some principles. I can break it down like this. Number one, there's no room in the believer's life for personal sentimentalism. What is that? It is the practice of being sentimental or feeling more than we ought and thus leading us toward basing our decisions on emotions and feelings; our actions or reactions based on emotions and feelings rather than the ten problem-solving devices. That's what we have to base our decisions on. The Irish poet W.B. Yeats wrote this, "Rhetoric is fooling others. Sentimentality is fooling yourself." Do you hear me? "Rhetoric is fooling others [that's talking]. Sentimentality is fooling yourself." Listen, I'm not a counselor. I'm not a psychiatrist. I'm just not. That's not me. So don't misunderstand me, but the Word of God has given me the ability to avoid looking back and to press forward to the prize that lies ahead. A psychologist or psychiatrist may want to have you stretch out and tell them about the bad things that happened in your life. And some people get a lot of relief by doing that. But I found there's more relief in using the problem-solving devices. If I need to reflect or you need to reflect on anything - there's that R word again - it's on the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. We can get the divine perspective on our own situation by looking at His. So we don't allow our memories to dwell on our past situations. Why? Well, they offer nothing to stimulate our spiritual advance. But if we focus in retrospect on our past situations, it can cause us to stumble and to be impetuous because we get emotional. We just don't compartmentalize things that need to be put aside. And in the spiritual life, dump it. There are things that you need to dump. And where do

you dump it? At the Supreme Court of heaven. It's open 24 hours a day and you take it to the heavenly Father and you dump it at His feet and you move on. You don't in retrospect look back and don't go back to these things that happened years ago and reflect on those things. There's just no room for that sentimentality in our life. We don't allow our memories to dwell on our past failures, our past situations since they don't cause or stimulate our spiritual advance. So here's a principle. Don't let yourself be controlled by history. Nothing is going to cause it to go away. That's understandable. But here's something we need to remember. Nobody cares about my past unjust treatment or the past victories I had, since we all have our own battles to fight. For me to assume that people need to know about the failures and flaws and the misfortunate treatment I had, that's just taking time I don't need to focus on. I need to not look back. Paul said, "don't look back. Keep pressing forward." But you say it's best if I look back and remember these things and write them down and reflect on them and tell other people about them so it will help them. No, it is not. Reflecting through emotions is me trying to purge myself or me trying to make sense of the bad memories or at worst seeking attention by disclosing private events, thinking that by doing so I'll be helping somebody else. There's only one thing that helps other people, not my misfortunes. The only thing that helps other people, not my personal tragedies, **the only thing that helps other people is the Word of God.** So, that leads us to the principle of what's in the past stays in the past. You know there's that old saying about Vegas; what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. I have a different saying; what happens in the fishing tackle store stays in the fishing tackle store. Mamma doesn't need to know about that new lure I bought last week. But all joking aside, what's in the past stays in the past since going back and reflecting in retrospect on what happened to me can cause an emotional state and lead me to do something irrational that's not necessary. Let me remind us all of a simple Biblical principle that we have to live by when we are tempted to look back at our failures. If we are tempted to look back at the abuses we suffered at the hand of others, let me remind you, Paul said it this way in Philippians 4:6-7, "*Be anxious for nothing [don't have any anxiety], but in everything [everything] by prayer and supplication along with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And then the peace of God ...*" Did you hear that? "*Be anxious for nothing ... let the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,*" In other words, the world won't understand it, the world doesn't think this way. You have a different way of thinking. You have divine viewpoint not human viewpoint, divine viewpoint. The world won't get where you are getting your peace from. But "*the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension,*" Paul said, "*will guard your hearts and your minds...*" That's the two things you have upstairs: your right lobe and your left lobe. Your mind is where you assimilate information. Your heart is where you act on the information. The Bible refers to the *nous* as the mind and *kardia* as the heart. They are two different places. You stage information in your mind. You go to church and hear your pastor teach, you comprehend it and then by faith you put it into your heart where you can use it, reflect on it, and act on it. So Paul said again, "*Be anxious for nothing [don't have anxiety] but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And then the peace of*

God, which surpasses all comprehension [they won't understand it] will guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus.” That's where the power comes in, in Christ Jesus. The world doesn't have this power. They do not have the ability to live without reflecting back. They can't do that and you can because you look forward, you keep your eyes on the prize. Paul said, “*forget what's behind keep pressing*” “*Finally brother*” (Philippians 4:8) “*whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are right, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there's anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*” That's the process. That's divine viewpoint thinking producing a stable, relaxed mental attitude along with the contentment in your life and the capacity to handle life, love and happiness. Amazing. “*Be anxious for nothing*” is the Greek word *merimnao* which means do not be troubled by anything. And this is not a request. It is a spiritual mandate. That's the one advantage of the Christian life. You can put this one in the bank. **When you grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ you are free from worry.** If the Supreme Court of heaven is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week then we can take it to the Father and dump it at His feet and we can move on down the royal road. Not the my-way-highway. Move down the royal road, the Thy-way highway. Our Lord made it very clear in Matthew 6:25. He addressed these things. He said, “*Therefore I say to you, don't be anxious about your life, what you are going to eat, what you are going to drink; don't be anxious about your body, what you're going to put on it and what you are going to wear.*” He said, “*Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?*” And then he made an illustration. Matthew 6:26-27, “*Look at the birds, they don't sow, they don't reap, they don't gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more important than them? And which of you by being anxious can add even one cubit to your stature?*” Cubit. What's a cubit? It's an ancient measurement of length based on the distance from the elbow to the tip of the longest finger. The Bible tells us that Noah's Ark was 300 cubits in length or about 500 feet. So, “*Which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature?*” In Matthew 6:28-32, “*And why are you anxious for clothes? Look at the lilies of the field; they grow, they toil not and they don't spin, yet, Jesus Christ our Lord said I'm telling you that even Solomon in all of his glory was not arrayed like any of these. So if God clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow cast in the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore don't be anxious saying, 'What are we going to eat? What are we going to drink? What are we going to wear?' Listen, these are the things that Gentiles seek after, said the Lord; but your heavenly Father knows you need these things.*” Matthew 6:33-34, “*But you seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and these things will be added to you. Be therefore not anxious about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Sufficient unto the day of its own evil.*” **So this is a mandate from our Lord for you and I use our spiritual life assets.** Remembering that adversity is inevitable, but stress is optional. Put that in your mind's bank account. Think about it, remember it and live by it. It's the most phenomenal way to live in the world. Well, that's all for this week. Until next time, thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Practical Principles - Part 3

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 699 aired on January 13, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes I'd like to ask you to stick around. Simply 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education. Always done without any type of manipulation. That means we don't try to con people. We're not soliciting money/funds. We're not asking you to join up, fess up, give it up. Nothing like that. This show is simply giving you information so you can verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you would like to follow that plan, well you have the privilege and opportunity to orient and adjust if I can make it understandable. And that's my job. To get it right and get it accurate. To make sure you understand why you need a FLOT Line in your soul. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, meaning you've accepted Christ as your Savior, you have done the reboot, you have started your life again. The Bible says, "*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). Jesus told Nicodemus he needed to reboot when He said, "*you need to be born again*" (John 3:3). Reboot is a technical computer term: turn it off, turn it back on, start it again. It is possible for all of us as believers to reboot our life. Before we accepted Christ we were lost in our trespasses and sins. The good news is that Christ, the anointed Son of God, redeemed us, bought us out of the slave market of sin and paid the debt to God and now we are free by putting our faith alone in Christ alone. That's why the Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is a gift from God: and not of any works lest we would brag about it.*" The most wonderful decision that you could ever make in your life is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. Because that gives you options in life that no one else has. That gives you advantages in life that other people don't have. Advantages and options, what a wonderful thing it is for you. And so by building a FLOT Line, a main line of resistance made up of ten unique problem-solving devices, which by the way, we have a book on that called *Christian Problem Solving* and we have a bookmark that you can ask for. Just simply get in touch with me email or whatever and give us your address and we will send you that bookmark and it has all ten problem-solving devices listed on it. **Those ten problem-solving devices are your main line of resistance to stop the outside sources of adversity before they become the inside source of stress. That's the unique thing about the Christian life. We can live a life free of worry. We can live a life free of fear. We can live a life free of guilt. What a wonderful life. It's the Christian life.** How do we do that? Well, we renovate our thinking. We acquire the mind of Christ. And that's why Philippians 2:5 says, "*Let this mind be in you that's also in Christ Jesus.*" As a friend of mine says, we make a course correction in life, we renovate our thinking, and we change. When we accept Christ as Savior we're born again into the Royal Family of God. But what's in our soul, our way of thinking, our way of living? We have to learn this new way. We have to learn divine viewpoint. We have to learn what God expects out of us. And this is the advantage of the Christian life. Freedom from worry, freedom from fear, freedom from being intimidated by the world. I think last week before I finished up I gave you a passage in Matthew

6 which said, *“Therefore, I say to you don’t be anxious for your life ...”* the Lord was talking to the disciples and gave them some illustrations about the birds and all of that and about how much God loved them and He said, *“if you will seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, He’ll take care of your temporal needs, your clothes, your food, your body, whatever you need He’ll take care of it.”* This was a mandate for us to use our spiritual life. It's important that we remember that, the mandate for us to use our spiritual life. So I want to go over some of that with you just for a minute. In this passage in Matthew 6:25-34, this mandate is for us to remember that adversity is always out there but stress is always optional if we use our divine advantage. For example, our Lord and Paul forbid any believer to have anxiety to have worried or uneasy feelings. The Bible is clear about that. But if we let our emotions take over, if we begin to act on what we feel rather than what we think then fear sets up, trepidation sets up and we become vulnerable and susceptible to being discouraged or even defeated in the arena of contention in our life. So our emotions, although they are real and they are wonderful appreciators they can be a discourager. Be careful. Emotions are great if I’m out fishing on the lake and I see a beautiful sunrise. It’s beautiful. I love the emotions and it pleases me to see a beautiful day, beautiful animals, beautiful fish and always great sunsets. But emotions are not to make decisions with. They are an appreciator. If you try to make decisions with your emotions that will discourage you. Nothing wrong with having passion, that’s an encourager. Passion is wonderful. Passion about the Christian life is amazing. But emotions can be a discourager. Because if you take passion and you translate your passion into a love for God, which is your number one virtue, then that would motivate you to be obedient to Him and to serve Him. So it's okay for me and you to be passionate about our love for the Word of God. That's the number one thing. We should be passionate about our love for the Word of God. Since acquiring divine viewpoint, learning to think like He thought is technically how we worship in its purest form. It's called obedience. When the Bible says, *“study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15), and when the Bible says, *“If you love Me, you will obey Me”* (John 14:15). Well, there you go. Obedience requires me to study to grow, to apply the Word of God in my soul so that I can live this amazing, fantastic, wonderful life by building the invisible FLOT Line in my soul. So the end result of living a spiritual life like we’re talking about is you and me having peace with God and that would guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. So we develop what I used to call and still call the fantastic four: wisdom, knowledge, discernment and understanding. All taught in the book of Proverbs chapter one. So you actually know how history will unfold. You are not a fortuneteller, I know that, but you can look at the trends of a client nation such as the United States of America and you can tell which direction we’re going. How does it look to you? It doesn't look too good does it? You cannot believe what's coming down the road. I personally believe there's a train wreck coming and I can hear the whistle blowing already in this country. Just read what’s going on. Take a look at how this country is being divided. The hatred and animosity. You can see it. The Bible says in Psalm 55:22, *“Cast your care on the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never let the*

righteous be shaken.” That’s you. **As a believer in Jesus Christ and a growing believer - one who is studying, learning and applying the Word of God in their life - you have nothing to worry about.** Because in the face of adversity, in the face of opposition, our Lord Himself demonstrated tremendous resilience. Resilience. That’s another word that we must understand. As a believer we must learn to be resilient. What’s the definition of resilience? It’s the ability of being able to adapt to stressful situations. Things that could alter the course of our lives if we don’t orient and adjust to the plan of God. So it is possible that you could actually handicap yourself by failing to be resilient. Resilience is you refusing to give up on yourself. Or you refusing to give up on other people after some sort of tragedy or failure. We have to learn this. Never cast a flawed believer aside. Our Father doesn’t do that. He didn’t cast Moses aside when Moses made some mistakes and struck the rock at Meribah. He didn’t cast other men aside. He didn’t cast David aside when he committed adultery with Bathsheba. When people make mistakes we don’t cast them aside. Especially if they are flawed and they have a sin nature trend that causes them to crash and burn and fail. We don’t throw them on the ash heap of life and walk away. We are resilient toward them and toward ourself. We are always looking ahead, we don’t ever look behind. That’s a terrible, terrible, terrible thing to do. Always look ahead to the next day, the next hour, the next opportunity. Because as long as you’re alive there’s still a plan of God for you. So the secret, if I had to label it, the secret to being resilient, the resiliency of the mature believer, here’s the secret, Proverbs 3:5-6, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him,”* [there it is as I read it] *“and He will direct your path.”* Trust in the Lord is problem-solving device #3, the faith-rest drill. Standing on the promises of God. Do you know what the faith-rest drill is? We’ve been over it on this radio show over the past 13 years about 10 or 15 times. It’s standing on the promises of God. Claiming the promises of God to have a relaxed mental attitude and coming to a Biblical rationale where you know that God is in charge and you form a conclusion. *“If the Lord is for me, who can be against me?”* (Romans 8:31). So here is the mandate, *“Trust in the Lord [stand on His Word] trust with all your heart [that’s all your fiber, everything within your heart] and do not lean to your own understanding [that’s human viewpoint].”* If you try to figure out how God’s going to handle it, you’ll never get it right. There’s no way in the world that the Jews could’ve understood when they went into the promised land how God would handle Jericho. They were just told they would defeat Jericho and they were to destroy everybody in the city with the exception of Rahab the harlot and her family. They had no idea what God was going to do with those walls. No idea. And this is the way it is so many times. People have no idea how the Lord is going to handle things. So if we trust in Him and we don’t lean on our own understanding; if you get to thinking about how is He going to do this or how will He do that, you don’t know what He’s going to do. **All you need to worry about is this, that you trust Him. That you’re not afraid. That you’re not worried. That you put your faith and trust in Him. He hasn’t thrown you aside. He hasn’t cast you on the ash heap of life. Be resilient. Trust in Him. In all your ways acknowledge Him, that means adoration and recognition.**

That's one of the key things in prayer. When you are praying you want to do it in adoration, that's appreciation to God for what He's done for you and recognition of God's plan in your life. So, *"in all of your ways acknowledge Him, [and then the directive will of God] He shall direct your path."* The directive will of God is where He wants you to be, what He wants you to think, what He wants you to do. It's all in the Bible. It's all laid out for you. Divine guidance is a wonderful doctrine to understand and learn so that you don't have to act on your intuitions. Proverbs 24:15-16, *"You wicked one do not lie in ambush at the home of a righteous person; and do not rob his house; A righteous person may fall seven times but he gets up again, however, in a disaster wicked people fall and fail."* Seven times. Would you call that resilient? Yes. Proverbs 24:15 in the living Bible, *"O evil man leave the upright man alone and quit trying to cheat him out of his rights, don't you know this good man though you trip him up seven times will every time rise again but one calamity is enough to destroy you."* This is one of the sayings presented in Solomon's book of wisdom in the Proverbs. That simple saying refers to the futility of the wicked man who seeks to destroy the righteous and to seize his possessions. According to *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* by Walvoord and Zuck, the righteous man is resilient and he recovers from such attacks, but the wicked man who instigates the scheme, the attack, they are the ones who actually suffer; it is sort of a judicial boomerang. So if you have been attacked and slandered, maligned, smeared, this happens in churches a lot, an awful lot when someone in the church wants it to go one way and you don't want it to go that direction and they'll start a smear campaign to malign and slander you, to get you out of the congregation. Get rid of you, thinking you are a troublemaker. What do you do? You get up. You are resilient. You may have to move on. You may just silently pick up your stuff and leave. But the Lord has a plan. They won't be able to handle it. God will discipline them. But you, in your resilience, you keep going. It's a wonderful thing. Psalm 37:23, *"The Lord makes firm [in other words, He gives solid ground] the steps of the one who delights in Him."* As long as you have positive volition, you're hungry to learn and hungry to know; this is where I want to make a difference here - many people that I meet are not hungry to learn. They want to know God but they don't want to understand God. They are not hungry. If you talk about what it takes to grow in grace. If you talk about what it means to *"study to show yourselves approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). They are not willing to commit the time to do it. They don't have the hunger to do it. Only a very few that I've met over the years of my ministry, which is going on 50, have really had a desire to grow in grace. Most people are just happy to go to church and be a conventional Christian. Hello God. Goodbye God. I'll see you next Sunday God. Take care of me until then God. We call it the nod to God crowd. They are saved. They are going to heaven. They have eternal life. But they are never going to have an impact for the Lord Jesus Christ in this world because they're not willing to learn and understand the plan of God. So, *"The Lord makes firm [solid ground] the steps of the one who delights in Him [positive volition]. Though you may stumble, you won't fall; for the Lord upholds him with His hand. I've been young and now I'm old;"* the Psalmist said, *"and I have never seen the righteous forsaken,*

*nor have I ever seen his seed begging bread” (Psalm 37:23-25). The resilience of the apostle Paul can also be seen in Acts 14. Notice this about how resilient he was. In Acts 14:19, “The Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and after winning the crowds over [that’s the public lie told the public lie loud enough and long enough and often enough so the idiots in the crowd believed it] they stoned Paul [that means they attacked him with stones] and they dragged him out of the city presuming he was dead.” He was unconscious. They stoned him. Verse 20, “But after the disciples surrounded him [I’m sure they prayed for him] he got up and he went back into the city. And on the next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.” He got up and went back into the city. The believer’s spiritual resilience always enables him to advance undeterred to maturity in his life. Undeterred. You’re going to face problems. Listen to what Paul said about it in his life in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 using what I call the NET Bible (The New English Translation). He said, “we are experiencing trouble on every side, but we are not crushed; we are perplexed, but not driven to despair; we are persecuted but not abandoned, and we are knocked down but we are not destroyed;” This is resilience in the face of adversity. We’re troubled, that is the Greek word *thlipbo*, a present passive participle, meaning the trouble for him was trouble from the pressure of the circumstances of antagonism. It is not self-induced. It is not something he created. It is something he received - antagonism. “We are being troubled on every side but we are not crushed.” The Greek word means we are not forced into a narrow space like getting our foot crushed in a wall or something. We are not distressed over these circumstances. We have adversity but we don't have any anxiety. Paul’s relaxed; he has a divine viewpoint. He is troubled, yes, on every side persecution, attacks, lies, stonings but not crushed. Paul was perplexed; in other words, he didn't understand the attitude of the believers in the churches towards their Judaistic traditions. We may be perplexed, but not abandoned. We are not abandoned and that means we are not left helpless, we’re not deserted by God. So we’re troubled but we’re not crushed. We are perplexed, don't quite understand it, but we’re not driven to despair and we're not abandoned and knocked down and destroyed. Let’s look at it a little bit more. We are not driven to despair; the Greek word means we still have our resources. We’re knocked down; the Greek means thrown to the ground, stoned, put in a lower place. But we’re not destroyed; the Greek word means we are not abolished, we’re not put to an end, we’re not rendered useless. So Paul, lists all of these things and then he notes the divine advantage for what he went through. The reason he went through these things, listen carefully, 2 Corinthians 4:15-18 “For all of these things were for your sakes, so that the grace that is including more people may cause thanksgiving to increase to the glory of God. Therefore we do not despair even if our physical body is wearing away, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary light suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, because we're not looking at what can be seen, but what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.” What did he say? We do not despair. We don't have this despair. We have the resources in our soul. We are not lost. We have not given up hope. Paul had eternal objective optimism. And that was a clear indication of his*

resiliency. You see, if you are subjective, not objective, your subjectivity will rob you of your divine outlook on circumstances beyond your control. You won't understand it because subjectivity leads to negative volition on your part because you'll get full of self-pity, you'll begin to feel sorry for yourself and wonder why God allowed these things to happen to me. This is not the way that Paul was about this. So subjectivity leads to self-pity and self-pity is a byproduct of subjectivity. But virtue love, wonderful virtue love, is objective in its function. Virtue love is you loving God. *"If you love Me, you will obey Me"* (John 14:15). *"We love Him because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19) reciprocal love motivation. We are mandated to love God over and over and over again. That's the friend God is looking for, the person that loves Him; motivational virtue and personal love for God. Arrogance on that part is subjective. Arrogance is always toward self. That's subjective arrogance. But love for God, virtue, is always objective. It's always looking ahead, always looking for the next day. In other words, if you have an objective analysis in your soul from the Word of God you've learned and applied in your life, you have those problem-solving devices, then you can have the resiliency that you need to sustain you in times of adversity. You have the faith-rest drill, you have the problem-solving devices. I mean, it's wonderful. What do you have to worry about? Paul's life was never fragmented by being arrogantly subjective, it didn't happen. He was objective rather than subjective. That's the key to happiness in life because it allows you to counsel yourself with the Word of God that's in your soul when you get in a crisis. You don't get full of self-pity. You don't get angry at people. You use the faith-rest drill from the problem-solving devices and you live with spiritual objectivity. It helps you avoid hangups in your life which hinder you learning the Word of God or applying the Word of God. We're not perfect. None of us are perfect. We all have a sin nature so perfectionism is not possible. But it is possible that we live as professionals, not perfectionists, but professionals. Professional believers. We are professionals. Spiritual quiet professionals who have an impact on history. The client USA needs some spiritually quiet professionals, which means they are members of the pivot. They are blessing by association. They have impact on the course of history as invisible heroes. Amazing what God wants you to do. **You can change the course of history by your positive volition. As you grow in grace and develop virtue love for God your life will count in such a way that you will be an invisible hero as a spiritual quiet professional.** The invisible hero has invisible impact on history. And depending on your routine and your daily perception of the Word of God, this is what will take place. As a winner believer you will demonstrate the validity of the sentence that God passed on the fallen angels. They had a chance and they rejected it. You have a chance and you've accepted it. The invisible hero has an invisible impact. But if you don't have that spiritual resiliency you will never have an impact on the course of history. Not in this client nation. So think about this. The spiritually mature believer has international impact, angelic impact, heritage impact and changes history with his resiliency based on the Word of God in his soul and using those ten problem-solving devices. Well, that's all for this week. Until next time, thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Practical Principles - Part 4

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 700 aired on January 20, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. Thank you for tuning in and thank you for listening. I appreciate you giving me some time of yours. You know this show is about some motivation, inspiration, education without manipulation. We don't try to con people. We are only here to give you some accurate information that will help you verify and maybe identify the plan of God for your life. If that happens, as we always say, maybe you will orient and adjust to that plan. I hope so. You are a victim of your own volition. You have your own mind, your own volition, your own chooser, your own decider and you will be a victim of what you think because the Bible says, "*As a man thinks in his heart, so he is ...*" (Proverbs 23:7). Whatever you think, that's what you're going to be, that's what you're going to do. When God wants to look at you, by the way, He's not looking at your image and your style. He's not concerned with what you are wearing. He's concerned with what you are thinking. The whole concept about believers in the Lord Jesus Christ is to acquire the mind of Christ per Philippians 2:5 so that we can think divine viewpoint. Not human viewpoint. Divine viewpoint is the mind of Christ. That's why the Bible says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). You've heard me say that. Before we begin the show today I've got something I want to talk about called the pivot in client nation USA. But before I do, I want to ask a favor of you. It seems like, frequently now, it seems like more than ever, a lot of times radio stations do not play our shows even though we have contracted with them and paid them for this. It started maybe, I didn't really start monitoring the shows until about three or four years ago. I did nine or ten years without monitoring what they did play or did not play and I probably lost a lot of money. Constantly, just like last week there were three shows that didn't play on three different radio stations. So we have to follow that up and try to get our money back even though we paid for them they didn't play it. So I want to ask you, if you live in a city where this radio show is played I need you to spot check it for me. I need you to let me know that the show played as it was supposed to, on time, and in its entirety. Just a simple email to Rick at rickhughesministries.org, that's all I need, to let me know if the show played in your area. There are two ways this show plays. It plays terrestrial, which means it goes out over radio airwaves. So those people that live in California could not listen to what's being played in Mississippi or vice versa. But it also goes out over streaming internet audio. So if you live in Mississippi and you want to hear what's being played in California then you go to the internet and you download an internet application where you can listen to streaming audio from the particular station where the show is playing in California. They are all playing the same show, that's not what I'm saying. What I'm saying is, the show comes out in streaming audio and over the terrestrial airwaves. When we check it, we can only check streaming audio because we're not in California, we're not in Texas, we're not in Mississippi, we're in Alabama. So I need some help. Just like the weatherman has weather helpers that tell him where it rained in this part of the county or that part of the county, I need someone to let me know that the show played in your city, on time, as

scheduled. Many of you have indeed contacted me when a show didn't play. That's how I found out that we needed to contact the local radio station. So we eventually had to hire someone to be a spot checker, to check the shows, to make sure they are playing. Enough said. If you want to help out in that area we could sure use it. That way we know we're not losing money by paying radio stations to play something and then they don't play it. I've only had one radio station call up and apologize for not playing the show. Most of the time they don't even know it didn't play because it's all completely automated with computer generated programming. So unless the programmer is sitting there watching it he doesn't know it plays or doesn't play sometimes. It's just the way life is in the world of the radio. This is a show about the Word of God. This is a show about the Bible. I can expect Satanic opposition. I can expect Satan to try to disrupt and try to discourage and try to defeat what we do. But we're going to press on. We believe the Lord will use it and honor it. So we're asking for your help in that aspect. Now today I would like to talk about another practical principle for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ called being a member of the pivot. The pivot is the core group of mature believers that God uses to sustain freedom in a nation. **The United States of America is a client nation for God. In that client nation there is a pivot that is a core group of believers that sustains this nation. As goes the pivot, so goes the history of the USA.** I think that we are losing the battle. I think the pivot is shrinking. By that I mean that many of the young people that I meet and talk to are drinking the Kool-Aid of liberal progressivism. I'm not a politician. They don't believe so much in the Bible anymore like you and I do. So they tend to get away from the Bible for a decision making process and tend to justify why it's okay to live certain lascivious lifestyles as if the Bible doesn't really mean anything. America is in a disaster zone. We are in a crossroads of history and if something doesn't change I don't think we'll survive a whole lot longer as a free nation. How long, I don't know. But I know that if you read the news like I read the news and if you watch what is going on, first of all you realize that a public lie floats around and if it's told loud enough, long enough, and often enough then people will believe it. That's called drinking the Kool-Aid. It came from Jim Jones in Guyana when he induced all those poor people to drink the Kool-Aid and commit suicide down in Guyana many years ago. So we need a pivot. We need a strong group, a core group of mature believers. You can make the analogy of Gideon and his 300 that delivered the nation Israel from the thousands of Midianites that had come to ravage and attack them. God only needed 300 well-qualified men. I believe we don't have to have thousands and thousands and thousands because I don't believe there are that many people in this country that really love God's Word and want to learn it. I think there are a lot of Christians. Thousands and thousands of Christians, yes. But hungry? Hungry to study the Bible on a daily basis? Hungry to understand the mechanics of the protocol plan of God? Hungry to glorify Jesus Christ to the maximum by means of divine good production in their life? I don't think so. I don't know. I know where there are a few solid well-founded local churches and I'm a part of some of those that do stand fundamentally on the teaching of the Word of God. They're not weirdos, they're not running around in black suits and 50 pound Bibles whacking people on the head. They believe in

studying the Bible, learning the Bible, applying what they learn, and glorifying Christ as a result of it. These people are what God calls the pivot, the core group of mature believers. When the pivot goes down, the nation goes down. It's all taught under the five cycles of discipline in Leviticus 26 and 27. This is what happened to Israel and Judah and it could happen to us as well. As a client nation we are not guaranteed perpetual freedom. As goes the attitude of the people, so goes the history of the land. In Hosea 4:6, "*My people are rejected because they rejected knowledge. They did not want to know Me, did not want to know My Word.*" Remember, Jeremiah said God is looking for people that understand Him and know Him. I have said before, there's a difference between knowing God and understanding the God you know. So I am looking for pivot potential. This radio show is designed to spot that. You, wherever you are, for you may be in California, you may be in Wyoming, you may be in Texas, you may be in Nevada, you may be in Louisiana, you may be in Mississippi, Georgia, anywhere all the way to New York. No telling where you are. But you may be a potential pivot member. So let's start off with this. Paul gives a mandate in 2 Timothy 2:3-4 in the King James version of the Bible (we're using that to quote from today) it says, "*You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself in the affairs of this life, so that [this is called a purpose clause in the Greek New Testament] he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*" This is a military metaphor used by Paul written to Timothy. Remember Paul used military metaphors a lot. Like in Ephesians 6 where he said, "*Put on the armor of God so you can stand against the strategy of the devil*" (Ephesians 6:11). This show is built around a military metaphor, the Forward Line of Troops, the FLOT Line. Here, Paul is warning these believers, and Timothy as well, to endure hardship as a good soldier. Then he said enduring hardship [the verb structure of the word endure is an imperative mood verb; it's the aorist tense, meaning at the point in time this is going to come, the active voice of that verb says Timothy has to produce the action of the verb, the imperative mood is a command]. In the original language, the words for endure and hardship are made up of two words meaning evil and suffering. So to suffer hardship from the opposition. There is opposition, a.k.a. the devil, and he's going to oppose you in this stage of the angelic conflict if-if-if you wish to grow in the grace of the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If you make a decision as I have seen a lot of people who do, say, "Ya know I'm gonna start studying every day and I'm going to get serious about this and I'm going to learn the Word of God and understand the mechanics of God's plan so that when I get to heaven I don't have to be embarrassed and say, 'Well', put my hands in my pocket and stand there and kick my feet, 'I didn't understand all that God.' You want to hear, "...*Well done my good and faithful servant...*" (Matthew 25:21,23). That doesn't mean that you just went to Sunday school and church every Sunday. It's a lot more than that. It means you replicated the life of Christ and reproduced Christ in your community, in your family and they saw Him in you and you acquired the mind of Christ. That means that you grew spiritually as the Bible tells you, "*grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). So if you're going to endure hardship, part of it is momentum testing. Part of it God allows. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says

“Nothing has come upon you that is not common to man ...and with it the Father always provides a way out.” Momentum testing is to test your desire to stick with it. You may be going through some sort of momentum testing now. Will you be faithful to stick with God's Word? This is sort of like boot camp. When the young recruit goes to boot camp his momentum is tested. He wanted to be in the military. His desire to be in the military (maybe a Navy Seal, maybe a Special Forces, maybe a Ranger, maybe a Marine) is going to be tested to see if he sticks with it. Sometimes we are tested. You go forward in a revival and say, “I want to serve the Lord, I want to do this, I want to do that.” Your momentum can be tested. That's one of the ways God refines you. And then there's evidence testing. That's another way we endure hardship. This is when Satan gets to cross-examine you just as he did the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 4. You will be called to the witness stand and Satan will cross-examine you, “Oh, so you're a child of God. Okay, well, let's see what you believe about this. Let's see how you would handle that.” People often times give in. So let me remind you of a principle. This is a principle my pastor taught a long time ago. It's called the principle of deliverance and it depends upon the size of the pivot in the nation. **The size of the pivot is derived from the fact that mature believers are a blessing by association and they have an historical impact on the client nation USA.** What do you think the pivot size is today? How big is it today? Are there three million mature believers in the United States of America? Three million? How about one million mature believers who love God's word and study on a daily basis? Are there that many mature believers? That pivot is a remnant of mature believers who reach maximum adjustment to the justice of God. In other words, they have oriented and adjusted to God's grace. They have positive volition toward learning and applying the Word of God. **The principle is: if there's a large pivot, if there's a lot of people, then the nation is delivered from historical disaster. But if the pivot is small and shrinks and there are only a few then the nation is destroyed.** This happens throughout history. People as far as Israel and Judah went, they went through the same thing in the destruction under the Chaldean Army, the destruction under the Babylonians, the destruction under the Romans. So the question is, what is the pivot and are you willing to be a member of the pivot? If you are willing to stay filled with the Holy Spirit, if you are willing to begin a daily study of the Word of God in your life under a well-qualified pastor, there is no reason you cannot be a pivot potential. As you grow in grace, as you're tested, as you go through momentum testing and evidence testing you can be a pivot member. **You can be a spiritual quiet professional. You can deliver this nation. Not by marching, not by holding a placard up, but by growing in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.** Here are some requirements to be in the pivot. Titus 2:11-13, *“For the grace of God is appeared, bringing salvation to all people, it [the grace of God] trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, as we wait for the happy fulfillment of our confidence in the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”* So the grace of God is appeared, bringing salvation to all people [yes, it has] and it trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires. Godless ways. What is that? Godless ways

in the Greek means a lack of respect for the laws of God. The same Greek word is used in Romans 1:18 which is a passage that we should be well aware of about indecency and weird things people do; men with men and women with women, those who hold the truth of God in unrighteousness. Remember the Bible says in Galatians 6:7, “...*God will not be mocked....*” When people begin to mock God's laws, begin to mock God's word, and begin to reject any principles of decency that God gave to us, then you can bank on it, our nation will begin a decline. We are in a spiritual decline as I speak to you. I don't know how much longer we have but I know that we are in trouble. The grace of God has appeared to all men and trained us to reject godless ways and worldly desires. Worldly desires. What in the world is worldly desires? They are desires from the cosmos. The cosmos is the cosmic system of Satan. The Greek word for desires means a craving for, or an uncontrollable appetite for sin, uncontrollable lust. If that's going on in your life, if you are not able to control your sin nature when your sin nature induces or tempts you to sin, and you dive into it headfirst willingly, you are building scar tissue in your soul. This is in 1 Timothy 4:2: your soul is being seared, branded, with a hot iron and your norms and standards, things that your parents taught you, right and wrong, are burned away. Things that your pastor taught you, right and wrong, are burned away. In your arrogance you justify why it's okay to dive deeper into sin, immorality, into anything that is against God's laws, worldly desires. The world is a mirage. It offers you all sorts of happiness. Come on over here and try this. Come on over here and try that and you will be happy. However, the Lord Jesus Christ said, “*happiness belongs to the people who hear My Father's Word and keep it*” (Luke 11:28). What the world offers you is a way to destroy yourself. What the world offers you is a dead end street, an endless cul-de-sac down the highway of life. **You can get on the my-way-highway and you will destroy yourself. Or you can get on the Thy-way-highway, as a friend of mine in Houston put it, and you can have a wonderful life.** It'll be well lit and it'll be direct and God will show you exactly what He wants you to do, when He wants you to do it and how He wants you to do it. But if you go down the my-way-highway, there are no lights, there's no direction, it is just you justifying why you're doing what you're doing and blaming it all on someone else. So, on the contrary, we are to live self-controlled as this verse says. Not giving into what the Bible calls “godless ways and worldly desires,” but we are to live self-controlled. The Greek word for self-controlled means we have to learn how to restrain our passions, learn how to restrain our desires. Thus we think as Christ thought by attaining the mind of Christ, thinking like Christ thought. It's not easy to restrain passions in life, especially sinful passions and sinful desires. This is what is so strange, Paul said in Romans 7:15, “*the things I want to do, I don't do and the things I hate, I do*” and then in Romans 6:12, “*do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies any longer...*” We need to get to where sin does not control us. We need to get to where we are able to control our sin natures not letting our sin nature control us. And the only way we can do it is to: (1) be filled with the Holy Spirit, (2) to have the resident doctrine of God's Word inside our soul, and (3) to operate on the faith-rest drill. If we take in the Word of God, stay filled with the Holy Spirit, operate on the faith-rest drill it's possible (maybe not probable) but it's possible that you can

overcome a lot of the desires of your flesh; that you can restrain the passions that, right now, drive you to do things you don't like. The word self-controlled means to be free of intoxicants. Those things that rob you from clear thinking. Emotions are intoxicating. Emotions eliminate clear thinking and they do not restrain the sin nature. We must learn to restrain the sin nature by being self-controlled. It starts at home with the children being taught divine norms and standards while they are still under your care so that when they get into the world they have options, they at least know what their choices are. It doesn't mean they are always going to choose the right thing. It means you prepared them, you gave them a choice, and then it's up to them. They have to use their volition. If they love you and they honor you and they respect you, hopefully they will follow your advice and listen to the Word of God. So we are to keep watch over our lives and not fall asleep on duty. We are to have self-control. As a matter fact, Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:6, *"let us not sleep as others sleep but watch and be sober."* That means God does not assign responsibility to immature individuals. He expects you to develop self-control. If you don't have that you can be enticed to disregard His plan and endanger anyone associated with you because you don't have any self-control, because you're self-centered, because you're nosy, because you're messy, because you're impatient, maybe you're even explosive. So Titus says we are to have self-control and live uprightly. Live uprightly means we live equitably in a fair and impartial manner, never taking sides, not judging people, not pre-determining guilt on our part, let the Supreme Court of heaven handle it. That's why Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 2:10 the statement about his behavior, the way that he acted; he said, *"You are our witnesses, and God is also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe."* Devoutly, justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves. Wow. I need to break those three words down. I haven't done that yet but I will. So if we go on with Titus 2:12 he said, *"we are to live godly lives."* Remember Psalm 116:15, *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones."* So the question is, what is a godly life? What is a godly person? I want to go over that with you. Maybe not on this radio show but on the next one go into what is godliness. What it means to be a godly person. I hope you have been listening and I hope you have been paying attention. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. Simply go to our website, rickhughesministries.org and you can always email us from the website. You can there find a list of the books that we have available that are free of charge. We never charge for anything. We never solicit money, we never solicit funds, we never sell anything. I believe if God is in it He will pay for it without us ever having to open our mouth. He has always done that. We are here today because of the faithfulness of believers who live by the principle just like I do. So think about it. Come back and be a part of the show. Listen, learn and apply this information that we give you. The most important thing is that you know Christ as your Savior. I pray you have made that single most significant decision in your life which is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Practical Principles - Part 5

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 701 aired on January 27, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes you have an invitation to join in, stick around, and listen to me. Thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education and we'll do this without any type of manipulation. We are not trying to con you into doing anything. We are not asking you to join up, fess it up, give it up, nothing like that. We don't need your money, well I don't mean that, I mean we are not trying to hustle money is what I'm trying to say. We are not trying to get anybody to contribute. We are just trying to teach the Word of God accurately. Hopefully so you can identify and verify God's plan and then orient and adjust to the plan. If it is the first time you have ever heard the FLOT Line, FLOT stands for Forward Line of Troops F. L. O. T. That is a military acronym which means that inside the Christian's life he can develop a main line of resistance that will stop the outside sources of adversity before they become the inside sources of stress. That is why we always say adversity is inevitable and stress is optional. If you learn the protocol plan of God you can have the most amazing life. A life full of pleasure and happiness as the Lord Jesus Christ promised it, *"I give you My joy"* (John 17:13). He told the disciples, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it"* (Luke 11:28). That is a promise. You can avoid worry, fear, guilt, anger and bitterness; you do not have to live that way. Those are all indicative of emotional sins in the believer's life. So there is a new way to live. That is living the protocol plan of God, understanding the ten unique problem-solving devices of the FLOT Line that makes up the forward line of troops in your soul. If you have never gotten hold of the book on that, we have a book called *Christian Problem Solving* that is free. No charge ever. Just contact us and we will ship you one immediately. You can go to our website, rickhughesministries.org and you can get the book from there if you would like to have it. This is the fifth show in the series on practical principles for people with principle; principled people; people that live by principles in their life. Last week we began to talk about pivot membership. Pivot is the core group of believers that God uses to sustain the nation much like in Gideon's day when God used 300 well-qualified soldiers to sustain the Jewish nation. God is always looking for those well-qualified people. Pivot membership, we used a verse from Titus 2:11-13 that says, *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people, [and then it goes on to say as Paul wrote it] it trains us to reject godless ways, to reject worldly desires, and to live self-controlled, upright godly lives in this present age, as we wait for the happy fulfillment of our hope in the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."* And so we begin to break this down. If you would like to be one of those people that God can count on, I'm going to use a term godly person. I do not know if you consider yourself godly, we are going to study it here in a minute, but that is what our Father is looking for, godly people. People who in this nation can sustain the pivot. That doesn't mean that you are good with a firearm, that means that you are good with the Word of God. That you are the invisible pivot having a historical impact on the nation. That is what you are supposed to do. **As goes your spiritual life, so goes**

the history of this nation. And so, in this passage Paul says we must reject godless ways. The Greek word, I'll go into the Greek on these so you can see it, means ways that have no respect for the laws of God. You must reject that. The laws of God are clear. Romans 13:1 tells you about this. It is a very interesting passage because it says there is no leader that God has not allowed to be there. So if you are mad at the President, the last President or this President, you have to be mad with God because He put them there. Romans 13:1-3 tells you that. They did not put their own selves there, and God could at any time take them out. He allowed them to be there for a reason. And so godless ways are people that do not respect God's laws; like the last few verses of Romans 1 about a people that do not respect God's laws and establishment concepts of the way life carries on through marriage. And so you have to be aware of that. It is the same word used in Romans 1:18 (a passage we are well aware of), it says, *"Those who hold the truth of God in unrighteousness,"* and then remember what the Bible says, *"God will not be mocked"* (Galatians 6:7). There are thousands and thousands and thousands of Americans in the USA today mocking God. Trying to attribute things to God that He doesn't approve of, that He does not agree with. Some of the most absurd insane things you could ever believe, and yet you read the news, you see the same things I do. Godless ways, reject them, stay away from them. Worldly desires is the next passage. We are to reject godless ways and worldly desires, the desires of the cosmic system of Satan. We live in the devil's world, the cosmic system. The desires or the craving or the uncontrollable lust of the sin nature. The result of lust in the sin nature, if you don't control it, is it builds up scar tissue and your conscience begins to be seared with a hot iron or your conscience is branded per 1 Timothy 4:2. The Greek word means to sear, much like to cauterize or to put a brand on a cow, for example Bar TJ. You hold the little cow down and you press a hot branding iron so that he carries that brand all of his life. Sin will brand you. Godless ways will brand you. It will cause you to carry this scar all of your life. You must avoid the worldly desires. There are three enemies we have: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Here we are talking about the desires of the world, what the world throws at you. The cosmic system tells you if you want to be happy, win the lottery. Well, that is a joke. I mean, everybody wants to have money, sure, but winning the lottery won't make you happy. There are too many occasions when people that won the lottery are not happy. Happiness is not related to people or circumstances. That is not where happiness is found. But that is not what the world tells you. What the world will show you is a mirage like in the desert. You will see it, it looks like a beautiful, nice, wonderful place and you will get there and you will be in Operation Boomerang. You will say, Oh no, this is not what I expected. And so Solomon talks a lot about that. He said I tried everything under the world and it brought me no happiness. And then Paul went on to say, *"we are to live self-controlled, upright godly lives in this present age"* (Titus 2:12). We are to live self-controlled, the Greek word means we must learn how to restrain our passions and our desires. Thus we acquire the mind of Christ or we think like He thought. Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* That means that we are to be free of intoxicants that rob us of clear thinking. We are not to allow our emotions to overrule us.

Emotions are intoxicating and eliminate clear thinking in your life. So we are to stay away from emotional decision. We are to restrain from letting the sin nature control our life. This starts with just training your children when they are young at home and teaching them respect for authority. That is where it starts. Keeping watch over our lives and not sleeping while we are on duty. The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:6, *“Let us not sleep as others sleep but watch and be sober.”* So if we are going to live self-controlled, we must keep control over our lives. We can't allow our lives to be sucked into the cosmic system looking for happiness in the details of life. This is you assigning responsibility, you have to take the responsibility yourself. One of the most damaging things is to assign responsibility to immature individuals who have no self-control. Those sort of people are dangerous people since they can be enticed to disregard the protocol plan of God and endanger all people that are associated with them. For example, a few traits of no self-control are: (1) a self-centered individual, (2) a nosy individual, (3) a messy individual, (4) an impatient individual, and (5) an explosive individual. Titus 2:12 says we are to have self-control, live uprightly, and have godly lives. Uprightly means we are to live equitably in a fair and impartial manner, never taking sides, not judging, not predetermining guilt on your part. I think I went over a lot of this with you last week. I know it's review. Let's move on. In 1 Thessalonians 2:10 Paul talks about living equitably in a fair and impartial manner. He said, *“You are witnesses and God also, how devoutly, justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you.”* I told you I would look up those words and I did. “Devoutly” is a descriptive adverb in Paul's lifestyle of holiness. He was not addicted to sin nature control. Paul's life was devoted to his mission without any distractions. His life was a picture of fidelity and spiritual commitment. He was not self-righteous. He was set aside by God for a certain job. So you are my witnesses of how I lived, Paul said. We are talking about this concept in Titus 2:12 of being upright, being fair and impartial. Paul said you are my witnesses of how devoutly I live my life; how justly and blamelessly. “Justly” means living up to God's standards; I did not judge people. The Bible tells us not to do that, *“Do not judge others lest you be judged”* (Matthew 7:1). “Blamelessly” means I live my life with no cause for censure; there are no skeletons in Paul's closet. He stood up to the critics of scrutiny in his life. Titus 2:12 goes on to say that we are to live godly lives. We are to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives, interjecting what Paul said about himself there. Godly lives. What does it mean? In Psalm 116:15, *“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones.”* So we get into what we want to cover today. What is a godly person and do you consider yourself to be a godly person? In 2 Corinthians 7:10 the Bible says, *“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation...”* I need to take exception with that. Godly sorrow. There is really no such thing as a godly sorrow. There is sorrow, or grief, or feeling of remorse, or guilt, or sin. But godly sorrow, using the word God to deal with this, is saying that you must feel sorry for your sins in order to be saved. And that is a question you have to answer because your personal sins are not what condemns you to the lake of fire to start with. It was not your personal sins. It was not that you fornicated. It was not that you stole something. It was not that you lied. Your personal sins are not what condemns you. It is your position in Adam that

condemns you. As the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 15:22, *“As in Adam all die, but in Christ all are made alive.”* So God's solution does not require sorrow, godly sorrow. The Greek words for feeling sorry or repenting are translated repent in the Bible. The Greek word means an emotional sorrow and this is exactly what Judas did when he went out and hung himself. He was sorry that he betrayed the Lord but he did not change his mind, he just had emotional sorrow. Peter, on the other hand, who denied the Lord confessed his sin, rebounded, used problem-solving device #1, got back in fellowship. So a person who is godly is not a person who does not commit sins. We all sin because we have a sin nature. You have one and I have one. **But a godly person is a reproduction of Christ Jesus. He is acquiring the mind of Christ and representing Jesus Christ to all that he walks with, talks with, and spends time with. He reproduces Christ to others. They see Christ in him.** The disciples saw the Father in the Son; we see the Son in us. This is all based on the filling of the Holy Spirit and the motivation of virtue love, or personal love for God. *“If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard”* (1 John 5:3). So here we are. Godly people. What is a godly person? Well, listen to 2 Timothy 1:13, *“Holdfast [that is positive volition not negative volition] the form of sound words [doctrines] which you heard from me in faith [that is the faith-rest drill] and in love [that is virtue love] which is in Christ Jesus.”* What does that mean? (1) A godly person stands firm and does not drift away from sound doctrine. It is very easy to do in the cosmic system. It is very easy to be recruited away. You might not even know you are being recruited. One of the worst ways that it takes place or happens is when men of God, who are called by God, saved and in the ministry, begin to teach something that's not true, something that is deviating from what they have learned. They learned the truth from their mentor, but they came up with a better idea. And since they have friends, they lure their friends to go along with them. Their friends believe in them. Their friends trust them. Their friends do not think they would ever lie to them. Their friends have complete confidence in them and they go with it. They leave the doctrine they learned originally and go for a changed doctrine. They drifted away from sound doctrine. We do not believe that way, we believe this way. We changed our mind. That happens a lot. I have seen it my lifetime happen a lot and it is shocking when it happens. It happens with men who have independent churches that do a lot of studying and a lot of teaching then the next thing you know they develop some new concept or some new way of thinking and off they go. (2) A godly person understands faith-rest mechanics. This is exactly what the Lord Jesus Christ used in Matthew 4:1-4; He quoted Scripture when He was tempted by the devil - this is the faith-rest drill. (3) A godly person is motivated by virtue love. That is personal love for God. *“If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not grievous”* (1 John 5:3). Personal love for God is the greatest motivational virtue any of us possess. The Bible says in 1 John 4:19, *“we love Him because He [God] first loved us.”* That is called reciprocal love motivation. When we have that kind of love motivation then we can love our neighbor as we love ourself with impersonal love which is another problem-solving device. So a godly person stands firm, does not drift from sound doctrine; understands the faith-rest mechanics and uses them; and is motivated by virtue love, personal

love for God. (4) A godly person is not a self-righteous legalist who thinks he is impressing God with his lifestyle. Like the man in Luke 18:9-14 who said, I thank you God that I am not like this sinner over here and then went on to produce all of his good works to God. He said, I tithe and I do this and I fast and I do that. He thought he was earning his way to heaven. The other illustration the Lord Jesus Christ gave was of a man who beat on his chest and said, *'God have mercy me, a sinner!'* A godly person knows he is a sinner. He is not self-righteous. He is not a legalist who thinks that he is impressing God because he does not smoke or does not drink, or because he tithes faithfully or because he has not missed Sunday school in twenty-three years. I am glad that you do all those things but that is not what impresses God. **What impresses God is when you assume the character of Christ, when you assume the mindset of Christ. When you stay filled with the Spirit and you operate under His Word and when you represent Jesus Christ to your friends, family, or whoever you are in contact with.** (5) A godly person is not someone who acts holy, goes around uttering spiritual phrases, 'God willing or God bless you brother', you hear that all the time and think this must really be a godly person, listen how he talks. But you cannot tell what a godly person is. I used to think when I would run across people from England who spoke with an English accent that they were godly people. I thought, they sound so holy. You cannot tell what a person is by the way he talks or by the way he walks. You can only tell by what he thinks. The Bible says, *"As a man thinks in his heart, so he is ..."* (Proverbs 23:7). How can you tell what he thinks? As soon as he opens his mouth and begins to talk about the doctrine he believes. Does he believe in faith alone in Christ alone? Or does he believe in faith plus being baptized or faith plus giving up peanut butter? What does he believe? **One trait of godliness, for sure, is the impact you have on your family, on your school, and on your nation. The invisible historical impact from you who are a spiritual quiet professional. That is what you have to be - a spiritual quiet professional. That is what God expects out of you.** In 2 Timothy 3:12, *"Now, in fact, all who want to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."* There it is. You will be persecuted for what you believe. You will be persecuted for how you live your life. You will be persecuted if you try to stick your nose in everybody else's business and change the way they think. It is not your job to change the way the government runs. Christians are not to get so involved in politics that they begin to condemn the unbeliever. Stay out of that. I know what the unbelievers are doing. I know what this nation is facing. I have been telling you that there is a train wreck coming and that I can hear the whistle blowing. I can see the progressive ideology of the Democratic Party today and what they want as compared to the conservative ideology of the Republican Party and what they would like to see. I can see all that. And you can too. And you can make your own mind up which way you want to go. But like Joshua said, *"... as for me and my house, we are going to stick with the Lord"* (Joshua 24:15). We are going to be persecuted and slandered and maligned. We are going to be called all sorts of weird names and even taken to court and sued because we do not want to associate with some sinful trait or sinful deed. You would not believe what is going on behind the scenes in the Christian world. The attack on ministers is unbelievable in this country and it is

only going to get worse. So what should I do about it? 2 Timothy 2:3 says, *“Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.”* What does that mean? Shut up, show up and fake it till you make it. Just do not worry about it. The Supreme Court of heaven is open 24 hours a day and God is perfectly able to handle any complaints, any unfair or unjust treatment that we get. Colossians is clear about this but before that, let me give you one final warning. The perfunctory believer (the believer who acts or his gestures are carried out with minimum effort) is never going to reach godly status because he will not put in the time. He is not willing to study. The Bible says, *“study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). The perfunctory believer is not willing to do that and if he does, he thinks he is smarter than the pastor. And then secondly, the Bible says, *“grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18). That is a mandate not a request. Thirdly the Bible says, *“study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). You cannot do that if you have minimum effort, if you just put a little bit into it. If your Christian life is say okay, I’m happy; I went to church Sunday morning and maybe even Sunday night; I gave up a football game to go to church. But that does not make you godly. **A godly person is a person who is faithful to Rebound (confesses his sin), is faithful to stay filled with the Spirit, is faithful to use faith-rest drill, is faithful to grow and advance in the Word of God** (if his pastor is not teaching it, he will find someone who is teaching it). I know God is out there and if you are hungry for truth, you may be listening to me and saying where can I get truth. Where can I get it? Just write to me. I’ll give you the names of great pastors and you can call them. You can get their tapes and DVDs free of charge. There are some wonderful pastors teaching the Word of God; but you cannot be less than 100% committed and expect to ever be a godly person. You are not godly just because you do not smoke or because you utter godly phrases. You are godly because of what you think, *“as a man thinks in his heart, so he is”* (Proverbs 23:7) - that is the real you. That is what godliness is. That is what God is looking for. He is looking for those of you who are willing to make an historical invisible impact on this nation; ones that I call the spiritual quiet professionals. That is what we are looking for. I know some of you are listening and you are that sort of individual. You are a spiritual quiet professional. I hope you will continue to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I hope you will take advantage of the material that we offer, and I hope you take advantage of the contacts that we have so that on your own, if you have to, you can sit around with a cup of coffee, a Bible, and a notebook and study every day which is exactly what I do. I hope you are listening. I hope you are paying close attention. The history of this nation depends on your thoughts, your actions, and your deeds. Whether or not we survive another 20 years is going to depend on you. As goes your spiritual life, so goes the history of this country. It is late, it is about gone, you must step up, you must put on the mantle of godliness and be the man or woman that God can count on. I hope you're listening. Please come back next week, same time, same channel. This is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Truth

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 702 aired on February 3, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I am your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes you have a cordial invitation to stick around, listen to what we are going to say. Just a few minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education always with no manipulation. We do not con people. We are not seeking to solicit money. We are not trying to raise any money. We are not going to ask you for money. We are just going to ask you to listen. Listen to what we have to say. I am trying to verify and identify God's plan for your life. If I can do that then you have the privilege to orient and adjust to the plan. The greatest honor that I know of in my life is the privilege to talk to you over this radio station. To give you the truth of God's Word. I am so privileged to be able to do this. Thank you for giving me a few moments of your time. Thank you for listening. As always, I pray that you keep me informed in your city if the show does not play. We have to stay on top of that because we have that happen quite often. So if there is a time that you go to the radio station and turn it on and it is not there, let me know so we can get our money back from the stations that do not play it. These shows are not free. We purchase them. We buy the airtime. God always pays for it but sometimes we do not get played and we have to stay on top of that. Okay, enough of that. The show today, what we want to cover, we have been covering in the last few weeks for you, practical principles for people who want to live by principle. **If you are going to live by principle in your life, the one thing you are going to have to live by is truth. You cannot live by the lie. You have to live by the truth.** So we are going to talk about truth today. Simply put, about truth - T.R.U.T.H. My pastor has recently been teaching a series on the life of Christ. It is the most amazing thing I have ever heard. He is well over one thousand hours into the subject of the life of Christ. We are now, in our personal study at church, learning about the Lord Jesus Christ before Pilate. By the way, these are all available free of charge on DVD or MP3 should you want to take advantage of them. If you have a thousand hours to listen like I do - and that usually means I have been listening for an hour a day, every day, early the morning, get up and plug in a DVD and listen to him teach me the Word of God. So this is a subject that he covered and I want to develop it a little further along. I am not a pastor. I do not pretend to be a pastor. I am an evangelist - that is my spiritual gift. The objective of this radio show is to give the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ who took our place on the cross. The good news that Christ is the anointed Son of God and He alone redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. Our debt to God was paid by Him. We are free from the penalty of death and the power of sin in our life. But I am also looking for those of you who are hungry to grow. For those of you that want to advance in the Christian life and not just operate on ritual without reality. Ritual without reality is meaningless. But if you want to learn and study and grow and advance in the plan of God - you are the one I am looking for. It is important what we have to say today, so listen up. In John 18:37, *"Pilate said to Jesus as he questioned Him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus replied, 'You say that I am a king for this reason. I came into the world for this*

reason, I was born for this reason, I came into the world to testify to the truth. [Did you hear that? This is why He came. To testify to the truth.] *Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice.*” So we know immediately that Jesus Christ is not a liar. That He came into this world to give truth. The English word truth is pronounced different in the Greek New Testament. It’s the word *aletheia* which simply means what is factual or what is reality, not what is false. So our Lord Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God came to testify to the truth of the Father and the truth of Himself. He demonstrated to the world that God loves the world. God so loved the world is the truth that Jesus brought. *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son”* (John 3:16a). This says God loves you. That is truth. That is not a lie. God loves you. Secondly, God sent His Son to die for you. That is truth. That is not a lie. **God loves you, His Son died for you, and now you can have eternal life. That’s truth.** *“... whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life and he who believes not the wrath of God abides on him already”* (John 3:16b). In John 14:6, *“Jesus said these words, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me’”* (John 14:6). The only way to come to know God the Father is to come through Jesus Christ. That’s truth. He said it, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. I am truth, I came to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice.”* What does it mean, belongs to the truth? That means anyone who has received Christ as their Savior knows that Jesus Christ is not a liar. The strategy of Satan has always been to discredit the truth and to substitute in place of the truth, obviously the lie. How do you substitute the lie for the truth? How do people do that? Well, first of all, they have to discredit the person who represents truth by attacking his persona or his lifestyle. That is the first way. If someone represents truth they attack his person or his lifestyle. Secondly, then that individual must be represented as an evil person, an immoral person, a conniving person so the liar can hide their own conspiratorial desires. So what they do is they belch out all these lies about another person so that their own immoral lifestyle is not even the issue. If you get into what is called a debater’s technique: this person is wrong, that person is wrong, he is immoral, he is a liar, he is this he is that, everything he says is wrong... if you attack the individual then you can bring it to conclusion that anything the individual says is wrong. This is exactly what happened to our Lord Jesus Christ. There was an attack upon His persona and thus the religious crowd said anything that Christ said was wrong. The new purveyor of truth - the attacker - wants to malign, slander, judge, criticize, gossip about, backbite, rundown the person who has truth; the new purveyor of the truth then introduces himself as a nice, sweet, wonderful, concerned person who loves you. Therefore anything they say must be true. Well, that is obviously not true. Is there any such thing as absolute truth? The answer is, yes, there is. Absolutely there is absolute truth. I want to give you a verse in James 3:14, *“But if you have bitter jealousy and strife in your heart, do not be arrogant and lie against the truth.”* This would be a good verse for every politician to read. *“If you have bitter jealousy and strife in your heart, do not be arrogant and lie against the truth.”* Introducing yourself as a politician, as some nice, sweet, kind, wonderful, concerned person, and representing the other person as evil and immoral and conniving. That

sounds kind of familiar doesn't it? Absolute truth. Is there anything that is absolute truth? Yes, there is. It is known to you and to I as the Bible. **The Bible is absolute truth.** You say, wait a minute, the Bible was written by those men. Well, listen to 2 Peter 1:16-21. This is what Peter wrote, *“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables [that is a lie] when we made known unto you the power in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His Majesty [in other words, they witnessed all of this they wrote about.] For He received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the Excellent Glory [this was on the Mount of Transfiguration,] ‘This is My beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased.’ - and this voice which came from heaven we heard when we were with Him in the holy mountain. We have also a more sure word of prophecy to which you do well that you listen as unto a light that shines into a dark place, until the day dawns and the day star rises in your own hearts. So know this first [Peter said], that no prophecy in the Scripture is of any private interpretation, for the prophecy came not in old times by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were motivated [moved] by the Holy Spirit.”* That is how you got your Bible. Not some will of man. Not some scheme of man. Not some lie of man to deceive you into thinking that this is right and that is wrong. You see the Bible is not subjective truth. It's absolute truth. Subjective truth is a truth based on a person's perspective, a person's feelings or a person's opinions. You know, people come to believe what they believe in one of three ways: (1) either they believe it by empirical data, scientific proof, or (2) they believe it by rationalism, by trying to rationalize out why this or that happened, or (3) they may operate on *pistis* - the Greek word faith. We believe what we believe by faith. By faith the Bible says Abraham believed God. There has to be faith in the life of the believer if he is going to operate that way. Subjective truth is a truth based on the person's perspective, feelings or opinions. Empiricism, rationalism or *pistis* is how you come to one of those conclusions. Subjective truth is not absolute truth and it can be relative to the need of the moment. In other words, truth is often sacrificed for self-preservation. People will lie to preserve themselves. So this leads us to question. What are your standards of truth in your life? You know the Lord's disciple Peter told a lie when he denied that he knew Jesus Christ. You may have lied yourself. In Luke 22:54-62, *“When they seized Him and led Him away bringing Him into the high priest's house, Peter followed at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat there, looked at him closely and said, ‘This man was with Him.’ But he denied it [he lied] saying, ‘Woman, I do not know Him.’ And a little later, someone else saw him and said, ‘You also are one of them!’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I am not!’ [he told another lie] And after an interval of about an hour, still another one insisted saying, ‘Certainly this man also was with Him, for he too is one of those Galileans. But Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you are talking about.’ [Three distinct lies - there is always a question about actually how many times Peter denied the Lord, some say six, some say three; if you study the Scriptures line by line, word by word you will find there are six denials not just three.] So after Peter had denied Him the rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered what the Lord said, and he went out and he wept*

bitterly.” So even the disciples denied the truth from time to time. The religious crowd lied to Pilate when they wanted Jesus crucified. They said this lie: Jesus forbids people to pay taxes to Rome. That is exactly what they said. This was one of the accounts that they brought to Pilate - He forbids people to pay taxes to Rome. Luke 23:1-2, *“Then the whole group of them rose up and brought Jesus before Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, ‘We found this man subverting our nation and forbidding us to pay the tribute tax to Caesar, and claiming that He Himself is Christ the King.’”* Jesus never ever forbid anybody to pay taxes. As a matter of fact, in Mark 12:17, *“Jesus said unto them, ‘Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’”* And they were utterly amazed. So our Lord never did that. That was a public lie designed to manipulate Pilate. You know in America there are a lot of public lies to suppress the truth about God. There are a lot of people that do not want the truth to be told because it ruins their lifestyle. As a matter of fact, I would like to quote a passage in Romans 1:18-20 that talks about people suppressing the truth. *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth by their own unrighteousness”* (Romans 1:18). That means they hold the truth back. They do not want people to know the truth. The Bible goes on to say in Romans 1:19, *“because what can be known about God is plain to them; God has made it plain to them.”* Verse 20, *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, they are understood through what has been made, so people are without excuse.”* But there are those people who say there is no God, there is no God, there is no God. Anybody with half a brain can look around and figure out somebody put this together smarter than me. When people suppress the truth by their unrighteousness - that’s their lies - they mock God. The Bible says in Galatians 6:7, *“Be not deceived, God will not be mocked; for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap.”* Hosea 8:7 says, *“If you sow to the wind, you will reap the whirlwind.”* That means if you make trouble you are going to get trouble. In Galatians 6:8, *“The one who sows to please his flesh from the flesh will reap destruction, but the one who sows to please the Spirit from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”* Proverbs 22:8, *“He who sows injustice will reap disaster, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed.”* Lying, slander, malicious intent, sowing injustice, suppressing the truth, pleasing your flesh all have horrible, horrible side effects. You cannot afford to allow yourself to be trapped into that. **Since God is truth, and since His Word is truth, it is expressed to us in Jesus Christ our Savior. When Jesus Christ is rejected, the truth of God is suppressed.** The Bible says in John 8:32, *“and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* When you come to know Jesus Christ who said, *“I am the way the truth and the life”* you receive freedom. Freedom from the lake of fire. Freedom from hell. Someone else was judged in your place. It is like you being in the penitentiary, in a jail cell, and someone walks in and takes your place. You were appointed to be put to death for some crime that you committed, but some other individual takes your place. I know it is a simple illustration used millions of times but you get the picture. You did it, you are the one that should have died, not Him. Our Lord was innocent. As a matter fact, Pilate said, *“... I find no fault with Him”* (John 19:4).

Herod released Him and did not charge Him with any crime either. Neither Herod Antipas nor Pilate could find anything that our Lord Jesus Christ was guilty of that merited being put to death. Yet people wanted Him dead. If you know Christ you know life. Truth frees you. The lying person will enslave you. Truth frees you, but the lying person will enslave you. You know people who have power lust use what is called a public lie to gain their power. If they tell it often enough, if they tell it loud enough then eventually it is believed by all people. It is obvious that vindictive people are always ready to believe anything about somebody they hate. So if you already have preconceived ideas about an individual that you do not like, and then you hear a lie told about that individual that you do not like, you are obviously going to believe the lie because you do not like them to start with you. You never give them the benefit of the doubt. You might be interested in knowing that in John 8:43-44 the Bible says, our Lord Jesus Christ said it, Satan "... *is the father of lies.*" The cosmic system is built on lies. You are told to acquire the mind of Christ. To think in the mind of Christ. To have His mentality - divine viewpoint. Human viewpoint is substantiated and carried about with the lies of Satan. The world is full of that sort of stuff. If you believe the lie then you will live by the lie and your life becomes a lie. There are lies in the spiritual realm, lies in the political realm also. I remember speaking in a school one time and I remember getting a letter from a little girl that said, "Please help me. I am a liar. I can't quit lying. I lie to my teachers, I lie to my friends, I lie to my parents. I am so ashamed of my lies." It comes from the sin nature. We all have a sin nature. In the sin nature we have sins of the tongue, mental attitude sins, or overt sins. Sins of the tongue include lying. One of the seven sins God says he hates in Proverbs 6:16-17 is a lying tongue. Satan is the father of lies. We know that. Our nation is divided by lies. Lies about politicians, lies about preachers. People who want power do not mind lying to get the power. You have heard it before, the environment is going to destroy this planet, we must quit using underarm deodorant or the planet will be destroyed - I am making that kind of fictitious stuff up but you have heard the lies. The Bible clearly tells you how this planet will be destroyed. The Bible gives you the prediction in plain black and white. You can read it for yourself in 2 Peter. It is not going to be because somebody used some hairspray. It is not going to be because the ozone layer did this or that. And it is not going to be because of a nuclear war. The Bible is clear how the earth will be destroyed: it will be destroyed after the thousand year reign of Christ - His millennial reign in Jerusalem. Another lie is that crime can be stopped without capital punishment. That is a good one. You hear that a lot today. We should be kind and compassionate to the criminal. I noticed recently in the paper in the city that I live in, there is a man scheduled to be executed and he is accusing the state of being unfair and violating his rights because the state will not allow a certain religious figure to come into the execution chamber with him. So he is suing the state. He wants to not be executed even though he murdered and raped a young child. Who is unfair? Who did the crime? If you do the crime you are going to pay time, that is for sure. Crime cannot be stopped without punishment and especially capital punishment. God does ordain capital punishment. The Bible does say, thou shall not murder. Yes, it does. But it does not say thou shall not execute criminals. That is not

what the Bible teaches. Here is another lie. Freedom can exist without the military. That is impossible. Freedom cannot exist without the military. It is impossible to have freedom without the military. We must have a strong military if we are going to sustain our freedom in this nation today. Anybody who has a good plan to sustain the military is doing a good thing because that is what protects us from the enemies of the world. We have enough enemies today. There are people who would like to see you dead. Religious enemies, political enemies who would like to see you dead. They would like to take over this country. They will lie to get the power to run the country. They will lie to deceive you into what their plans actually are. So we have to have some sort of intelligence to figure out what the enemy is up to. It is important. Without the military we are in trouble. So thank God for our military and for those who serve in the military. Here is another lie. The problems of the world are caused by one particular race of people. If we could just get rid of that race of people, we would not have any more problems throughout the whole world. That is another lie. These lies are out there and Satan perpetuates these lies in the cosmic system. If you want to live a life free of lies, then you must start by learning the Word of God because *“you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free”* (John 8:32). Free from what? Free from manipulation, free from intimidation, free from worry by knowing the divine outline of history, by knowing exactly what God has for you. It is all there. It is all truth and it is available to you if you come to the Father through Jesus Christ, His anointed Son. I do not know if you have ever done that but it is the single most significant decision you could ever make in your entire life. As the Bible says, *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved”* (Acts 16:31). That is the moment your life changes course. That is the moment your destiny is altered. That is the moment that you singularly decide on your own to go with the truth, God’s plan, and no longer listen to the lies of the cosmic system. No longer listen to the lies of the devil, Satan. Break free of the shackles and the chains of the lie and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. It is the most simple thing that you could do. The Bible says, *“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Romans 10:13). Where you are at this moment you can simply pray a prayer and ask God to save you. You can simply tell God the Father you are believing in Jesus Christ and you want to receive Him as your Savior, and that will be the moment you are freed from the lie. Think about it. Do it while you have the opportunity. Again, it is the most important decision you will ever make in your life. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

He That Is Spiritual

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 703 aired on February 10, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes you have a cordial invitation to stick around, listen for a while. We are not going to try to con you. We are not going to try to hustle any money out of you. We are not trying to sell you anything. It's simply a show about verifying and identifying the will of God for your life. If you're interested and you listen you can orient and adjust. Whatever you want to do. But my job is to be accurate and not to play games. The FLOT Line is always about explaining God's protocol plan in a way that you and I can understand. Not using spiritual clichés like, 'just let God do it brother' or 'turn it over to the Lord brother.' We are talking about how this thing - the spiritual life - really works. Remember a key verse that I want to bring to your mind today is in Jeremiah 9:23-24. Jeremiah (speaking for God) said this, *"I'm looking for those who not only know Me, but understand Me."* My premise is: there is a difference between knowing God and understanding God. **Many people know God through Jesus Christ the Savior. They have come to experience salvation, they are born again, they know they are going to heaven, but they don't really understand the God they know. If you are going to grow in grace, you must come to understand the God that you know.** And so as we began to explain some of these things today, I think it's critical that we understand this - we are going to talk about spirituality. Every believer must know and understand the spiritual life. If you ever hope to glorify God to the maximum you must understand that. And so the Bible talks about being spiritual and that's the first question - what does it mean to be spiritual? I mean, I was around people a lot of times after I became a Christian in the younger years of my Christian life that I thought were great spiritual people and sometimes it was based on how they talked. I remember meeting an Englishman that had an accent like this and he spoke really godly and called God the Master. You know, I listened to that and I thought - man, this guy really is godly, listen to how he talks, listen to how he prays. He would pray, 'Dear Master....' So I was assuming he was a godly man but I was wrong. You know, I've been around people that didn't do certain things; they considered themselves spiritual because they wouldn't go into a 7-Eleven that sold beer - 'I'm a Christian and I'm not going in there and give that place any business, they sell the devil's liquor in there.' All kinds of crazy things like - 'I'm spiritual because I don't eat bubble gum or chew lollipops' or whatever - you know, come on. What is spirituality? What really does the Bible say spirituality is? What does it mean to be a spiritual person? Is it how you walk and how you talk? Is it the way you live your lifestyle? Or is it what you think? Let's start in the Bible in 1 Corinthians 2:13-15. The question I want you to answer today, if you listen to this entire show, is: are you spiritual? Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:13-15, *"and we speak about these things, not with words taught us by human wisdom, but those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people. The unbeliever does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The*

one who is spiritual discerns all things, yet he himself is understood by no one.” The one who is spiritual, understanding spiritual things. The first question we must answer is: who is the spiritual person? What is Paul talking about? Who is a spiritual person? In 1 Corinthians 2:12, *“Now we have not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”* And so a spiritual person is a person who possesses the Holy Spirit. If you have the Holy Spirit you are a spiritual person. Jesus said this was going to happen, that the Holy Spirit would come to live in people (listen to that verse again) *“so that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. We don't have the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God.”* **The reason God gave you the Spirit - the Holy Spirit - is so that you can know the things that have been freely given to you by God. In other words, to understand your grace assets you must have the Holy Spirit.** Jesus told the disciples in John 14:25-26, *“I have spoken these things while staying with you. But the advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything and will cause you to remember [that's recall] and he will help you to recall everything I said to you.”* Remember these guys wrote the Bible (the New Testament) 30 or 40 years after He said it to them. So they had to have recall - by means of the Holy Spirit - to refresh their memory so that they could write down and record what we know today as the gospel narratives of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). John and Matthew were eyewitnesses. Mark was not and Luke was not; they were given information by Peter who wrote two books of the New Testament himself (1 Peter and 2 Peter). So if you are a Christian, you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are spiritual - you have received the Holy Spirit. When did you receive the Holy Spirit? Ephesians 1:13, *“And when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation - when you believed in Christ, you were marked with the seal of the promise of the Holy Spirit.”* The minute you believed in Jesus Christ, the minute you heard the Gospel and said that's for me - ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the anointed Son of God and I am willing to accept Him as my Savior’ - BOOM, that's when you received the Holy Spirit. You probably did not feel it. I know I didn't. I didn't hear a harp, the roof didn't shake, the lights didn't flicker - nothing happened. I got on my knees beside a bed and prayed with a preacher and said, God please save me. Nothing happened, I didn't think - but it did. It is not an emotional thing. Some people get emotional about it. Some people weep tears of repentance at the altar, as they say, but salvation, and what actually happens at being born again, is not something you will feel. Being born again is a spiritual birth and that's what we will talk about. When did you receive the Spirit of God? Let's get this down. (1) Whoever is born of God has the indwelling Holy Spirit and is thus no longer a natural man but now he's a spiritual man referring to his spiritual birth. *“The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* Remember 1 Corinthians 2:14. So we have two sets of individuals: a natural person and a spiritual person. You may be in your marriage like that; you may have a natural person (an unbeliever) and a spiritual person (a believer). You may have this in your family. These are two different distinct classes of people. The natural man has

not received Christ as his Savior and has not received the Spirit of God so anything about the Bible would be foolish to him. He cannot know the techniques or nuances or insinuations of the Word of God or the principles of the Word of God. He cannot know them because they are only spiritually discerned. He won't understand why you pray, he'll think that's ridiculous. He won't understand why you claim Bible promises, he doesn't see the validity to that. He is a natural man. (2) But if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, because of your salvation you were born again and you are no longer a natural man - you are now a spiritual man or woman, either one. This means simply this, that you have a body, a physical body you can look in the mirror (don't laugh, there it is; that's you; correct) and you have an invisible human spirit that has been indwelt by God the Holy Spirit. That's what salvation is. When you get saved God the Holy Spirit comes to indwell your human spirit that was spiritually dead but now has been made spiritually alive by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. So now instead of just having a body and a soul, now you have a body and a soul and a spirit. When we decease, when we pass away, when we pass on, the body is going to be useless. We are going to get a new body, a different body, a resurrection body like the eyes have never seen and ears have never heard - it's going to be unbelievable - don't need this one anymore, but you're going to have the same soul and the same spirit going to heaven. They are going to live in that new body. **So if you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, when you were born again, that's when the Holy Spirit came to indwell you and this is called positional truth. You are in the family of God, you have the Holy Spirit living in you, you are spiritual. You are not a natural man, you are a spiritual man.** But - and this is a big but here - you may not be spiritual in your experience. It may be that you are a believer in Jesus Christ (not a natural man but a spiritual man) but in your day-to-day living you may not be spiritual, you may be carnal. The same principle I call (learning it from my pastor) reversionism, reverting back to living like the lost man lives. Paul states this principle of carnality in 1 Corinthians 3:1-4, *“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I fed you with milk, not with meat; for hither to you were not able to bear it. Neither yet now are you able to bear it, for you are yet carnal. For whereas there is among you, envy, strife and division, are you not carnal, and walk as the lost people walk, walk as men? For when one says, ‘I am of Paul,’ and another says, ‘I am of Apollos,’ are you not carnal?”* Mental attitude sins are indicative of carnality. Sins of the tongue are indicative of carnality. A believer who has known sin in his life is a carnal Christian and most of the time he's not a mature Christian - we will study what it means to be spiritually mature. But so far we've had what it means to be a spiritual person - that's a person who's born again. What does it mean to have spirituality? We are going to see that here - it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to be a spiritually mature individual? That's to be controlled by the mind of Christ, having His thinking controlling you, living by divine viewpoint. Paul recognized in Corinth there was a problem. There were a lot of problems in Corinth and that caused him to write several letters, two of which wound up in the New Testament. He called them babies in Christ because they were not mature, they were carnal; they allowed their sin

nature, not the Holy Spirit of God, to control their life. So here's the principle: **the believer (you and me) who has unconfessed sin in his life is not spiritual in his experience since he has grieved and quenched the Holy Spirit.** So even though we are spiritual in our position, we are in the royal family of God, we have been born again - we are not spiritual in our experience since we have grieved the Holy Spirit and quenched the Holy Spirit. The Bible gives some negative mandates in Ephesians 4:30, "*Grieve not the Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption.*" God is not going to take the Holy Spirit away. He is not going to say, give it back. He sealed you with the Holy Spirit but it is possible when you sin you will grieve or sadden the Holy Spirit (we say it that way). The Holy Spirit does not have emotions like you and I have, and He is not emotionally manipulated like you and I, but this is a way we can understand that He does not approve of our sin. And so when we sin, we must rebound the sin (which you should know as problem-solving device #1 on the FLOT Line of your soul) - "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to purify us from all of our wrongdoing*" (1 John 1:9). So we are mandated; this is not a request, this is an order from God through Paul: "*Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.*" Do you know what happens when you grieve the Holy Spirit? You wind up standing alone in the devil's world. You have lost the Man who protects your back - you shut Him down. Think about this: there you are living in the devil's world, a believer in Jesus Christ (not a natural man but a spiritual man), and you have quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit (who has your back) and now you have walked out the door into the devil's world with no protection. That's about the dumbest thing I've ever heard. Why would you want to do that? You are going to be a victim right off the bat because Satan's objective is to intimidate you. His objective is to discourage you, to defeat you in the angelic conflict. He does not need you being a witness on behalf of the prosecution for God. So do not grieve the Holy Spirit. You are sealed until the day of redemption, you do not need to worry about losing Him, but you can grieve Him. And the Bible says, "*Do not quench the Spirit*" (1 Thessalonians 5:19) - that is to shut off His power. When you shut off the power of the Holy Spirit, He's not able to give you insight, He's not able to carry your prayers to the throne of God. Romans says we do not know how to pray as we should pray but the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us. So here you are, you are trying to pray, but you have quenched the Holy Spirit (shut off His power.) Your prayer will not go any higher than the ceiling because you are doing it in the energy of the flesh. Unless you are filled with the Holy Spirit, your prayers are not going to go before the throne of God. You can't do it in the energy of the flesh, that's not the protocol plan of God. So spirituality is an experience. Spiritual is a birth; you are spiritual because you are born again. But spirituality is an experience not a position. Listen to this principle: Spiritual is a term used for the filling of the Holy Spirit. So if you are filled with the Holy Spirit you are spiritual. How do you know that you are filled with the Holy Spirit? Is it something you are going to feel? Is it something you will see? Is it something you must strive hard to obtain? The answer is, No. When you name any known sin to God you are instantaneously filled with the Holy Spirit. You are already sealed with the Holy Spirit, you are already indwelt by the Holy Spirit, you have already been given your

spiritual gift, but you quench Him and you grieve Him with your sin. It could be a mental attitude sin, it could be a sin of the tongue, it could be an overt sin. Whatever you decided to do, to carry on in your own volition (you are the decider, you have a volition, you make a decision, and you made a decision to do this) it was expedient for you to do it right now and you compromised your principles, you compromised your core values because it was expedient. You were thinking about self and you did it for self and you quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit. You are standing alone in the devil's world with no one to cover your back, and now you look around and think, 'Good grief, I was a fool, I was an idiot, I can't believe I did that.' Then go to God immediately and confess the sin. The Bible says, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9). That is the rebound technique - problem-solving device #1. The term spirituality is a term used for the filling of the Holy Spirit. When we are in a state of sin we are not spiritual, we are carnal. When we are in a state of sin we have unconfessed sin in our life: mental attitude sins, sins of the tongue, overt sins. Mental attitude sins: worry is a mental attitude sin, bitterness is a mental attitude sin, jealousy is a mental attitude sin, envy is a mental attitude sin. Listen, this Christian life is a unique way of living. This is the most unique life the world has ever seen. It is the life of Jesus Christ the Son of God manifested in you by means of divine viewpoint thinking under the power of the Holy Spirit. That's amazing. So you are not spiritual in your experience when you have sin in your life. It could be mental attitude sins, it could be sins of the tongue (such a thing as gossip, slander, maligning, criticizing). Let me just give you a warning: you're watching the television, you're watching your favorite politician and you see some real jerk who hates your favorite politician and that jerk is going off on your favorite politician telling everybody what a liar he is, what a liar she is, what a reprobate they are, blah, blah, blah. The public lie, you know, you tell it often enough, loud enough, and long enough about half the world will believe it. People drink the Kool-Aid every day (you know what I mean, drinking the Kool-Aid from the Jim Jones experience). Listen, if you get mad, lose your temper, stand up, point at that TV and say that SOB - you just sinned a mental attitude sin. You do not have to be in front of him and smack him in the nose or say something to him, you sinned by that hatred in your soul. This is where you have to learn to use problem-solving device #8 - impersonal love for others. You can love the biggest jerks on television if you love them based on your divine standards, not theirs. It is the same way God loved you. *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). God loved you. Were you a wonderful, sweet, marvelous, magnificent person? No, you are sinner just like me. God loved us before we ever loved Him. So spirituality (which is the filling of the Holy Spirit) and carnality (which is being manipulated and controlled by your sin nature) are both absolutes and they are mutually exclusive. You cannot be both at the same time. The believer is spiritual when the Holy Spirit controls his life and he's carnal when the sin nature controls his life. So which one are you right now? Are you spiritual in your experience or are you carnal in your experience? Is there unconfessed sin in your life? That's the answer. So the spiritual believer

(you and I) when we are filled with the Holy Spirit we are to imitate Jesus Christ and the carnal believer imitates the natural man or the lost man. Ephesians 5:1 tells us this, *“Therefore, we are to be imitators of God as beloved children.”* We are to think like He thought. You cannot do this apart from the filling the Holy Spirit and the only way to be filled with the Holy Spirit is to use the rebound technique. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you subdue the lust of the flesh, you overcome the flesh. The Bible says, *“if we walk in the Spirit we will not give into the lust of the flesh”* (Galatians 5:16). Look at Galatians, it talks about the flesh wars against the spirit and vice versa. Being imitators of God is impossible apart from the filling the Holy Spirit because we have to imitate His thinking. Philippians 2:5, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”* And we have to replicate His lifestyle as we become mature believers living in the cosmic system, living in the devil’s world, replicating the lifestyle of the Lord Jesus Christ. So there is a difference between spirituality and maturity. A spiritual person is a person filled with the Holy Spirit. A mature person is based on the content of the Word of God in his soul. One is based on the filling of the Holy Spirit and one is based on the content of the Word of God in his soul. No one can ever glorify God to the maximum until he or she (they) learn God's protocol plan. That's why we have 2 Peter 3:18, *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* That's why we have 2 Timothy 2:15, *“Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* That's why we have Matthew 11:28-30, *“Come to Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke and learn from Me, ... For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”* Learn, study, grow! The Christian life is not something you get by osmosis. You must commit yourself to learn the Word of God and apply it to your life. It's known that you are a spiritual person since your spiritual birth, yes, but it's possible that you are not a spiritual person right now in your experience isn't it? That's possible, since you have unconfessed sin in your life and, if so, it is highly probable that you are not spiritually mature since you have no desire to study God's Word and prove it, grow it, learn it, use it in your life. You may have settled for ritual without reality and that is totally meaningless. Ritual without reality is you shuffling on down to your local church, singing a few Do Lords and a few praises to God, having a 15-minute sermon, and heading over to your favorite restaurant where you consider your Christian deed is done - you went to church this Sunday. Well I thank God you went to church but that's not the spiritual life. It's much much more. Your pastor will be the first one to tell you that. You must grow in grace. You must find a well-qualified pastor, study God's word under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit, through this man's spiritual gift, and grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I sure hope you are listening. I hope I've explained the difference between spirituality, carnality and maturity. Until next week, this is your host, Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Core Values

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 704 aired February 17, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. This is your host Rick Hughes thanking you for coming in this morning and giving me a few minutes of your time. My job is to give you some divine inspiration, motivation from the Word of God. Your job is to orient and adjust as you learn God's plan, if you have a desire to do so, that's up to you. We are going to get it right and we are going to give you accurate information. God gave you two ends: one of those ends you sit on and one end you think with. Success in life depends on which one of those you use. Heads you win - tails you lose. I think it's a really great cliché. 2 Peter 3:18 tells us to, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" That's my objective to get you to a well-qualified pastor where you can study, learn and apply God's Word to your life. We use a little acronym called LAG - Learn, Apply, Glorify God. So I thank so many of you who send me notes. It's amazing to hear from you. I really do enjoy that. Thank you for your prayer support. Today we are going to take a look at something that's very unique. Our show is called the FLOT Line (this is something my pastor taught many years ago). The FLOT Line is the Forward Line Of Troops; it's a military analogy to the Christian life and staying secure in your Christian life by learning ten unique problem-solving devices. When you learn those ten problem-solving devices - this is nothing new, this is age old biblical doctrine that's been there forever; it's not something new the pastor invented or came up with, nor did I; this is sound solid biblical principles - when you understand them and when you learn them and use them in your life then you are able to stop the outside sources of adversity before they become the inside source of stress. That's what makes the Christian life so unique. It's a wonderful way to live without stress. It's a wonderful way to live without worry, without fear, bitterness, antagonism, without jealousy - all the mental attitude sins that plague people of arrogance. You can actually get away from that. You don't have to be controlled by your sin nature. You can walk under the filling of the Holy Spirit. You can have a relaxed mental attitude. You can have the mind of Christ instead of thinking human viewpoint. It's awesome. All of this is what you do when you build a FLOT line in your soul. When you build that FLOT line, when you learn those ten problem-solving devices (we have them on a bookmark; if you'd like a bookmark, write to us - don't send money, I'm not asking you for money, just send us a note or email and we will send you a bookmark; or we have the book *Christian Problem Solving* that lists all ten of them for you); when you learn those ten problem-solving devices, this gives you a standard by which you can establish core values in your life. Core values - C.O.R.E. - your core values. And that's my question for you today. What are the core values of your life? Some people say, 'God, family friends.' I'm not talking about that, I'm talking about deeper than that. I'm talking about the fundamental beliefs of your life. The guiding principles that dictate the behavior of your life and can even help you understand the difference between right and wrong. What are your core values? A lot of people don't understand the difference between sin and evil. They think they are two different things. Well, let me explain something to you, God's plan is called grace. Grace goes like this, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus*

Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). *"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 2:8-9). That's grace. It's a free gift. Now what about evil? Evil takes grace and changes it, adds a twist to it. So evil would say, 'believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and give up smoking; believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and give up moon pies; believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and quit drinking sodas.' They want to add something to it. Whenever you add to grace you destroy grace because it is no longer grace, it is grace plus works. If you believe that giving up something gets you saved, you are wrong. First of all, your personal sins are not what sends you to hell. You may not realize that but people don't go to hell because they fornicate, people don't go to hell because they steal - people go to hell because they don't believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. We were born spiritually dead already destined to hell at our birth. The Bible says, *"For by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, so death is passed on all; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 5:13; 3:23). This is why you have to be born again. It is not related to sins that you do. You are going to commit sins because you have a sin nature. As long as you're alive on this planet you'll have a sin nature. But evil is the genius of Satan. So sin and evil are very close but one is a product of Satan and his genius, and one is a product of your sin nature and its lust pattern. Both are wrong. It's wrong for the Christian to get into sin or to get into evil. Evil can be organized religion. The most evil thing in the world is in fact organized religion because it's what Satan uses to trick people into thinking that they are saved because they joined up, fessed up, gave it up, threw up, whatever they did. That's not salvation. And remember it was the religious crowd that shouted to Pilate, 'Crucify Him, crucify Him and let Barabbas the criminal go. We want the Christ guy dead.' That was the religious crowd. They thought they were doing God a favor. They didn't want to give up any of their power, that's for sure. So they wanted Christ dead. And it is organized religion today that will hate grace. Organized religion can't stand grace. Organized religion wants to control you and manipulate you by a system of do's and don'ts. So sin and evil - all sin is evil, yes, for sure, but all evil is not necessarily sin. It's a system, it's something you do. It can be a political force like, put a chicken in everybody's pot and we will all be equal. That's evil. That's not going to make everybody equal because you give everybody a chicken. We were different, we have different IQs, different mentality, different size. There is never going to be a level playing field. If you gave everybody the same amount of money they would still wind up different. So we have to understand the core values in our life so that we can essentially understand sin and evil. We know how to live and avoid these things. We have to have those guiding principles in our life. **We, as believers, operate under something called divine establishment. That's our value system and it's the royal family honor code. This is where we get our core values, from the royal family honor code.** You are a member of the royal family of God because you have trusted Jesus Christ to be your savior by faith alone in Christ alone. You haven't said, 'I've trusted in Christ and I'm giving up smoking. I'm trusting in Christ and I'm giving up this, that, and the other.' No, you went to the Father and said, 'I'm a sinner, I believe Christ died for me, I'm willing to accept him as my Savior.' It's that simple. Because the

Bible says, *“he that believes that Jesus is the Christ, is born of God”* (1 John 5:1). Jesus told Nicodemus, *“he that believes must be born again”* (John 3:3). Nicodemus didn't understand being born again. The Bible goes on to clearly say, *“he that believeth not, the wrath of God abides on him already”* (John 3:36). In John 6:40, *“This is the will of the One that sent Me, that you believe in Me whom He sent.”* That is grace. So this honor code that we have, the royal family honor code, relates to personal integrity in my life and in your life and the way that we treat other people using obviously one of those problem-solving devices that we know as impersonal love. So the honor code would include on the FLOT line of your soul (this is what I'm telling you, as you build a FLOT line you develop an honor code) the filling of the Holy Spirit, it includes doctrinal orientation, grace orientation, and a personal sense of destiny along with all those other problem-solving devices. That's your honor code. You don't operate under the sin nature control, you operate under the filling of the Holy Spirit. You don't operate under human viewpoint, you operate under divine viewpoint, which is biblical orientation. You don't operate under works salvation, you operate under grace orientation. You have a personal sense of destiny, you know God's plan and what that plan includes for you. This is a code that you have to develop and adhere to in your life as you learn and as you apply the Word of God. This is not a request, by the way, it's a demand. In 2 Timothy 2:15, *“Study to show thyself approved unto God.”* You want God's approval? Then grow up spiritually, learn His word, apply it into your life, and glorify Him. How do you do it? Under a well-qualified pastor. You say there is not one in my area. Well, there is a way to do it. You can order CDs or MP3s or DVDs. I can show you a list of many great pastors you can study under and all of their material is free. They don't charge you \$19.95, \$10.95, \$9.99 nothing like that - it's free. If you don't have a good church close by where you can learn, then you can get up in the morning like I do, get a cup of coffee, open your Bible, put in a DVD or an MP3, take notes, study and grow and learn right there. God will show you what you need to know. It's a wonderful way to grow spiritually until He shows you where there's a good qualified church where you can find a pastor. That's what you must have, you must have that pastor. If there is not one close by then there's one you can get under. You don't have to be face-to-face always. Sometimes you have to do what I do and that's get up, shut up, listen, and grow. So as a member of God's royal family (you are, I am) we are considered aristocracy and if we are aristocracy (which we are, we're a member of the royal family of God) then there is a code of ethics that we have to live by. That code of ethics (those core values that we have) is a much higher standard than what the world lives by. The world under the cosmic system lives by relativism or humanism but aristocracy has a standard based on the example set by the Lord Jesus Christ during His time in the devil's world. So if we think right, if we learn God's word, if we think right with divine viewpoint then we live right with right motivation. Right motivation means we do the right functions and we are not motivated under arrogance, we are motivated under grace and that's the thrust of the royal family honor code. It's executed by means of the filling of the Spirit. So in your core values, when you develop those core values in your life, you can only execute, live under, and sustain yourself by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit. The

protocol plan of God is what we call it. It's the greatest producer of honor and integrity in the history of the world. It is an honor and integrity produced by the ministry of God the Holy Spirit and this honor and integrity is produced by you receiving and applying God's word in your life. Learning the protocol plan of God. What does that mean? It means a right thing must be done in a right way. A right thing done in a wrong way is absolutely wrong. A right thing done in the right way is absolutely right. You've heard me say this. Is it right to go to church? Yes. Is there a right way to go to church and a wrong way to go to church? Yes. What's the wrong way to go to church? With unconfessed sin in your life. If you have unconfessed sin in your life you quench and grieve the Holy Spirit. Thus, if you go to church to worship God with the Holy Spirit quenched and grieved you are not going to get anything out of it, you are not going to get any divine insight because you shut the Holy Spirit's ministry down. This is why rebound is so important as a core value for you. 1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all of our wrongdoing."* **We have to have that system off core values. We have to have the protocol plan of God. We have to understand a right thing must be done in the right way.** Paul had a core value system in his life and wrote about core values in 1 Thessalonians 2:10, *"You are witnesses [to the Thessalonians] and God also, [by the way, you have family that will witness you and you will have God who watches you] how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe."* There are three core values: devout, just and blameless. This is amazing. This is what God expects out of you, just like he expected it out of the apostle Paul. He expects you to be just. You are not allowed to judge other people, you not allowed to stick your nose in other people's business, you are to live blamelessly. You're not allowed to commit sins of the tongue, overt sins, mental attitude sins. You are not allowed to have people pointing fingers at you and say, 'That's a Christian but I saw him do such and such.' Listen, if you are going to sin, do it at home. I'm just kidding now, I'm not giving you a license to sin. What I'm telling you is that people love to blame you for their problems and more. If you are Christian the world is going to blame you for a lot of things because they hate Christianity, they hate God's grace, they hate the Word of God. You've seen in the news already how much our nation is shifting towards a hatred for Christians. So we have to live blamelessly. We have to live devoted to God, which means we are consistently learning and applying His word in our life, we are consistently staying filled with the Holy Spirit, and we are consistent in our prayers for others. We live justly - we don't criticize, malign, judge other people. And we live blamelessly. All of this comes from absolute truth. Absolute truth is the Bible, the Word of God, and that tolerates nothing less than the honor code. **Absolute truth tolerates nothing less than integrity, virtue, honor and all of this comes from the filling of the Holy Spirit and the perception and the application of the Word of God in your soul. This causes spiritual growth.** As you grow spiritually, then you enter into the first stage of spiritual growth. Listen carefully, it's called spiritual self-esteem. Spiritual self-esteem is the mental attitude of self-confidence based on knowing and applying those ten problem-solving devices into your life, building your core values. So let me stop right now and ask you, can you

tell me the ten problem-solving devices? We've only been on the air for 13 years and we've talked about them constantly. Do you know any? Do you know rebound? Do you know the filling of the Holy Spirit? Do you understand the faith-rest drill? Do you understand grace orientation, doctrinal orientation, do you have a personal sense of destiny? Are you motivated by personal love for God and using impersonal love for mankind? Do you share the happiness of God? And are you occupied with Christ? That's ten of them right there and we could teach several days on each one of those things. Do you know those? If you don't know them and you don't live by them, you don't have a core value system in your life. This would give you a dependency on the Word of God if you have it. If you learn these ten problem-solving devices you can have self-confidence and depend on the Word of God, not counseling from another believer - that is the worst thing you could do, to go to another believer and ask them, 'What should I do brother?' There was a movement around to be accountable to other people. You are not accountable to other people. You are accountable to God and the Holy Spirit. They are perfectly capable of keeping you in line. So the Word of God is what you depend on, not some other believer. If you have to depend on another person you wind up using that as a crutch. You have got to learn to stand on your own two feet. You have got to learn to act independently of other people. If God is going to be glorified in your life you can't depend on other people to tell you what to do. 'What should I do preacher?' The preacher already told you what to do from the pulpit. Do you want him to come over and hold your hand while you go through this rough time? How does it glorify God if you are dependent on somebody else to give you strength? In spiritual self-esteem, when you have that, you can deal with every stress, every problem, every adversity, you can even deal with prosperity (which you would like to deal with wouldn't you; you'd love to be able to be tested by winning the lottery, winning a \$10 million lottery - that's a test you'd like to have - who wouldn't) if you have spiritual self-esteem you can handle all of these things because the core values in your soul (the ones that are developed) will guide you, lead you, protect you if you will live by them. There's a term called professionalism. You must be a professional. A mature believer must be a professional. He must understand the mechanics of the Christian life. You and I must be spiritual quiet professionals. We have to understand humility, which is the mindset of our Lord Jesus Christ minus any personal arrogance. The Bible tells us (you've heard me say it to you) in Philippians 2:5, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus who humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation.*" Humility is a core value for you. You must have it. It's the opposite of arrogance. Humility is responding to living under the grace provisions of God, having a relaxed mental attitude, not being arrogant - that's humility. And then integrity, that's the spiritual strength to carry out the things that you learn, the spiritual strength to execute the plan of God in your life. When you have that along with humility, then you have mental stability and that stability is marked by composure in your life and self-assurance in your life. These are the kind of traits that make you a person of honor. Very attractive too, I might add, to the lost man or woman who will see it in your life. But also, be aware of this, it is going to put a target on your back with Satan in the angelic conflict. The devil

would love to see you fall, that way he can impugn the name of God. That's what he's all about. He doesn't want to go to the lake of fire. He wants to get out of the lake of fire by impugning God's name and proving that God is not fair. So if he can point out your failures then he can ask, 'Why is God sentencing me to the lake of fire and yet You're letting Rick go, look what he's done.' Yes, I'm a sinner. Yes, I've sinned. But, yes, I've accepted Jesus Christ and trusted Him as my Redeemer, my Savior and my sins have been paid for. The devil wants to see me fall. The devil wants to see you fall. Does this sound like you? A lot of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ lack this self-esteem. They suffer from dependency on something else or someone else, they don't really have the ability to depend on the Word of God. They live what I call scared lives and when you are scared and when you don't have that confidence and that dependency on the Word of God, sometimes you turn to depend on other things. It could be alcohol. It could be drugs. It could be anything to remove the pressures of self-pity - not self-esteem - self-pity. What a horrible sin of arrogance self-pity is. It is a form of arrogance that produces flaws in your character. But you don't have to live like that. There's a better way to live. Proverbs 13:10 says. *"Through arrogance comes nothing but strife [which means anger or bitterness], but wisdom is with those who receive instruction."* One of the fantastic four: wisdom. It's the information you learn and apply into your life. It is called *epignosis* doctrine - full knowledge of doctrine. Remember, your pastor teaches and you get *gnosis*, you get knowledge; but until you with faith believe it and apply it, it is not full knowledge, it is just information you heard. You may have even learned it and be able to repeat it back, but did you apply it? That's where the wisdom comes in. Information you learn and apply becomes wisdom and it's on the launching pad of your soul ready to be fired off when you need it. That's why you have to recall, go back over your notes, study your notes. So you may have a flaw - I'm talking about some genetic flaw or some weakness that you're born with. Some people have a propensity to alcoholism because their parents were alcoholics. And there are flaws we acquire through our sin nature patterns and trends. You can't afford to have a flaw. If you are going to have a core value system from learning the protocol plan of God and applying those ten problem-solving devices in your life then you cannot allow your sin nature to dictate policy. **It all boils down to one thing; this is as simple as it gets; it's the bottom line - it all boils down to your volition. Volition is the decider, the chooser.** God put it in His Word - I can tell you what the Word says, your pastor can tell you what the Word says - but the bottom line is, will you obey? Will you comply with what's there? We know this is what God intended for you to do. Will you do it? You say, 'Well, I just can't do it right now.' Okay, it's up to you. You can live your life however you want to live it but at least you know what your choices and options are. So when divine discipline smacks you on the head and drives you to the ground, you can take one look in the mirror and know why - because you heard and decided to reject it as truth. You heard and walked away from it and went down the my-way-highway. Every bad decision you make just compounds the problems that much more. I hope you're listening and learning. This is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Volitional Responsibility

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 705 aired on February 24, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. Just a short time of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education and, you remember, we do it without manipulation. The objective of this show is to simply give you accurate information. Hopefully information that will help you verify as well as identify God's plan for your life so that you can orient and adjust to the plan, if you want to. It's really up to you. The FLOT Line has been on the air for 13 years and many of you have been listening. Thank you for listening. There is never a charge for anything we do on this radio station. We believe in operating by grace. That means if God is in it, He'll pay for it, if not, we will shut the doors and go do something else. Please listen up today. You may remember last Sunday we talked about the core values of the mature believer. Those core values are built around the FLOT line in your soul, which is made up of those ten problem-solving devices. Ten unique problem-solving devices taught in the Word of God. Beginning with the rebound technique - that solves the problem of sin. Moving to the filling of the Holy Spirit - that solves the problem of the genetically formed sin nature that wants to control your life. The problem-solving device of the faith-rest drill solves the problem of unforeseen circumstances and disasters that may hit your life. And then moving into grace orientation as a problem-solving device - understanding we are saved by grace, we live by grace, we treat others in grace. Moving from there into doctrinal orientation which means that we now begin to develop a new way of thinking, we make a course adjustment in our life, we begin to think with terms of divine viewpoint instead of human viewpoint that comes from the Bible doctrine in our soul. This gives us another problem-solving device called having a personal sense of destiny - beginning to realize that my life is about more than just me, beginning to understand what God's plan for me is, what my spiritual gift is, and where I fit into this thing. It is a wonderful thing to walk through the door with a personal sense of destiny and leave your agenda behind. This is all developed by personal love for God - a problem-solving device and the greatest virtue we have. The Bible says, *"If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not hard"* (1 John 5:3). So virtue love is the greatest motivation for the believer. *"We love Him, because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). In John 3:16, *"God so loved the world."* He loved you and loved me before we even thought about Him. And so, from personal love for God we develop the problem-solving device of impersonal love for others. This lets us deal with people that don't necessarily like us, people that we don't necessarily like ourselves, people that are weird, obnoxious, rude - we can still love them through using impersonal love in our lives. It's a wonderful operational tool for you. Then this leads us to sharing the happiness of God (+H). What a wonderful way to live. Jesus talked about it, *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's word and keep it"* (Luke 11:28). So it is possible for you to have a lifestyle of happiness in your life and from there to move into occupation with Christ - the final problem-solving device for us. *"It is no longer I, but Christ in me"* (Galatians 2:20). Paul said, *"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is profit"* (Philippians 2:21). So there we have it. These are ten unique problem-solving devices that

we could go into in great depth on each one of them and we may do that soon. We may go back through and review all of those. Those are where your core values come in. Without understanding core values you can never have the fundamental beliefs that you need to sustain your life in the devil's world. They are the guiding principles in your life that should dictate your behavior and help you understand the difference between right and wrong. It's sometimes hard to understand what evil is. Evil is the genius of Satan. The most evil thing in the world is organized religion. It was organized religion that crucified our Lord and it is organized religion that opposes grace today. So if we operate with these core values, we have a divine establishment system in our soul; we are called the royal family, so we learn the royal family honor code. I hope you heard me talk about that last week. There is a code for the aristocracy of those who are in Christ Jesus. It's an honor code and it relates to personal integrity in our relationship with others using impersonal love. It can only function if we are filled with God the Holy Spirit through rebound. As we learn the Word, make a course correction in our thinking, and treat people in grace then our destiny becomes clear to us. This code we develop, this code we adhere to in our life is essential and therefore we are told in 2 Timothy 2:15, "*Study to show ourselves approved unto God.*" If you must be approved, then obviously you could be disapproved. That doesn't mean you're not saved anymore, it just means that God said you're not cutting it. It is like a football player that has all the talent and all the strength and speed and beauty and all of that but he doesn't know the plays. So the coach can't trust him, can't put him in the game - he doesn't know the plays. **As a member of God's royal family you must know the plays. You must understand the code of ethics that are in the Word of God. You must understand that aristocracy of the royal family has a standard based on the example set by our Lord Jesus Christ. That's why it's essential that we understand God's protocol plan because that's where the honor is produced. That's where the integrity comes from - the protocol plan of God - which simply means a right thing must be done in a right way. Absolute truth will tolerate nothing less than honor, integrity, and virtue and all of that comes through the filling of the Holy Spirit and the perception and the application of God's Word in your life. That's called spiritual growth. That's where you begin to develop integrity.** So it starts with spiritual self-esteem, which is an attitude of self-confidence not having to depend on other people. A lot of people have this dependency on others. They have to go to others to get advice, go to others to tell them what to do. You really don't have to do that. As you learn God's Word under a well-qualified pastor you are perfectly capable of handling every situation in your life, you're perfectly capable of knowing the solutions, what you should do and not do. When I first became a Christian there was much I didn't know so I went to other people and asked them and I got a lot of goofy answers. Everything from play the tambourine and sing Do Lord to you can't drive a certain automobile or you have to dress a certain way or you have to talk a certain way. There is so much legalism I couldn't believe it and I didn't know what legalism even was. But I tried to fit into the mold that they wanted me to fit into. Obviously it didn't work for me and of course they wrote me off and said, 'What a loser he is.' So I had to find my own pastor who

taught me God's word, taught me what the real Christian life is about. And I was able to study and grow and learn just like you and make the adjustments in my life. Now we've been in the ministry 50 years serving our Savior, speaking in hundreds and hundreds of schools, hundreds of radio shows. It's amazing how every time, every now and then I run across people who listen to the show who want to straighten me out, want to tell me that I'm wrong and don't mind sending emails and telling me, 'You need to listen to me brother, I could straighten you out.' I don't need straightening out. I'm just fine. So keep your emails but you can pray for me always. If I'm wrongly arrogant then the Lord will let me know. We have a law of volitional responsibility and this is what I want to go over with you today. You have a volition. When we talk about the ten problem-solving devices, the only way you can learn them is to exercise your volition. God gave you a chooser, it is part of the format of your soul - mentality and volition. Volition is you saying, 'Yes, I will do that' or you saying, 'No, I won't do that.' You use your volition every day. You walk into the grocery store and you say, 'Yes, I will buy that one' or 'no, I won't buy that one' you choose under the law of volitional responsibility. It's possible that you and I, listen carefully, can cause our own misery and our own suffering. It's the most common and the first cause for the human law of volitional responsibility - suffering in general. We can create a mess in our life because we go negative to God's word. We can create suffering in our life from our own bad decisions. As a matter fact, I'll go out on a limb and say that probably 90% of the suffering that you and I go through is because we mismanage our money, we mismanage are health or we mismanage our relationships with other people. And then there's the 10% suffering which is divine discipline - God taking us to the woodshed to straighten us out every now and then. I'm sure you have been there. I'm sure you've been in the woodshed with the Lord and He got your attention didn't He? And maybe for a while you said, 'I'm going to do better Lord' and then you're right back to letting your sin nature dictate policy. Your volition doesn't have the strength to say no. Well I'm sorry but the Christian life must be lived by your volition. No one else can live it for you. No one else can decide what you should or should not do, you have to make the decision which means you have to have a desire. If you don't have the desire or the courage to live up to the mandates that God gives then all of your life you are going to be a very weak believer and all of your life you are going vacillate between the spiritual life and the trends of the sin nature. **So every one of us must take responsibility for our own decisions, for our own actions. We can't blame other people for our own misery. Our unhappiness, our suffering is sometimes brought on by our own bad decisions. We made it. Volitional decisions. Bad decisions limit future options.** I have a bumper sticker that says that (you may want one, write and we will send it to you; you may want to put it in your kitchen, on your car, in the back of your Bible, whatever). Bad decisions limit future options. You must take responsibility for yourself based on your own bad decisions related sometimes to your associations with people, sometimes to your activities that you got involved with, sometimes your motive, sometimes your function in life. There are people listening to me today that are incarcerated. They made a bad decision and bad decisions limited their future options. Remember this because there may come

a time when you will be free and you can't afford to make those mistakes again. It is inevitable that throughout all of our life as Christians we are going to sin, that's obvious - we have a sin nature and we are not perfect. That's why God provided rebound for us, so that we could recover from our sin by using 1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us."* So it's inevitable that we will sin. It's also inevitable that we're going to get into some sort of human good which is nothing but pure evil - that's not following the protocol plan of God, not doing a right thing in a right way or maybe doing a right thing but not in the right way. A lot of Christians fall into this human good and they want to pick up all the garbage in the world, feed all the hungry in the world, take care of all the babies in the world - those are all fine and noble things but that doesn't solve the problems of the world. **The only thing that will solve the problems of the world is salvation through faith alone in Christ alone.** Only when man gets a new heart can the sin nature be contained. So we can pick up all the trash, we can feed all the hungry but nobody is going to contain the sin nature until the Holy Spirit moves in. And that only happens at the rebirth when we reboot, when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Even then we must exercise our volition to stay in fellowship with God because volition is why we sin. Volition is the case for sin. You decided to do it. You chose to do it, even in insanity or neurosis or psychosis, sociopathic behavior - it's volition. The psychiatrists, psychologists will tell you that. We are a product of our volition. What causes our volition to go negative is nothing but pure arrogance. I know people today that are negative about certain things or arrogant because they think they're smarter. Some think they're smarter than the president. Some think they're smarter than the Congress. Some think they're smarter than their pastor. Some think they're smarter than their spouse and they use their arrogance to be negative to anything that particular person says. Galatians 6:7 states this law about volitional responsibility, here is what Paul wrote, *"Be not deceived, God will not be mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."* *"When we sow to the wind, [the Bible says] we reap the whirlwind"* (Hosea 8:7). And so under the law of volitional responsibility we inflict on ourself unbearable suffering from personal sin - we sin, we don't rebound, we get under warning discipline, we get under intense discipline, we may even move into dying discipline. You say what are those three things? Well when you sin and fail to rebound - whether it's a mental attitude sin, whether it's a sin of the tongue, whether it's an overt sin (whatever sin you commit and you fail to rebound) - God will warn you, the Holy Spirit will convict you and you will know you have broken God's law and you're out of fellowship. This doesn't mean you are out of fellowship because you ate one too many pieces of chicken or because you drank one too many sodas, that's not what I'm talking about. When you sin - mental sins: worry, fear, antagonism, hatred, bitterness; sins of the tongue: gossip, maligning, criticizing, backbiting; overt sins: stealing, murder (and other overt sins that may go along with something like that), adultery, fornication (things like that, these are overt sins) - the Holy Spirit will nail you. He will tell you, you just blew it Buster, you just committed a sin. And when you don't rebound, when you don't admit the sin to God, when you forget it and go on down the my-way-highway or you cover it up, you are guaranteeing one thing - the hammer is going to fall in your

life. That maybe why you're suffering today. Maybe you have been so arrogant and you've never admitted that but the hammer may be on you right now and God may be driving you six feet under eventually. Because warning discipline leads to intense discipline. Hebrews 12:6 says, *"Those that I love, I scourge."* Sometimes He really puts the hammer to us. Why? Because He's mad at us? No, because He's trying to keep us from self-destructing. **You may be on the road to self-destruction right now and the warning discipline of God and the intense discipline of God may be trying to deliver you from sin nature domination. And unless you rebound, unless you recover, unless you make a course correction, unless you begin to take in the Word of God on a consistent basis, you will not last much longer. You're going to ruin your life and probably ruin the lives of those associated with you because of your own arrogance.** And what a shame it is. So that is the law of volitional responsibility for you and for me. We (me and you) both have the ability to destroy our lives and destroy the lives of those associated with us. We can't let that happen. We have to have positive volition, listening to the Word of God, following the leadership of God the Holy Spirit, not listening to the sin nature and the lies that Satan may perpetuate like: this will make you happy, that will make you happy, you know, the happiness related to people or circumstances - that's just not true. So under the law of volitional responsibility we inflict on ourself unbearable suffering by personal sin. Sometimes we get into moral or immoral degeneracy and by living in the cosmic system (the devil's world) we wind up quenching the Holy Spirit and grieving the Holy Spirit. Thus, we wind up with a lack of common sense and make a lot of bad judgment because we get very subjective. You see, if you overestimate your own ability or you fail to see yourself in light of reality you are just going to destroy any opportunity you have for happiness in your life. If you overestimate your abilities, fail to see yourself in the light of reality you are going to destroy any capacity for happiness you could ever have in your life. Both believers and unbelievers function under this law. What law? The law of volitional responsibility. Believers and unbelievers, not only from sin, but also people can violate the laws of divine establishment - these are the operational laws for the entire human race within the framework of a national entity - the laws of divine establishment: freedom, marriage, family, nationalism. And there is intense suffering from violating these laws and from violating the sacredness of life and property and privacy by means of criminal acts. There is also suffering from the rejection of responsibilities. It's all volitionally related, it's all part of your volition. If you stole, you chose to steal. If you injured, you chose to injure. If you lied, you chose to lie. If you got drunk, you chose to get drunk. If you committed adultery, you chose to commit adultery. Many of our wrong decisions come from our own arrogance. We don't see ourselves as we really are. We see ourselves as we think we are. Or we don't want to look at all at ourselves. We just want to feed our desires. We've all been there. I've been there, you have too. And so many wrong decisions come from arrogance. God can protect us from this and He has. He gave us parents, He gave us pastor teachers, He gave us coaches, and bosses. What happens is God puts us under legitimate forms of authority. That's not to intimidate us. That's to protect us from our self. That's why you have parents, that's why you have police officers, that's

why you have pastors - to protect you from yourself. You know why? Because we are just naturally fools. We are fools since the fall of Adam. Adam was a fool to ever do what he did but he chose, he made a volitional decision. He took a look at Eve, took a look at the forbidden fruit, he recognized that she was in deep trouble and maybe if he just went ahead and took a bite they wouldn't both get fined. Whatever his motivation was, he fell for the lie. The lie is that God is trying to keep something from you and He doesn't want you to know these things, Satan told Eve, and if you eat this you will be just as wise as God is. So she took a chunk and found out she was not as wise as God. Many wrong decisions come from our own arrogance because we are just fools. This is proved by the tremendous amount of suffering we experience not only in our own personal lives but in our nation. All throughout human history, history proves one thing, it repeats itself. If there has ever been a nation that's foolish it's America because we make a lot of foolish laws, legislate a lot of foolish things that are completely opposite of the establishment principles taught in the Word of God. And if we can continue to exist as a free nation for the next 20 years it will be a miracle. And you need to prepare your children and your grandchildren for what's coming because if you look at the news and you pay attention you can see what's around the corner. We are in a critical time in history. So we've all been born with this handicap. You know, a genetic handicap. Maybe your parents were alcoholics so if you take a drink you're going to be alcoholic. But you can also acquire environmental flaws. You know, you can get into a pattern of doing things and the end result is you get hooked on them yourself, like drug abuse, and you may start into drug abuse and get hooked on it. You have a flaw that you've acquired, you acquired a flaw. Genetically it's out there but some people just acquire it by their own decisions. It all ends up being suffering. It all ends up being a miserable life because we manufacture our own problems and we manufacture our own suffering. Here's what God manufactures - listen carefully - God manufactures solutions and blessings in the middle of your suffering because only God has provided a system to turn that cursing into blessing. Did you know that? When you rebound, when you confess your sin to God, He can turn the cursing into blessing. There are a lot of ways to make yourself miserable under the law of volitional responsibility, but let's talk about turning cursing into the blessing. If you are under discipline now, if you're suffering now because of your continual bad decisions, if you will go to your Father and admit your sin, He will be faithful and just to forgive you. What happens is you've acquired scar tissue in your life, you wound up searing your soul, you wound up quenching and grieving the Holy Spirit. So the first thing is get Him back in control by confessing your sins, and the second thing is to purge yourself with the Word of God to cleanse out that evil wicked wrong thinking by the pure water of the Word per 1 Peter 1:21. So that's your option. You can continue the life you are in, continue to be miserable until you wind up self-destructing or you can confess your sin to God and change your course by thinking divine viewpoint, learning God's Word and applying it into your life. It's a short solution. There is much more to it I assure you. But at least maybe I got you to thinking. I hope so you. I am your host Rick Hughes saying thank you so much for listening to the FLOT Line.

Volition and Self-Induced Misery

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 706 aired on March 3, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. This is your host Rick Hughes thanking you for tuning in one more time this Sunday morning. You're so kind to give me a few moments of your time. Remember our show is about motivation, inspiration, and education without any manipulation which means we don't ask for money, we are not soliciting funds, we are not trying to sell you anything. We are just trying to give you some information that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. Obviously if you can do that then you can orient and adjust to the plan, if you want to. But the plan starts with you receiving Christ as your Savior. That's the single most significant decision that you could ever make. The best news you could ever hear is that Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, redeemed you and me out of the slave market of sin. So He paid our debt to God and we are free from the penalty of death and the power of sin in our life. We don't have to go to the lake of fire and we don't have to let sin control our life. There is an alternative and there's a new way to live - not letting the sin nature dominate our life - it's the spiritual life and is empowered by two things: (1) by the Word of God in your soul and (2) by means of the Holy Spirit who directs you to the Word of God and convicts you when you sin. So that decision to believe in Jesus Christ is the open door to reboot your life, to start it again. That's why the Bible says, "*If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; all things become new*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). So God, as we say so many times on this show, gave us two different ends. One of those ends we sit with and the other end we think with. Success in our lives depends on which one we use. Heads we win, tails we lose. That's why 2 Peter 3:18 tells us if we are Christians we are to "*grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" Grow is a verb that means to increase. It's an imperative mood verb which means it's a command. Thus we have the FLOT Line radio show. I'm not a pastor I'm simply a person that can point you to a pastor. I'm an evangelist. It is my job to evangelize and to give accurate Bible information hopefully to identify the positive volition that may be listening this morning. If you're positive to the Word of God and you want to learn and grow then you are listening to the right show but, again, you are going to have to get under a well-qualified pastor. I was fortunate enough, many years ago as God the Holy Spirit directed me to a man who taught me so much. And so much of what I give you, I learned under his ministry. Today that church continues to prosper and thrive in Houston and everything that is taught there is available free of charge. And not only at that church but many many others that I'm aware of. Most of them are small nondenominational congregations but the information is accurate. The information is true. And you can study at home with your Bible, with a notebook, with a cup coffee early in the morning, or glass of tea in the evening. If you don't have a good church close by where you can get instruction then this is one way you can do it. This is the way I've been doing it for years, listening every morning to my pastor teach me the Word of God. We are currently, you've heard me say, in a study of the life of Christ; we're up around 1300 hours studying the life of Christ. It's amazing when you find a pastor that can take care of the sheep

because I'm just a dumb sheep and I need a good pastor to instruct me, to watch over me, and to give me information. And hopefully some of that information I can pass along to you. So we started studying last week about your volition. This is what we said, that God gave you a soul and in your soul there's mentality and volition, there's a conscience and a self-consciousness. You have volition. It's a free thing God gave you. It's the chooser. You first saw it demonstrated when God told Adam and Eve, 'You can have anything in the garden but don't mess with that tree over there, leave that tree alone.' That was a volitional choice that Eve made to disobey God. And Adam made a volitional choice to do the same thing when he partook the fruit itself. You and I must make good decisions. Bad decisions limit future options. And the bad decision that Adam made cast all of us underneath the penalty of sin and death. Because the Bible says, "*For by one man sin came into the world and death by sin, and now death is passed upon all, for all have sinned*" (Romans 5:12) and "*the wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23). A lot of people get confused and they think that bad things send people to hell; fornicators, adulterers, drunkards, drug addicts that's what sends people to hell. That's not true. What sends people to hell is the fact that they are in Adam, "*in Adam all die, in Christ all remain alive*" (1 Corinthians 15:22). You are born spiritually dead. That's why you have to be born again or made spiritually alive. You can't have a relationship with God if you're dead spiritually. So look at it this way, you have a body and a soul, but you have a dead human spirit until you come to Christ and believe in Christ. When you receive Him as your Savior (by a simple act of faith and maybe expressing it through prayer) then your spirit which has been dead and dormant is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and born again - you are made spiritually alive. This sets up a conflict, the flesh versus the Spirit. Galatians talks about that, "*The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh*" (Galatians 5:17). There's a war constantly going on and it is about who's going to control your volition. Are you going to think in terms of human viewpoint or are you going to acquire the mind of Christ and think in terms of divine viewpoint? Human viewpoint is always relative, it's always expedient, it's always anything but factual. Divine viewpoint, on the other side, is concrete, solid, sound. This is what the Bible says. This is what the Lord Jesus Christ said. It's not debatable, it's not situational ethics, it's - this is it. And that's a wonderful thing because it takes the monkey off of your back and puts it on the Lord's back. Let's see, I have to make a decision, flip a coin (heads I win and tails I lose) or what does the Bible say? Oh that's easy - if I stick with what the Bible says I will have a lot less misery in my life. I won't get myself into trouble. **The law of volitional responsibility is how you get yourself into trouble. You are responsible for every decision that you make. So we have categories in our life that we must look at: what we think, what motivates us, the decisions we make, and the actions we accomplish.** This is the interesting about God, He knows what we are thinking, He knows what our motives are, He knows what our decisions are going to be - He is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent - He sees the end results of our actions. And so as we think negative volition, we think wrong, we wrong think. Thinking wrong is thinking human viewpoint. The cosmic system offers you a mirage of answers but none of them are true. You know, like happiness

belongs to people, happiness belongs to circumstances, if I could just win the lottery I'd be happy, if I could just meet the right woman I'd be happy, if I could just meet the right man I'd be happy, if I just had this or had that I'd be happy. Happiness is not related to circumstances. Happiness is related to thinking clearly what the Word of God says because Jesus Christ our Lord said it himself in Luke 11:28, "*Happiness belongs to those who hear My Father's word and keep it.*" So wrong thinking will bring self imposed misery into your life. Wrong thinking or negative thinking includes having a bad mental attitude such as mental attitude sins like jealousy, hatred, bitterness, vindictiveness, all these things form from the arrogance in your own soul, self-centered arrogance. Because the arrogant person doesn't see himself as he really is; he actually sees himself as he thinks he is. And if he thinks he's something he can't see any bad decisions that he makes. You've been around people that are never wrong. You've been around people that always have to have the last word. You've been around sarcastic people that just drive you crazy because they always have some snide comment to make. And you can think wrong about these people, like 'I'd like to bust them in the mouth sometime,' but that's not the answer. Wrong mental attitudes are all forms of arrogance. Busting somebody in the mouth will not solve the problem. Everything you react to in life, starts in your thinking. You can react a lot of different ways, emotional reaction, you know, revenge motivation; and negative thinking, wrong thinking, revenge motivation is self-imposed misery in your life. So you can make yourself miserable. You have the ability to make yourself miserable. Some of the problems you are facing even today as you listen to me, problems that are causing you consternation and misery are there because you made a bad decision. So we enter into self-imposed misery long before we make any decisions that cause us self-induced misery. We get this self-imposed misery by thinking wrong and then we do the action wrong and that brings self-induced misery. So **wrong attitudes bring wrong actions, wrong actions bring problems. Negative or wrong decisions is self-induced misery;** negative or wrong actions (once you think about it and you do it) is called self-gratification. If you make an impulsive wrong decision it is self-gratification, and it can bring self-induced misery. Listen to what the Bible says. I hope I'm not confusing you with this wrong thinking, wrong decisions, wrong actions; wrong thinking leads to wrong decisions, wrong decisions lead to wrong actions. Hosea 8:7 says, "*They who sow to the wind will reap the whirlwind.*" Is it windy where you live? Are you having a little whirlwind twirl around you this morning? Maybe it's because you made a bad decision. Is there a way out of that? Absolutely yes! First of all we do what the Bible says, we recognize the problem. So we have to recon our life; we say, 'Okay I did a reconnoiter, okay I see this, now I'm going to confess what I see - I'm going to rebound.' After I recon I rebound. Rebound is 1 John 1:9 problem-solving device #1 on the FLOT line of your soul. Rebound means, "*If we confess our sin, He [that's God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" So we recon, we rebound, and then we resume our spiritual advance. So Hosea 8:7, "*Those who sow to the wind will reap the whirlwind.*" - that's true but there's a way out of that storm in your life. In Colossians 3:25 Paul wrote these words, "*He who does wrong will receive the consequences of that wrong which he*

has done and there is no partiality from God.” There are people listening to me today that are incarcerated because they made a wrong decision. Maybe they made an emotional decision and it brought some wrong action and now they are incarcerated because of those consequences. They don't have to remain that way forever. Maybe their time will be up soon and they can get out and resume a normal life. We wrote a book called *A Divine Pardon* and we've given away thousands of these books to penal institutions across America. It's about how Jesus Christ pardoned the criminal on the cross and will pardon you as well. If you'd like to have a copy of *A Divine Pardon*, write to us - don't send money - just write to us: Rick Hughes Ministries PO Box 100 Cropwell, Alabama 35054. You can find that on our website: rickhughesministries.org where you can order that book *A Divine Pardon*. And if you have someone who is incarcerated and you'd like to get them one, let us know. We have a wonderful friend who has a tremendous prison ministry and he can probably get it in for them. So give us a shout if you need that book. The book *A Divine Pardon* is a book that God has used in a lot of ways. Now there are seven categories of wrong decisions. I don't know if I'll mention them all here but they all produce self-induced misery under this law of volitional responsibility. You can make a wrong decision based on a sin. You know, your sin nature tempts you - don't say the devil is tempting you because he's not. The devil is not omnipresent. He's not able to be in America and France and Great Britain and Russia at the same time, he can only be in one place at one time, he's a created being. So for you to assume that the devil is tempting you is kind of ludicrous. The Bible says you have three enemies: the world, the flesh and the devil. And so the world may tempt you and the flesh may tempt you. If you make a bad decision based on the temptation of the flesh then you may have sex lust, power lust, ego lust, money lust - every day you read about someone making a bad decision based on a lust pattern in their life. Those bad decisions bring about self-induced misery. **When we sin, if we fail to confess that sin, then we come under divine discipline.** There's also another category of self-induced misery called wrong decisions based on human good. The ultimate human good we see propagated today in our society is socialism. If we can put a chicken in everybody's pot then everybody will be fine. If we take money from the rich and give it to the disadvantaged then everybody will be equal. It fails to take into consideration what my pastor said many times - man is just no good. **Man has a sin nature and nothing that you can do is going to control that sin nature other than the rebirth experience and God the Holy Spirit combined with the power of the Word of God in your soul.** But putting people on a level playing field by what they claim to be socialism, that's not going to change anything. There will still be hatred, there will still be bitterness, there will still be resentment because that's the part of the sin nature they can't correct. So if you get into human good - socialism - put a chicken in everybody's pot, maybe a wrong decision resulting in some sort of evil, like you're going to try to clean up the devil's world. Are you kidding me? How are you going to clean up the devil's world? Are you going to march down to the dirty bookstore and get a placard and say, 'anybody that walks in here is going to go to hell' or are you going to get out and demonstrate and you're going to change the world? Listen, that's exactly what the devil

wants you to do. He doesn't want you to give the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He doesn't want you to be that invisible spiritual professional. He wants you to get out and make an idiot out of yourself so the people that see you on the side of the street with a sign in your hand and then they go on the other side. They are tired of getting beat over the head by self-righteous individuals that want to tell everybody how they're going to hell because of how they are living. This is evil, this is not grace. Evil is Satan's genius taking grace and twisting it. For example, grace says, *"For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it's a gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast about it"* (Ephesians 2:8-9). But the evil of the genius of Satan would say, for by grace are you saved through faith - and then he may inject something - like giving up peanuts, no more peanuts, eat a peanut and you're not going to go to heaven anymore. So he's going to add something to it. Self-righteous legalism always adds something to the grace of God and that's not salvation, that's not God's plan. You know, you can read in Luke 18 about the two men who went to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee said, 'Thank God I'm not like that sinner over there. I'm a good person and I pray and I fast and I tithe' and the other person just beat on his chest and said, *"God, have mercy on me, a sinner"* (Luke 18:13). Wrong decisions based on erroneous emotions - that's the worst reason to ever make a decision - on emotional decisions. Emotions don't think, emotions are irrational. They are wonderful if given in the right place. God gave you emotions and you should use them correctly - not to make decisions - use them for appreciation. You should have appreciation for your grandchildren, for beauty, for your team or whatever, but not let your emotions dictate what you do. I remember not too long ago in Alabama there was a man who hated one of our universities. He decided he would go to that university and poison the famous trees on the campus, trees there over a hundred years. So he poured some kind of poison on the roots and then called a radio talkshow and admitted that he did it. An emotional decision based on hatred for that university over a football team. That's the goofiest thing you've ever heard of but that's what emotions do. They don't think, they don't rationalize, they don't have any common sense - emotions just act. And then you can make wrong decisions based on bad judgment. That's very common - you know that. It's due to the lack of common sense. You are just disoriented to life, you don't know your limits, so you think, 'If I could just get that new job, if I could be the head of this company I could straighten this company out.' Well, no you can't, that's probably one of the reasons you are not head of the company. People that are the head of the company had the moral courage to invest millions of dollars while you sit back, invest nothing, but complain and gripe about it. You slander and lie and malign about people and run people down and get them fired so you can get promoted and then the truth comes out you really don't know what you're doing. You are in big trouble. You didn't know your limits. A man's got to know his limits. Wrong decisions based on lust patterns, as I mentioned earlier, some of the worst are the wrong decisions based on false teaching, wrong teaching. I have seen this in my life and I'm so sorry to have seen it. People that were solid, sound, fundamentally correct people change the way they think and all of a sudden they no longer think logically, they've now gone to think differently. We are not even on the same page

anymore and they convince their friends that they are right because their friends have absolute trust in them. It's really bad when it happens to a pastor and he changes his whole direction and takes his congregation with him. Wind up teaching something that is not truth. You know we are all on the same team, that's not the problem, we just don't all have the same playbook. The playbook obviously is the Word of God. Dispensational systematic sound Bible teaching line-by-line, word-by-word. Do we take the Bible literally? Absolutely! We don't take it literarily, we take it literally. And so as we learn and apply and grow - LAG - Learn, Apply, Glorify God - then we stay out of those bad decisions. When you make bad decisions you get self-induced misery along with divine discipline from God. Proverbs 22:8, "*He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of God's punishment will surely come.*" You haven't been punished until God smacks you down a few times for your stupidity, because you failed to see your own arrogance. It's happened to me and it will happen to you if you don't wise up and get with it. Proverbs 11:22, "*As a golden ring in a pig's snout, so is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.*" One of the most dangerous things in the world is a beautiful woman who has no discretion. She gets carried away with her own beauty, makes bad decisions and her attitude brings her self-imposed misery. Now an ugly person can do the same thing, yes, but it's particularly true when someone is trying to gain an advantage in life based on their looks. In Proverbs 12:13, "*And the transgression of the lips [that's the sin of your big mouth running someone down] in the center of your big mouth is an evil snare, but the righteous will escape this misery [this trouble].*" Have you ever sat down at dinner and talked about the neighbors? Have you ever maligned the guy across the street? There is nothing worse than that sort of gossip and slander and maligning. If there's anything a Christian must do, he must keep his nose out of other people's business and obviously not judge them. So get away and leave those people behind. Every time you judge, malign, gossip, run someone else down then you manufacture misery for your own life. The righteous here isn't someone who's perfect but it's someone who doesn't gossip, who doesn't malign, and who doesn't judge other people. In Proverbs 13:20, "*He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of a fool will suffer misery.*" That's good advice. Stay away from the idiots because as they make themselves miserable they will make you miserable. If you associate with the wrong crowd you're making a decision that will cause you a tremendous amount of unhappiness in your life. "*Better is a dish of cabbage where love is, than Châteaubriand and hatred with it*" (Proverbs 15:17). In other words, you must not only choose your food but you must choose who you associate with. Do you want to associate with someone? Proverbs 15:33, "*Occupation with the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor must come humility.*" Good decisions in your life based on divine viewpoint thinking combined with humility and volitional positive volition will eventually lead to honor in your life and you will be able to use virtue love as a problem-solving device. There is a lot more to say about volition. I hope it's making sense. I've been pretty straightforward this morning. This is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Volitional Decisions

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 707 aired on March 10, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes I'd like to ask you to please stick around. If this is your first time to hear us, the FLOT Line stands for the Forward Line of Troops. That's a military analogy. We are talking about how you can learn ten unique problem-solving devices taught in the Bible, the Word of God. These are nothing new, these are age-old biblical doctrines but if you learn them and use them then you can stop the outside sources of adversity from becoming the inside source of stress. That's why we say adversity is inevitable and stress is optional. You can have an inside FLOT line - a main line of resistance in your soul based on the Word of God to allow you to live the life that Jesus Christ designed for you - the Christian life - the most unique life in the world. A life with no worry, a life with no fear, a life with complete confidence, a life that has the most happiness that you have ever known. You say, 'That doesn't sound like any Christian life I've ever heard of.' Well that's what it's supposed to be. That's what the Word of God says. It all boils down to you using your volition. We have been talking about volition the last two shows. Volition - it's part of the mainframe of your soul. God gave you a soul; you have mentality and you have volition. You have the ability to choose. You have the ability to make a decision. But that decision can be based on one or two things: it can be based on what you think or it can be based on what you feel. That's why we jokingly say that is why God has given you two ends. One to sit with and one to think with. Success in life depends on which one of those you use. Heads you win, tails you lose. God wants you to think. That's why the Bible says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). And the first thing you have to think is in terms of humility. The Bible says, He humbled himself. Humility is a total opposite of arrogance. Arrogance skills include: self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption and eventually obviously self-destruction. Arrogant people always destroy their life and other lives of those associated with them. **And so if you use your volition in an arrogant way, with an unrealistic self-image, with unrealistic expectations you are just going to destroy yourself. But if you have some humility and use your volition to learn God's Word to acquire wisdom, knowledge, insight and understanding - the fantastic four taught in the book of Proverbs - then you can have a most wonderful life. We showed you how there is self-induced misery and divine discipline from using your volition in the wrong way. Again, your volition is what controls you. You make your life out of your decisions. You must choose. Your thoughts become your decisions and your decisions become your actions and your actions lead to results.** So what does the Bible say about self-induced misery, making your own self miserable? Proverbs 22:8, "*He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of His punishment will surely come.*" Sowing wickedness is you intentionally committing sin. When you intentionally sin it could be: mental attitude sin (such as worry, fear, jealousy, bitterness), it could be sins of the tongue (such as lying, slandering, and gossiping), or it could be an overt sin (like stealing or adultery or fornication). When we sow wickedness, we reap trouble. That trouble, if you are a Christian,

comes from the discipline hand of God. If you are not a Christian, if you've never accepted Christ as your Savior, you still sow trouble from the establishment concepts of the law. Divine establishment concepts that we operate on as a nation demand that we all orient to authority to maintain our freedom. And if you cannot orient to authority, if you are negative to authority, and you decide to go on a criminal spree you will suffer trouble. So that's one verse, Proverbs 22:8, *"He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of His punishment will surely come."* There is a verse in the book of John that says, *"He that believes in Him shall never perish; but have everlasting life, and he that believes not, the wrath of God abides on him already"* (John 3:18). **Without believing in Jesus Christ and accepting Him as your Savior, you are using your volition to go negative to God's plan.** You are using your volition to say, 'No, I do not want to accept Christ as my Savior.' Maybe you think you have a better deal. Or maybe you think that God is wrong or the Bible is wrong or it's all a joke. It's not, I assure you. We don't have time to go in and prove why the Bible is true and why the Lord Jesus Christ is who He said He is, but if you read Romans the first chapter beginning with verse 19 you can see the logical conclusion: there must be a God that created this because there's too much order, there's no chaos in the universe and so everything fits together even in your own body it works. So there is a God and you must answer to that God and that God said, *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved"* (Acts 16:31). I hope you will consider that seriously. I hope you will look at those claims that Christ made Himself, the claims that He was the Son of God, that He did die for your sins. It certainly shocked Pilate when Pilate saw it. Jesus was led before Pilate to be crucified by the Jewish religious leaders and they said, 'He's made Himself out to be the Son of God' and Pilate heard that and about freaked out. He took Him to the side, back into the praetorian, and said, 'where did You come from?' Well he wanted to know. I hope you want to know - is Jesus the Son of God? Is He? Is He who He said He was or was He just (as it's been said before) a lunatic and a liar? I think if you will examine the Scripture you will see that He was not a lunatic, He was not a liar, He was indeed the Son of God. That's why the Bible says, *"This is the will of Him that sent Me, that you believe in Me whom He has sent"* (John 6:29). That is the first volitional decision you must make that will help you orient and adjust to the plan of God. And we go to Proverbs 12:13, *"In the transgression of the lips [that's a sin of your big mouth, mine too] is an evil snare [that's triple compound discipline we get when we stick our nose in someone else's business]."* Matthew 7:1-2 says, *"Don't judge lest you be judged, because what measure you measure, it will be measured back to you again."* You can actually stick your nose where it doesn't belong and that person's discipline - if in fact it's true what you said - would be taken off of them and given to you. Let me go back to Proverbs 12:13, *"In the transgression of the lips is an evil snare, but the righteous person will escape this trouble."* So every time you judge or malign or gossip or run down someone, you have manufactured misery for yourself. The righteous here isn't someone who's perfect. I don't know anyone who's perfect; we are all just a bunch of jerks. If it wasn't for God's sense of humor, you and I would've already been a greasy spot. God has a sense of humor. You don't believe it, go look in the mirror. He is very gracious

and very patient with us. So this *righteous person* is not a perfect person, it's someone who doesn't gossip, malign or judge other people. You can't afford to do that. I have been at dinner conversations where the neighbor was the center of the conversation and it makes you terribly uncomfortable and you want to say shut up, quick judging, leave them alone. Proverbs 13:20, *"He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of a fool will suffer misery."* If you use a volitional decision to hang out with an idiot then you are going to suffer misery. We make good decisions and we make bad decisions in regard to the people whom we associate with. If you associate with the wrong crowd, you are making a decision that's going to cause you a tremendous amount of unhappiness. You may remember from high school associating with the wrong crowd. I can remember distinctly the upperclassman luring me into certain things and wanting to get their approval, I went right along just like a dumb sheep just so they would like me and did things that I should not have done. You've probably gone down the same road. Proverbs 15:17 (another volitional verse), *"Better is a dish of cabbage where love is than the best wine and hatred with it."* In other words, you not only choose your food but you choose your associations as well. If you choose to have a steak or pasta today, you also choose who you are hanging out with. So if you are going to fall in love, you better fall in love with the right sort of person. Proverbs 15:33, *"Occupation with the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor must come humility."* Good decisions, occupation with the Lord - problem-solving device #10 on the FLOT line of the soul - occupation with the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, and before any honor comes into our life we must be able to handle it with humility. Good decisions based on humility in your soul will eventually lead to honor and that includes virtue love as a problem-solving device. Another problem-solving device #8: virtue love, impersonal love, the ability to love other people. Proverbs 16:18, *"Pride [that's arrogance] goes before destruction, and an arrogant way of life before a fall."* Destruction and fall here both refer to self-imposed self-induced misery under the law of volitional responsibility. Your arrogance and your arrogant way of life will cause you to destroy yourself. Self-justification is the first step of arrogance. You justify why you are right and everybody else is wrong, then you become totally absorbed with what you want to do. Self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption, self-destruction. So remember this. Pride, that's arrogance, goes before that destruction and an arrogant way of life before a fall. If you are listening to me and you are thinking this may be you, could I suggest you take a moment and go before your Father and, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, simply tell Him you have sinned. Simply admit to Him that you have been arrogant and you rejected His Word and you've gone down that my-way-highway. Be honest with God. The Bible says that He loves you and He cares about you. God doesn't want to hurt you but He will discipline His children when we step out of line according to Hebrews. In Hebrews 12:6, *"Those whom He loves He disciplines, and He scourges with a whip."* And that's not fun. So if you are a child of God, now would be a great time to be honest, to own up to it, and to simply asked the Lord to forgive you, to cleanse you from your sin. That's where it starts because that puts the Holy Spirit back in control. You cannot grow if the Holy Spirit is not in control. You cannot glorify God if

the Holy Spirit is not in control. You cannot live the Christian life if the Holy Spirit is not in control. That's why rebound is the first problem-solving device on the FLOT line of your soul. Rebound retains the filling of the Holy Spirit. It's the only way to get the Holy Spirit to be in control again. The Bible tells us, "*The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh*" (Galatians 5:17), they are contrary one to the other. There's a war going on inside of you and it is your flesh that wants to control you, manipulate you until your volition agrees to go along with its demands. When the flesh demands something that you don't want to do, your volition may fight it, your volition may say, 'No, I'm not going to do that, no, no, no' but the flesh doesn't give up and the world doesn't give up, not even talking about the devil. Remember, the devil is not omnipresent, he can only be in one place at one time and if you think he is at your house chasing you around between the living room and the bedroom, you are wrong. You are not getting away from your own flesh and the lure of the world - that's where the problem is. Now is the time to confess your sin to God. Another verse, "*Better a dry crust with tranquility [peace and quiet] than a house full of religion [all kinds of sacrifices] and strife*" (Proverbs 17:1). So religion usually is ritual without reality and it is meaningless. Organized religion is the number one evil thing in the world, it is the most evil thing in the world. Luke 18 talks about the religious man who thought he was saved and he wasn't. Oh he tithed and he prayed and he did this and he did that but he wasn't a believer because he was basing it on his own self-righteousness. If your volition is basing your salvation on your self-righteousness then you are not Christian either. So Proverbs 17:13, "*He who returns evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.*" It will not only affect him but also everyone associated with him. This is called compounding self-induced misery. Not only will you make your life miserable, but you will make everyone in your home miserable as well. This is so true of drug addicts and how they destroy families and homes, and alcoholics, and etc. Proverbs 17:20, "*A person with a perverse right lobe [that's a mindset, that's a person who deviates from what's right, he's obstinate, he's willfully wrong] will not prosper; and he whose tongue is deceitful will fall into trouble and misery.*" Proverbs 19:8, "*He who gets wisdom loves his own soul [that's spiritual self-esteem, that's a wonderful thing] and he who cherishes understanding will prosper.*" Did you see "gets" and "cherishes?" Those are volitional decisions. You must decide for yourself, do you want to grow up spiritually? You must decide for yourself, do you want to glorify God? You must decide for yourself, am I willing to put in the time that it takes to become a mature believer? If you join the military service you have to go to boot camp and in boot camp you learn how to march, how to dress, how to use your weapon, how to respond to officers - you are basically introduced to a new way of thinking and a new way of living under authority. This is much the same as becoming a Christian. You have to change the way you think and change the way you live - this is what becoming a Christian is all about. "*If any man is in Christ [the Bible says] he's a brand-new creation, the old things are passed away and all things become new*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). You don't look different, you don't sound different but internally you become different because God the Holy Spirit moves in to set up residency in your dead human spirit. You are now made alive spiritually and you enter

into the angelic conflict where the war begins, *“The flesh wars against the Spirit, the Spirit wars against the flesh”* (Galatians 5:17). You must decide for yourself - as I've seen many people decide not to do - you must decide, ‘Do I want to advance spiritually? Do I want to grow spiritually? Or do I want to pursue other details in my life?’ Some of my personal (I'm trying to think of the word I want to use here) some of the things that have made me the saddest are those I've seen come to Christ, who had the potential to serve Him, but walked away to chase the details of life, to chase fame, publicity, happiness in some other area. That's the way life goes. They're not interested. Other things attract them. What attracts you? What do you want to do with your life? What is your life about? That's a decision your volition will make. Your volition will decide where you want to go and what you want to do. Proverbs 19:15, *“Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless person suffers hunger.”* Laziness is a volitional decision. If you want to lay in the bed 12 hours a day and you live to be 80 you are only awake for 40 years so you live to be 40 really. Sleep is fine, it's wonderful, nothing wrong with it but you are not designed to sleep your life away. And yet a lazy person will sleep their life away. They won't work, they won't get out of bed, they won't take care of their schoolwork, they won't get dressed in time to go to school, they won't handle their responsibility - they just want to sleep. *“The shiftless person [that's a person that's not willing to work] suffers hunger.”* However, in our country, some people are not willing to work but depend on the government to provide food for them. That's not a good thing necessarily. It is a right thing to be charitable, it is right to help people in need but it is not right to provide for those who are not willing to work and are able and could work. They take advantage of the system. Proverbs 19:16, *“He who obeys instruction guards his own soul, but he who is contemptuous of his own ways will die.”* This is a certain ticket to an early death. If you obey the Word of God - beginning with Ephesians 6:1-2, *“Children, obey your parents; honor your father and your mother”* which is the first mandate with a promise that you will live long on this earth; if you can obey those instructions, to develop authority orientation for your parents, then you can protect your soul. But if you are contemptuous of your own ways, you reject the authority of your parents, you reject the authority of the police officer, you reject the authority of the Bible, you reject the authority of the pastor - you are going to set yourself up for an early death. How? Because in your arrogance you will self-justify, self-deceive, self-absorb and self-destruct. You will destroy your own life. As a matter fact you may be well on the way to destroying your own life right now. Again, it's not too late. You can stop, you can go to your heavenly Father, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, and admit your sin. He already knows about it. He is lovingly waiting on you. You haven't died yet. Why not recover? Why not get with it? Why not use the same volition that got you into trouble to get you out of trouble? Just like you decided to do what you did, you can decide to go to the Father and admit your sin to God. Proverbs 19:19, *“A hot tempered man must pay the penalty, for if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.”* That's a person who can't control his temper. That's a volitional decision. That's the arrogant person that can't control his temper. We've all been there. When we were young we had a temper. However, in America today, it's unbelievable, people are so out of

control, they'll shoot you in traffic just because you accidentally pulled in front of them. They'll run you over in the grocery store because you accidentally did something. People's tempers are out of control. They'll run you down in the parking lot. They will do unbelievable, mean, nasty, evil things because they get mad and lose their temper and never think about the consequences. A hot tempered person is the person you must look out for because if you rescue him you are going to have to do it again and again and again; if he is your child, if he is your friend it's gonna be a life of misery trying to get this person out of trouble because they can't control their temper. Proverbs 19:23, *"Occupation with the Lord leads to living, so that one resting in contentment is untouched by trouble."* You rest in contentment and you are untouched in trouble. To be content means to have capacity for life. To be content means you are not looking for something to make you happy you already have inner happiness. In Proverbs 19:25, *"Flog a mocker and the simple will learn prudence, but rebuke a discerning person and he will gain knowledge."* That's the criminal - the mocker - you flog him and the simple learn, 'I don't need to do that or I'm going to get flogged.' But if you rebuke a person that has some discernment then he will gain knowledge. And so a person with humility has discernment and gains knowledge from the rebuking that we are getting today from the Word of God. Are you that person? Do you have that sort of temperament? Do you? Are you discerning enough to know that these verses are speaking to you? This is God talking to you, not Rick Hughes the host, it is God's Word speaking to you. And it is the Holy Spirit making them come alive in your soul. So the Bible is clear, *"Better to live in the corner of a rooftop than to share a house with a contentious wife"* (Proverbs 21:9). If your life is miserable, you'd just as soon go live outside on top of the roof than get yelled at, shouted at, cussed out by a wife that's mad. Proverbs 21:19, *"Better to live in the desert than with a quarrelsome and nagging woman."* In other words, making a wrong decision in choosing your marriage partner will cause you a life full of misery. Proverbs 21:21, *"He who pursues virtue love finds capacity for life, prosperity, and honor."* That's what God has for you. But Proverbs 22:8, *"He who sows wickedness reaps trouble [that's the law of volitional responsibility] and the rod of His punishment will surely come."* "His" is God; the rod of God's punishment will surely come. **There are laws relating to your volition. There are laws relating to what happens when you use your volition to go negative to God. When you, in your arrogance, reject the authority of your parents, reject the authority of the police officer, reject the authority of the pastor, reject any authority in life - you are setting yourself up for an early death. You will destroy yourself because you do not have enough humility to make the right decision.** Consider what I say. Think about these things. You are a product of your volition not your circumstances. You are a product of your decisions not where you grew up, not who were your mama and daddy. Who you are, your life, your volition, your decisions - you are responsible. I hope you're thinking. I hope you're paying attention because this is a critical time in your life. I can guarantee you that. Until next Sunday when I'll be back, same time, same station. We are very grateful for the opportunity to be here and we always like to hear from you. Until then, thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

God's Happiness

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 708 aired on March 17, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. We are talking about understanding what God's problem-solving devices consist of. It's called a main line of resistance or a FLOT line in your soul - Forward Line Of Troops is a military term. We are talking about learning ten unique problem-solving devices. When you learn them and use them (they are nothing new, these are things that have been in the Bible for centuries, we didn't develop some new program, this show is about learning the problem-solving devices and using them), you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. Most of us have situations in our life that can cause stress and most of the time, it is self-induced. We mismanage our health, our money, our relationships. We just mismanage everything and we create problems in our life. Part of that is because we have a sin nature. That's the one thing that can never be changed by the socialists today who would like to change our government and make sure that everybody has a fair break in life. But everybody doesn't have a fair break, we are not all the same. We all have equal opportunity and equal privilege to vote and earn a job and learn but we are different. Some people weigh 150, some 250, so the 150 guy is not going to be an All-American football player - we are different. But we are not different internally - we have the same sin nature. Nothing government does can eradicate the sin nature. The sin nature is not going to change and that's the problem in life. How do I deal with my sin nature? How do I learn to control my sin nature? The Bible says we got it from Adam, *"For by one man sin came into the world, and death by sin"* (Romans 5:12). You and I have a sin nature. We may have different lust patterns, not everybody's on the same page that way, because some people lust for sex, some for money, some for drugs or alcohol and some people simply lust for attention (approbation lust). So there are different lust patterns but they are all part of the same sin nature. A Christian has a sin nature just like a non-Christian has a sin nature. When we accept Christ as our Savior, when we are technically born again, our sin nature does not depart, it's still there. That's why the Bible tells us, *"The flesh will war against the Spirit and the Spirit will war against the flesh"* (Galatians 5:17). These are contrary one to the other. When you believe in Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live in you and you are in fact born again, you become a new creation. With the Holy Spirit indwelling you and the old sin nature indwelling you there's a royal battle taking place - it's about who is going to control what you think. You are what you think. You are product of what you think, not what people see, not your image and your style, but what you are thinking. That's where God has the advantage because He can see exactly what you are thinking. He knows what you are thinking. He can read your mind. He can see everything that goes on in that little brain of yours and you don't hide anything from Him. So keep that in mind when you start thinking about what you might be getting away with. You are not going to get away with anything when it comes to hiding something from God. It's best to be honest. It's best to be honest about your sin, confess your sin and admit your sin. *"If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us"* (1 John 1:9) is a key problem-solving device called rebound. Every Christian must do it

throughout the day, at the moment when we know we've sinned. Technically what happens is we quench the Holy Spirit and we grieve the Holy Spirit. If He is quenched and grieved He can't do His job. Thus, to make sure that He's in control and to make sure that we are in fellowship with God we use the rebound technique to name our known sins to God and sometimes even the sins you don't remember. The Bible says, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to cleanse us and forgive us of all sin"* (1 John 1:9) - the ones you don't even remember. That's how good God's grace really is. So as you move into the Christian life and you learn these problem-solving devices, you begin to accelerate your growth and pick up some spiritual momentum you can rest assured there will be opposition. You can rest assured that Satan is going to do all that he can to create a stumbling block in front of you to somehow or another discourage you and eventually defeat you from ever becoming a winner believer. A believer who replicates the life of Jesus Christ - that's the winner believer. The believer who re-presents Christ to his family, to his community and to his local church - that's the winner believer, that's the person God wants you to be. So it all boils down to whom are you going to trust to layout the best plan for your life? There is a plan. God has a plan for you. It's a plan for you to succeed; to have this life of happiness, this wonderful life, the Christian life. You talk about being a Christian - this is a way to live without worry, without ever being bitter or having temper fits, this is a way to live without being jealous, this is a way to live without having fear - it is the Christian life. It is amazing. It is the power of God residing in you by means of two things: by means of God the Holy Spirit who lives in you and by means of the Word of God that is *"alive and powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword"* (Hebrews 4:12). So when you learn the Word of God, hopefully under the mentorship of your pastor, the Holy Spirit takes what you've learned and helps you to make the application in your life. That's what the Bible calls wisdom, biblical wisdom. And then wisdom gives you discernment in your life so that you are able to tell whether you should go down road A or road B, otherwise you'll flip a coin and just hope you get it right. That is not the way the Christian life is designed. This life that I'm speaking of is an unbelievable life of value, a life of meaning and purpose. **The key thing about the Christian life that is so unique is one simple word called contentment - it's characterized by contentment with circumstances in your life. And also a keyword called capacity. You have the capacity - as a believer in Jesus Christ, learning and using God's plan you have the capacity for love and happiness full-time in your life.** But there is a lie. Satan propagates this lie that people or circumstances can make you happy - that's a lie - that people or circumstances can make you happy. Like if I could just meet the right guy or the right girl then we could get married and have a family and we would be happy - that's not true. Marriage doesn't solve problems it compounds problems. I have conducted many marriages and they have not all stuck it out. I'm not a perfect marriage guy. People have sin natures and sin natures get in the way of one another. And when you don't learn God's problem-solving devices and understand personal and impersonal love, sometimes even a marriage falls apart. So Satan's lie is that getting married will make you happy. No it won't. Or if you could just get some money, just get that new job, then you could live comfortably and you'd

be happy. No you won't. Because unhappy people take their unhappiness with them wherever they go in life. It doesn't make any difference whether you have, as the TV show down in Louisiana years ago said, 'mailbox money' (people that discovered oil on their property had mailbox money; money sent every month, five, six, seven-thousand dollars a month from the oil company) that didn't make them any happier. It just, money gives you the ability to be miserable in a different part of town - how's that? But the Christian life is different. **God actually designed a life for you to be happy but it's not apart from Him. If you are trying to have that life, if you are trying to find that peace and security and contentment and capacity apart from God, it won't work.** John 15:11, "*These things I spoke to you [said the Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples] so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*" "*Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross*" (Hebrews 12:2). That doesn't mean that He liked going to the cross, it means that the greatest joy in His life was fulfilling the Father's plan. The plan all along was for Him to go to the cross. Can you say that about yourself? Have you fulfilled God's plan? Are you in God's plan? Are you doing what God wants you to do? Or did you marry the wrong person, choose the wrong job? Did you go down the my-way-highway and make yourself miserable and compound your problems by making a lot of bad decisions? Can you get out of it? Yes, you can. First of all, you can confess your sin to God. And secondly, you can begin to study and learn God's Word and grow and realize what He has given you, what your spiritual gifts are, what grace assets you have. You can have a wonderful life. I made a terrible mistake in college. I left high school as an All-American football player, offered many football scholarships, chose to go to the University of Alabama and play football for the legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant. As a freshman the team that I was on won the national collegiate football championship. But I was a freshman and freshman in those days didn't play with the varsity we just practiced against them every day, we were the dummies. But after my freshman year, I got out during the summer and decided not to go back and finish college. I walked away from that scholarship. That was a stupid thing to do. No one could tell me because I was so arrogant and thought I knew best. I thought I needed a fast car, a cute girlfriend, a nice apartment. Well, I got all those things but three years down the road I realized how empty my life was. It was only by accepting Christ as my Savior that I was able to make a course adjustment in my life. Things turned around when I began to learn the Bible, learn God's Word, learn how to let the Holy Spirit control my life, learn the advantages and the assets that I had. That's the difference. And it's not too late for you. Don't give up. If you want to learn God's plan - it's there. But first you have to stay filled with the Holy Spirit and secondly you need to get under the ministry of a great pastor that can teach you God's plan. It is not designed for you to take a Bible, sit under the oak tree and figure it out on your own. It's a textbook that's designed to be taught to you. That's why God gave men the gift of pastor-teacher. In the original languages it's called the shepherd and the instructor, the teacher. That's what happened in my life. I got under a great pastor who taught me God's Word and prepared me for a life in the ministry that I've been in now since 1969. So here we are. It's a life for you. God has a plan so that your joy may be made full. And it all boils down to where you

want to reside. Now look, you can live in the cosmic system, that's the devil's world the *kosmos* (k.o.s.m.o.s), you can live inside that *kosmos*, the devil's system, or you can live inside God's divine dynasphere. That's what you must choose - where do you want to live? Do you want to live under the cosmic influence? Do you want to live with human viewpoint thinking all of your life? Or do you want to get some divine viewpoint thinking, want to have some divine advantages, want to have the capacity and the contentment in life that I talk about? You must choose whether you will operate under human viewpoint or divine viewpoint. What is divine viewpoint? Well, the Bible says, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 2:5). You have to learn to think like He thought. Why do you think we have the New Testament? Why do you think we have four Gospels that paralleled everything Christ said and did? So you can read about it, learn it and emulate it in your life. That's what you are supposed to do. That's why it's there so you can learn how to handle pressure like He handled pressure, how to handle unfair treatment like He handled unfair treatment, how to handle things the same way that He did. In Matthew 4:1-4 read how Christ handled Satan and what He did when Satan tempted Him. You can handle Satan the same way. So if you develop divine viewpoint, if you learn to think like Christ thought, then that's the total opposite of human viewpoint that floats around in the cosmic system. Human viewpoint is the lure of the cosmic system. Human viewpoint, people or circumstances can make you happy - wrong - they can not. Human viewpoint (I need this, I need that) is everything the world throws at you. You are assaulted 24-7 by television, by ads (I mean, sometimes I get so sick and tired of commercials I just want to barf and you do too) but this is all what the world is throwing at you. You can be happy if you do this, you can be happy if you do that but it's all a lie, it's all a mirage. So the question is, where do you get your direction in your life from? Who is leading or plotting you or showing you where to go? Proverbs 3:13-15, "*Happiness belongs to the one who finds wisdom, and the one who obtains understanding. For the benefit of wisdom is more profitable than silver; and her gain is better than gold. Wisdom is more precious than rubies; and none of the things you desire can compare with it.*" That's how important wisdom is. Wisdom is divine viewpoint. Wisdom is the Word of God that you have heard, learned, believed and applied into your life. It is not the stuff you haven't learned yet, that's *gnosis*, that's knowledge in the Greek. But knowledge hasn't done you any good until you learn it and apply it and it becomes full knowledge (the Greek word *epignosis* means full knowledge). So on this show I'm a peddler of information called divine viewpoint. Divine viewpoint is simply called the mind of Christ. That's why in Philippians 2:5 we are told to think like He thought. Everything that He thought is preserved for us in the pages of Scripture. So if we think like He thought, then it becomes obvious we can live like He lived. So wisdom is the result of the information in the pages of the Bible that you have understood and applied into your life. And with that wisdom comes discernment which the Bible says is greater than gold because having discernment will save you time, save you money; having discernment will keep you healthy. But discernment won't stop you from being impetuous or self-centered. But you will know when you are doing the wrong

thing - now you may want to go ahead and do it but you will know you are doing it. If you don't know your choices, if you don't understand your options then, quite frankly, you will be a slave to circumstances and the details of life as long as you live. You know, Satan sells some Kool Aid, as a matter of fact he gives it away free. He wants you to drink it (that goes back to the Jim Jones thing in Guyana and people that drank the Kool Aid committed mass suicide years and years ago). Here is Satan's Kool Aid that will kill you - he promises that people and circumstances in your life will make you happy - that's a lie. They cannot make you happy. *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it"* are the words of Jesus in Luke 11:28. So if you are depending on any person or any set of circumstances to make you happy, you don't really have the +H which is problem-solving device #9 on the FLOT line of your soul: sharing the happiness of God. **Now there is a false happiness out there, a pseudo-happiness, a temporary happiness and it's in the cosmic system and it's a counterfeit, it's not the real thing. It counterfeits the happiness and the contentment and the blessing that God gives that can only be accessed by learning and executing the plan.** But this pseudo-happiness, it could be a great stimulation, great fun and you will enjoy it. But it's only momentary. It's not lasting. So sure, you can take a cruise, get a new car and sure you can go to the game. It's momentary. It doesn't last. **The happiness that I'm talking about is an enduring lasting contentment and capacity for life that most of the world doesn't have because they don't know the mind of Christ. They don't think like He thought. Once you begin to think like He thought then you will see that your happiness depends on God's true happiness, not some set of circumstances.** If you are counting on circumstances to make you happy - that's neutral happiness - it won't last. Because after the good time, you know what comes next, bad times. You know, 'I put it on my credit card had a great time but now I have to pay for it.' Routine times. Dull times. 'I'm back from a trip and I have to go back to work; it's Monday I hate the routine of work.' The past good times cannot provide lasting happiness. They may give you some good memories and you have good pictures and some selfies but not the lasting happiness that the Bible is talking about. Neutral happiness doesn't motivate you, it doesn't encourage you when you get under adversity. Instead, the true happiness that I'm talking about is not in the cosmic system. The cosmic system can only offer you the temporary fix which is followed by self-induced misery and sometimes even divine discipline where the Lord has to take you out behind the woodshed because you went down the my-way-highway and did something stupid and have not confessed it to the Lord yet. And you think He doesn't know about it so you still think you pulled the wool over the Lord's eyes, but you haven't. So true biblical happiness that I'm speaking of is not various things in life that stimulate you. It's the kind of stuff you have with you 24-7. It relates to what you think, not what you feel. It's not a body happiness, it is a soul happiness. It's the happiness that can be enjoyed in living and even in death you can be happy. In living we use our volition (which we've studied recently) to determine our course in life. But in death, well that's a different story. God in His sovereignty selects the time and the place and the manner of the believer's promotion. But the problem is, if you live spiritually poor then you are

going to die miserably. You are going to have panic and guilt and self-doubt and pity and fear because you lived poorly, you didn't have any happiness at death. It's possible that you can enjoy death as much as you enjoyed living. Death is the door that you walk through to the other side. It's the end of your personal sense of destiny, your journey where *"the eye has not seen, the ear has not heard, the heart has not felt the amazing things God has for you"* (1 Corinthians 2:9). It's where there are *"no more tears, no more sorrow, no more pain; the old things are passed away"* (Revelation 21:4). It's where Jesus said, *"I go to prepare a place for you, so that where I am, you may be also"* (John 14:3). It's the eternal stage, it's the eternal life, it's the resurrection body (the new body) and it is an amazing body. Are you still looking for happiness in time and you haven't found it yet? In God's plan it is possible to live a wonderful life; it's also possible to die a wonderful death. Since happiness is simply a state of your mind it doesn't depend on what you have or don't have. Philippians 1:21, the apostle Paul put it this way, *"For me living is Christ and dying is profit [its gain]."* John wrote in 1 John 1:4, *"We write these things so that your joy may be full."* *"As the Father has loved Me, so I've loved you [Jesus said] now remain in My love. [and then He said] If you keep My mandate, you will remain in My love; just as I have kept My Father's mandates and remained in His love. [and Jesus said] I've told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete"* (John 15:9-11). That's God's plan for you - to have happiness. In Psalm 31:7 *"I will rejoice and be glad in Your loving kindness because You have seen my affliction; You have known the troubles in my soul."* If you are a Christian you need to learn that. The Bible in 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells you that you are going to be tested in the devil's world. *"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man; God provides a way out..."* and part of the test is just the obnoxious people that bully others and that you surround yourself with. You can't build your happiness on somebody else's unhappiness. You can be happy and have a wonderful life. You can learn those ten problem-solving devices and stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. But without understanding and learning the protocol plan of God you are going to be running in circles all your life. You will be like that attraction I saw at the fair - the motorcycle man inside of what looked like a big ole tall barrel and he just went around and around and never went anywhere, but he might have ridden 50 miles. He just went around in circles. Is your life like that? Are you going around in circles and not going anywhere? Then it's time - get in touch with me if you need to, I'll give you some more information - but it's time you straighten things out. Starting with confessing your sin to God because *"if we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us"* (1 John 1:9). What sin is it? The sin of ignoring God, going down the my-way-highway, the sin of seeking your happiness in the cosmic system. If you will come to Him and be honest, you can begin to enjoy and learn the most marvelous things in life. Wisdom, insight, discernment - it's all there, it's all for you, it's all God's plan. I hope you will come back next week. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thanks for listening.

When To Be Laconic

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 709 aired on March 24, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. As usual thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education, done with no manipulation. That's right, no manipulation. Listen as I explain phenomenal problem-solving devices taught in the Word of God which we call a FLOT line. F.L.O.T. stands for Forward Line of Troops. It's a military analogy. What I'm trying to say through this radio show is you can establish a main line of resistance in your soul so that you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they become the inside source of stress in your life. This is done by using God's unique resources found in His Word - God's unique resources of the Holy Spirit. When you use these two things together, this balance of residency in your soul gives you the ability to stop from having the stress in your life - not adversity. You are always going to have adversity; 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us that, it says don't be surprised at what you are going through because the rest of the human race faces it as well. But you can avoid having stress in your life. Our Lord Jesus Christ was never stressed out. He was tested, He was going through the fires as you cannot believe what He went through, just to be able to go to the cross to pay for our sins - which He did in fact. Not only did He go to the cross but He walked out of the grave alive. He was resurrected from the dead or else it would've all been for naught. He is alive today and the wonderful news is that Christ will live in you. It's an amazing thing. "*Christ in me* [the apostle Paul said] *the hope of glory*" (Colossians 1:27). Today I would like to talk to you about something very unique. We live in a day and age when people are quick to mouth off and sound off and say things they really don't need to say. With social media and the way that people get on board with Facebook and Instagram and Snapchat and Twitter and Twit and all that stuff - most of the time it's unbelievable what people say. There is something called sins of the tongue. This is one of the three areas of sin that believers get into. I don't know about you but it's really easy for me to get trapped into saying something that I didn't want to say. I remember when I was a young man (probably 15 years old) standing in a grocery store and the owner of the grocery store asked me what I thought about one of the guys that lived down the street. I proceeded to give him my opinion. Unknowingly to me he was standing behind me listening to me. I was being set up. So it was an embarrassing moment for sure. Don't let yourself be set up by Satan. You have to learn when to speak and when not to speak. The Bible tells us constantly and we are going to look at that this morning. I'm going to go back a few years and review something that I taught in a church back in February 2004. This is something that we all need to remember and I want to give it to you today as a challenge of when to keep your mouth shut. There are times to speak and there are times not to speak. The word laconic means to be a person of few words. And when it comes to certain situations believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, under the filling of the Holy Spirit, empowered by the Word of God, must be laconic. There is a time to speak up but there's also a time to keep our mouth shut. The Bible says in Proverbs 13:3, "*He who guards his words guards his life; for whoever is talkative comes to ruin.*" The best way that I know to destroy your life

and any hope of having any future in your life is to run your mouth when you don't need to be running your mouth - you need to be listening. It is very important that we stay out of sins of the tongue. Remember, sin quenches the Holy Spirit. There are three types of sin. There are the mental attitude sins that we commit such as worry or bitterness or jealousy. There are also sins of the tongue like lying and slander and gossip, maligning, criticizing, backbiting. And there are the overt sins that we get involved in such as stealing or murder, fornication and adultery. As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we are mandated to not let sin reign in our mortal body (according to the book of Romans.) We don't have time to let the sin nature control us. The Bible says if we will walk in the Spirit then we can defeat the flesh (in the book of Galatians) walk in the Spirit and you won't be fulfilling the lust of the flesh. There's always that battle there. That battle is always going on and if you are like me, you have to be very careful about what you say. And so let's look at some times when we should keep our mouth shut. Practical principles from the Word of God for people of principle - I hope you are one of those people. **The Bible says you should keep your mouth shut when you get angry.** This is a good thing for parents to remember as well. Keep your mouth shut when you get angry. Ephesians 4:31, *“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor [clamor means barking loud words, yelling, screaming] and evil speaking be put away from you, along with all desire to hurt someone [malice].”* Again, Ephesians 4:31, there's power in the Word of God, *“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, along with all malice.”* Here is a mandate. This is not a request. This is a mandate from the Word of God not to get angry and especially not to open your mouth when you are angry. You see clamor is an onomatopoeia in the English, and the Greek word means to make the sound of the crow - it caws. When a person is angry the first indication that they are angry is that their mouth begins to go off. They say things they shouldn't say and it causes a reaction in the other person whose own bitterness and arrogance kicks in and the next thing you know you have a tremendous fight, a yelling match at least and slugs at best. Keep your mouth shut when you are angry. Another time **the Bible tells us to keep our mouth shut is especially if we are tempted to tell a lie.** In this political season that we are going through for the next couple of years you are going to hear the public lie. The public lie is if you tell it loud enough, often enough, long enough, somebody's going to believe it. And there's not a day that goes by that someone is not maligned, criticized or assaulted on the airwaves of television, radio, whatever. And so the public lie you will be faced with a lot, and if you don't have some Scripture, if you don't have a background in understanding divine establishment concepts, then you may buy into it or (as I often say to the young people that I speak to) drink the Kool-Aid. You may remember that phrase from the Jim Jones days back in Guyana when he had convinced all of his followers to drink the cyanide laced Kool-Aid. Don't drink the Kool-Aid! Here is Proverbs 6:16-19, when you are tempted to tell a lie remember what I'm about to read to you, *“These six things doth the Lord hate, wait a minute, yea seven are an abomination to Him: 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 and he that speaks lies, and*

he that sows discord among the brethren.” “A proud look” is arrogance, pride, an unrealistic self image. “A lying tongue” God does not tolerate liars. If there's any one thing that our heavenly Father is, it is absolute truth. If there's anything the Lord Jesus Christ is, it's absolute truth. The people that managed to get Him crucified before Pilate were liars. They lied, they brought up lies, they brought in false witnesses to lie, anything to get Him dead so they didn't lose their power over the people. It is always about the power. The lies that are told in social media today are about keeping the power - don't ever forget that. Someone wants the power back and if they want the power back they'll lie and lie and lie and slander and malign and criticize 24-7, it's about getting the power back. Proverbs 12:22, *“Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but they that deal in truth are His delight.”* Our Father in heaven desires you to be truthful. I remember speaking in a school a long time ago and I got a note from a young lady that said, ‘Please pray for me, I'm a liar. I have a problem. I cannot quit lying.’ I don't know if you have that problem but I can tell you this, you are not authorized to lie to the IRS, you are not authorized to lie to your spouse, you are not authorized to lie to anybody. God does not tolerate liars. If you are a Christian, if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you can even lie to yourself. Unrealistic self image gives you unrealistic expectations and once you get into the arrogance complex then you begin to go through self-justification and eventually move into self-deception where you lie to yourself. You think you are worthy of being treated in a way that you are not because you don't see what you really are. Lying to yourself is really a problem. We are also told in the Bible that we are not to try to straighten out an idiot. **The Bible is very clear, when you are tempted to straighten out an idiot, keep your mouth shut.** Why? It does you no good. You are not going to straighten the idiot out. The only thing that people really can change a person's life is the power of the Gospel. Paul said, I'm not ashamed of the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, *“I'm not ashamed of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, because it is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe it, to the Jew first and then to the Gentile”* (Romans 1:16). The power of God is not in you convincing anyone of anything. The power of God is in the good news of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. When you speak, if you speak the Gospel, you are speaking the most powerful thing in the world. But if you logically try to straighten out an idiot you are wasting your breath. Where does it say that? Proverbs 9:7-8, *“He that reproves a scoffer gets to himself shame, and he that rebukes a wicked man gets himself a blot. Reprove not a scoffer, lest he hate you, rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.”* So there you are. When you are tempted to straighten out an idiot don't waste your breath, you are not going to do it. You know, we all have volition. Volition is your decider in your soul that God gave you. If you are listening to this show you used your volition to decide to not turn me off, you are listening - that's positive volition. There is also negative volition. Negative volition is when you say, ‘No, I don't want to listen that show’ and - click - you turn it off. One of the most powerful things in the world is negative volition. Negative volition is motivated by Satan himself in the life of the believer; or in the life of the unbeliever, negative volition is motivated, anything to stop someone from believing in Christ. Once people get negative in their volition, once the arrogance kicks in

that far so that they've gone through self-justification, self-deception, self absorption they are on the road to self-destruction. And negative volition is a very powerful thing. You will not straighten these people out. You can give them the Gospel - it is the power of God unto salvation. The next principle is **when we are tempted to speak without having all of the facts we should be sure that we keep our mouth shut.** In Proverbs 10:14, *“Wise men lay up knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.”* When you don't know all the facts, don't jump in the middle of the argument. Don't give your two cents worth. You are not instructed in the Word of God anywhere to get in the middle of anything and try to straighten anybody else out. So if you are tempted to speak without having all the facts stay out of the conversation. *“Wise men lay up knowledge but the mouth of the foolish leads to destruction or is near destruction.”* **There is another time that you should be sure that you keep your mouth shut and that's when you are tempted to say more than you should say.** You know, like giving out too much information. Proverbs 10:19, *“In a multitude of words there lacks not sin, but he that refrains his lips is wise.”* In a multitude of words, there comes the opportunity for sin. If someone can't quit talking (I know you have been around people like this and I have as well) you just wish they'd shut up. I mean, they go on and on and on, they want to give you their whole life history, they want to tell you about all their children, all their grandchildren, all their surgeries, all their operations, all their health issues, all their ideas on politics, all of this, all of that. I think sometimes people are just lonely and want somebody to talk to. But listen, the Bible is clear here, be a man of few words. If you want to give some information out, give out the Gospel - *“The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe it to the Jew first then to the Gentile”* (Romans 1:16). I have seen many lives transformed and changed and turned around, but not because I logically convinced them to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, but simply because I gave them the Gospel and the Holy Spirit took what I gave them. Maybe I planted a seed and someone else watered it or maybe someone else planted a seed and I watered it, but it's always the power of the Gospel as the Holy Spirit takes that information and develops it into thought in the heart of the person who hears it. So we need to have all the facts. And when it comes to the Gospel - be sure you understand this - you need to have all the facts as well. Don't be telling somebody they will go to heaven if they straighten up and fly right. Don't be telling somebody they will go to heaven if they quit drinking and quit smoking. Don't be telling someone that they will go to heaven if they just didn't do that particular sin. Remember that on the cross our Savior paid for all of our sins past, present and future. So the Bible, 2 Corinthians 5:21, clearly says, *“He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we may be made the righteousness of God through Him.”* So remember this, your sins are not even an issue, they have been paid for. The issue is what think ye of Christ. The Bible clearly says, *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved”* (Acts 16:31). The Bible clearly says, *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16). The issue is always faith alone in Christ alone. It is not faith plus giving up drinking. It is not faith plus giving up smoking. It is not faith plus giving up anything. It's simply

faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Because it's there that He was judged in our place, it's there where He took the burden of our sin at Calvary, and once they buried Him and He walked out alive it's there that He demonstrated, *"Yes, I am the Son of God"* (Luke 22:70). And He can demonstrate that to you in your life as well. He will come to live in you by faith. Be sure you keep your mouth shut when you are tempted to say more than you should say is very close to what I just told you. To be tempted to say more than you should say. *"In a multitude of words, there lacks not sin but he that refrains his lips is wise"* (Proverbs 10:19). **When you are tempted to pervert the truth be sure you keep your mouth shut.** *"The mouth of the just brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue [or the lying tongue or the deceptive tongue] shall be cut off"* (Proverbs 10:31). So when you are tempted to pervert the truth or twist the truth or make something seem like it's really not what happened but to alter it with a soundbite or to twist the truth - you are not authorized to do that. God the Father knows the truth. And here's the thing about it, God was in business before we got here and He will be in business long after we are gone and He doesn't need our help to straighten people out. There is a monkey in Africa that has a big nose and he is called the proboscis monkey. He's a really funny looking creature with that big nose. Well, sometimes believers get a big nose, a long proboscis and they stick it where it doesn't belong and they pervert the truth. That's why the Bible says, *"Do not judge lest you be judged. Because with the measure you measure, it will be measured back to you again"* (Matthew 7:1-2). So if you are tempted to pervert the truth. Just so you can sway people your way and get them to believe what you want them to believe - keep your mouth shut. This is big again in politics today. People who attempt to pervert the truth, to change the truth into the lie. Again the public lie: tell it often enough, loud enough and long enough, somebody is going to believe it. Here is another principle **when you are tempted to malign your neighbor keep your mouth shut.** Don't do it. I live in a neighborhood. I have neighbors that come and go, move in and move out and I'm constantly hearing my neighbors talk about the new neighbors. So much so that I go inside and turn on the TV. I don't want to hear it. You can just hear it, 'They've got dogs, they're on my property.' I mean, it's one thing after another. When you are tempted to malign your neighbor, Proverbs 11:9, *"A hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor."* That doesn't necessarily mean the person that lives next door to you, it could mean anything in that aspect. You can destroy somebody's reputation, you can destroy somebody's advantage in life by maligning them, running them down, lying about them, complaining about them. Did God send you to straighten people out? God did not send you here to straighten out anybody. You have enough trouble keeping your own life straight just like me. He doesn't need my help and I don't need your help. I need His help. I need the power of the Holy Spirit in my life using 1 John 1:9, rebound, and I need the power of the Word of God where it says in 2 Timothy 2:15, *"Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth"* - that's what I need. I need the power of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Word of God, so I know when to keep my mouth shut. I am especially not supposed to malign, criticize, complain about my neighbor, my friends, whatever. Here's another one. **If you have a quick**

temper, keep your mouth shut. Proverbs 14:7, *“Go from the presence of a foolish man, for thou perceive not in him the lips of knowledge.”* Stay away from people that have a quick temper. There's a solution for that. The solution for that is found under the filling of the Holy Spirit as a believer. This is something you'll find when you accept Christ as your Savior and you begin to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Savior you will find that as the Holy Spirit fills and controls your life you will learn to control your temper. That may be your biggest enemy. You know, I found the enemy and he's me, that sort of thing. You have to learn to control your temper. A quick temper will destroy you and destroy other people and you are foolish if you don't have some knowledge. Here is another one, **when you are tempted to say hurtful things** - and I put in here, especially if you are a parent don't say hurtful things. Proverbs 15:4, *“A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.”* You can actually break the spirit of your children. Ephesians 6:4, *“Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”* Nurture and admonition are words that mean you train your children by putting something on their seat or you train your children by putting something in their mind. And so we have to train our children but we are not authorized to say anything hurtful to our children; call them dumb, to call them stupid - that's pitiful if that's the way you have to control your child. Another one, **if you are tempted to be rude keep your mouth shut.** Proverbs 16:24, *“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones.”* Simply saying, encouragement is healthy. If you are out in the public like I am, you get bad service constantly like I do. I'm constantly eating in restaurants, eating out, service is pitiful sometimes but God doesn't authorize me to be rude or mean or arrogant. When you are tempted to gossip or repeat what is true or false (slander is repeating what is a lie; gossip is repeating what might be true) we are not allowed to do either one. Proverbs 16:28, *“A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates friends.”* Another one, **when you do not know what you are talking about, keep your mouth shut.** Luke 11:27-28, when the woman tried to correct Jesus and try to make an issue out of the womb and the Lord was very kind and He told her she was wrong. **If you find yourself talking to a fool, keep your mouth shut.** Proverbs 23:9, *“Speak not in the ears of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.”* Ladies, if you are trying to control your husband by nagging at him, the Bible says in Proverbs 19:13, *“...the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.”* It can be a bit much. So when it comes to that don't nag. And **be careful when you are tempted to judge another believer.** Proverbs 21:23, *“Whosoever keeps his mouth and his tongue, keeps his soul from trouble.”* We have to be that way. We have to be very careful. I hope this is helpful. Just a few practical principles about when to keep your mouth shut. No great revelation. You probably knew all of this, but here's the Scripture that goes with it. I hope it's encouraging to you and I hope you will be able to stay out of the sins of the tongue. It's wonderful to be able to give this information to you. I hope you'll come back next week. Listen again, same time, same station, same place. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Why Prayers May Not Be Answered

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 710 aired on March 31, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes please stick around. It will be a short time, just about 27 minutes of motivation, inspiration, some education and we always do this without any manipulation which means we don't con people, we are not trying to get money, we are not trying to sell you anything, we are just offering to give you some accurate information. Hopefully the information will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. You can orient and adjust to the plan if you'd like to do so. We have been on the air now for almost 13 years with the FLOT Line. It's been amazing to see how God has graced us out, provided for our needs and lets us continue to broadcast in your area. Thank you for listening. If you ever fail to get the show on some Sunday, let us know. Go to our website rickhughesministries.org and shoot us an email. We will figure out what happened. Today we want to talk about something that is very critical. I constantly hear people tell me, 'I prayed about it.' When they are faced with a big decision like a job or even a marriage or school or something they are going to do they say, 'I prayed about it.' And I'm thinking to myself, 'Okay, good deal, you prayed about it' but what exactly does that mean. That just seems to be a catchall term today: 'We will pray for you or our prayers and thoughts go out to you.' But nobody really understands the mechanics involved in that and sometimes it's just a cliché. So what I want to talk about to you today is about prayer and why sometimes your prayers may not be answered. That's right, every prayer that is uttered is not always answered and you may be in that situation. Why would prayers not be answered? Let's start off with a verse that is very critical. First of all, is it legitimate to pray? The answer is certainly yes. The Bible says we should "*pray without ceasing*" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). **If you are a believer in Jesus Christ you have instant long distance terrestrial access to the heavenly throne of God. You have it if you dial the right number, so to say, but if you don't dial the right number your call is not going to go through.** In our state they are adding a new area code and I've been told that if you don't dial the right area code your call will not go through. So anyhow let's talk about this. Why would my prayer not get answered? Why would my prayer not get to the throne room of God? Some people say, 'I thought every prayer went straight to God.' No, they do not. First of all, in Proverbs 1:28, the Bible says, "*Then they shall call on me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me.*" There's nothing more devastating to a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ praying for an answer and then not getting any response. I guess it's sort of like being on an island and not having anyone come to your rescue and you are stuck there. I think we all saw that movie where Tom Hanks was stuck on that island and had a relationship with a volleyball (Wilson I think he called it) and nobody came to rescue him. Of course you and I know that the Holy Spirit plays a major role in our prayers and whether they get answered or whether they don't get answered. Listen to what Romans 8:26 says about the Holy Spirit's ministry in prayer. Romans 8:26, "*Likewise the Spirit also helps with our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit makes intercession for us with*

groanings which cannot be uttered.” The Greek word for groanings means cries or requests. So when we go to the Father and we pray, if we want to have our prayers answered, it’s imperative that the Holy Spirit be involved in those prayers. In Acts 7:34 that word groaning is used again, *“I have seen and I’ve heard the affliction of my people, which is in Egypt and I’ve heard their groanings [same Greek word] and I have come down to deliver them, and now will send you to Egypt.”* Groanings - their cries, their appeals to be answered - that’s what the Holy Spirit does. He takes our prayers to the Father with our desperate plea or our desperate cry to answer. If our prayers are going to be effective (and hopefully your prayers are effective, especially if you are praying for me, I’d like for them to be effective) then we have to follow protocol. Protocol simply means you have to do a right thing in a right way. Because a right thing done in a wrong way is wrong. A right thing done in a right way is right. So if you do a right thing in a right way at the right time then it’s always right. So there is a wrong way to pray and this is stated in Psalm 66:18, *“If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me.”* What does that mean? It means that sin blocks the ministry of the Holy Spirit in or during my prayers. Let’s go back to a basic Bible doctrine that we should all understand which is the filling of the Holy Spirit. We have problem-solving devices 1-10 in the FLOT line of your soul. Problem-solving device #1 is the rebound process where it says, *“If I confess my sin, He is faithful and just to forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9). Now, if I have sin in my life the Bible tells me that I’ve got a problem, that I have quenched or I have grieved the Holy Spirit. Because sin blocks the ministry of the Holy Spirit during my time in prayer. What sin? Are we talking about drunkenness, are we talking about fornication, are we talking about cursing - what are we talking about? Let’s look at a sin that you might not have thought of. This is a sin that slides by a lot, people don’t really think about it very much. Are you listening? 2 Peter 3:18, *“Grow [that’s a command, that’s not a request] in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* We are commanded to grow. Here’s another verse, 2 Timothy 2:15, *“Study [by the way, this is how we grow] to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* Both the word “grow” and the word “study” are verbs and they are both in the imperative mood in the Greek New Testament which means this is a command, this is not a request. Both of these are divine mandates for the believer in Jesus Christ to grow spiritually by studying God’s Word. Now, what does that mean exactly. Hosea 4:6 talks of national discipline on God’s people because they rejected knowledge. The objective of growing and studying is to get knowledge. We call it the fantastic four: wisdom, knowledge, discernment and understanding. The objective of growing is to gain knowledge. Listen to Hosea 4:6 - the sin of rejecting knowledge - *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge [national discipline coming on the nation Israel]. Because you have rejected knowledge [the verse goes on to say] I will reject you that you will no longer be a priest to me seeing you forgot the law of your God and I will also forget your children.”* That’s a little bit of a warning. When our Lord Jesus Christ was carrying His cross and Simon of Cyrene had to pick it up for Him and carried it on up to Golgotha, you remember what the Lord told the thief, *“Today you will be with Me in*

paradise” (Luke 23:43). And you remember what the Roman centurion said, “*Surely this is the Son of God*” (Matthew 27:54). But do you remember what Jesus said to the women who were mourning and wailing as He went down the street all beaten and scourged and just barely even walking, not able to carry the burden of the cross? He looked at them and said, “*Don't weep for Me, weep for yourselves and what's coming and weep for your children and pray that you don't have children*” (Luke 23:28). You see, national discipline on a nation is a horrible thing. And in 70 A.D. Jerusalem was completely destroyed by the Roman invasion led by Titus. If you put that into perspective today, I personally believe the United States of America is at a serious crossroads in history. You've heard me say before, as goes your spiritual life so goes the future of your nation. What is the problem? We have forgotten the law of our God. We have put Him in third-place, fourth-place, fifth-place. We no longer can even talk about God or even post the Ten Commandments in the public square. It's offensive to someone and that is the most ludicrous crazy thing I've ever heard in my life. So we don't want knowledge. We don't want the knowledge of God. We don't want people to be exposed to the knowledge of God. What did the verse say? “*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*” It is a sin to reject the knowledge of God. Proverbs 1:22 gives another divine warning to those who fail to learn and understand the plan of God. Here it is, “*How long will you simple ones love simplicity? And how long will the scoffer delight in his scoffing and how long will fools hate knowledge?*” What's wrong with knowledge? It is the plan of God. It is understanding the protocol plan of God. It is coming to do exactly what the Bible says in Jeremiah 9:24, “*Let the one that glories glory in this, that he understands Me and he knows Me.*” You can't understand God without having a knowledge of God. If you don't understand that He is sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, immutability, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence - if you don't understand some of those things - how can you love a God that you don't even understand? The question you must answer this morning on this radio show is, are your prayers being hindered because you are sinning by not learning and understanding God's plan for your life? Are you just going through the ritual without any reality to it? You know, the nod to God crowd, the casual Christian crowd. Is that you? Because if you are not taking time to actually learn the Word of God and understand the mechanics and the procedures and the principles that are taught in the Word of God, then at best, you are just a casual Christian (the nod to God crowd, the Sunday morning guy) and that doesn't cut it as far as your spiritual life goes. How much about your God do you actually understand? That's the question. How can you worship a God that you don't understand? The Bible verse in Jeremiah says He's looking for someone that understands Him and knows Him. The only way you are ever going to understand God is to study and grow and do what Jesus said, “*Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me. My yoke is easy and my burden is light*” (Matthew 11:29-30). Learn - study - grow. Listen folks, you are not going to grow with 30 minutes on Sunday morning and 30 minutes on Sunday night and maybe 15 minutes on Wednesday night before the chicken dinner. You are not going to grow that way. If you send a kid to the first-grade for an hour and 15 minutes a week he would never get out of the first-grade. Many Christians don't

study God's Word. They don't even read the Bible. They don't even bring a Bible to church. It's ridiculous. Unless you have a Bible that you can study and unless you are under what I call a well-qualified pastor, not a cruise-ship director, a well-qualified pastor who's going to study it himself and then teach it to you then you are never going to grow. It's imperative that you understand that. The Bible is not a novel; you are not going to read through it and grow spiritually. I'm glad you read the Bible and I'm glad when people say, 'I read the Bible in a year.' That's wonderful. But that's not how you grow! You grow by sitting under a person who has a communication gift (called in Ephesians the pastor and teacher) and you listen to him break the bread open and make you rich and give you a treasure. The word for treasure in the Greek New Testament is thesaurus - it's a word treasure. When you have a word treasure in your soul it affects the way you think, it brings you to the mind of Christ so that you begin to think divine viewpoint and you begin to fulfill Romans 12:1-3, *"Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think, but think in terms of humility as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word."* Understanding, wisdom, insight, knowledge from His Word. It is critical. There's one difference between knowing God and understanding God - a big difference. **This may be one reason your prayers are not being answered and they are not effective. You may have sinned by ignoring the Word of God and ignoring the Scriptures and not studying consistently.** You say, 'I do a morning devotion every morning.' Really? That's wonderful. I'm proud of you. But a 15-minute devotion is not really going to cut it as far as you growing. It's kind of like squirting a little ether in your carburetor trying to jumpstart it on the cold morning. You know, we don't even hardly have any pastors today that are willing to study and teach anymore. There are so many demands on the pastors for them to visit and call on folks and shake folks' hands and pay attention to folks that the pastor doesn't have time to study. But when you find good men who have the gift of pastor-teacher, who are willing to sit down and study every day before they get up and try to teach you, who go line upon line, word upon word, verse upon verse (we call it the ICE technique). Isagogical, Categorical, Exegetical - go in and study the Word what it meant then and what it means today, develop the categories within the passage and exegete the passage line upon line, word upon word, dot upon dot. It's all important in the Word of God. When you can do that, when you can sit at home under a pastor - if you are not in a church you can get a DVD or an MP3 or a cassette or something and each morning or each evening put it in and get your Bible and get a notebook and grow and study and learn. I've been doing this for 50+ years and the more I study, two things I realize: the more I don't know and I've learned that Scripture is layered. So once I go through a passage and understand the surface layer, if I go back through it again, I see something underneath the surface that I didn't see the first time. Sometimes it's many layers deep. There's need for you to study and grow so that you become a mature believer. That's what the whole process is about so that you begin to replicate the thinking of Christ, so that you begin to re-produce the life of Christ, so that when people see you they see Christ in you - that's the whole thing. That's what you must do and that comes by renovating your thought process,

renovating your thinking, letting the mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus. **This is one reason why prayers are not answered, why prayers are not effective - because you ignore the mandate to study and grow spiritually.** It's a battle folks, I understand. I mean, I see it in my own family and the distractions that come along. I can promise you this, if you decide in your life that you are going to set aside an hour a day for study of the Scripture under a pastor, I promise you, you will be tested in every way you can imagine by the enemy himself, by the cosmic system, the world, the flesh, whatever. First of all you may not be able to concentrate for an hour. Secondly, if you decide you are going to do this you will find all sorts of distractions. You may get job opportunities you never had. You may get wealth offered to you never saw. Anything to keep you out of the Word of God. Because if there's one thing Satan doesn't want, it's another effective warrior for the Lord Jesus Christ taking the high ground and representing the life of Christ to a dying world. Satan doesn't want you to do that so he will try to hinder your advance. Here's **another reason your prayers might not be answered. You are not filled with the Holy Spirit, you have unconfessed sin in your life you have quenched the Holy Spirit. Another reason is you rejected the Word of God.** You didn't spend time studying the Word of God. Another reason is you fail to keep His mandates. What do I mean? 1 John 3:22, *"and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His mandates and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."* Did you hear that? 1 John 3:22, *"whatever we ask, we receive because we keep His mandates and do the things that are pleasing in His sight."* God expects you to be obedient and God will bless you as a result of that. **One reason your prayers might not be answered is malfunction in your marriage.** 1 Peter 3:7, *"Likewise you husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge [there it is, the Greek word *epignosis* - full knowledge - this is wisdom, discernment, insight and understanding. How do you get knowledge? Study, learn, grow.] giving honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel and being heirs together of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."* Marital discourse, malfunction in marriage, can hinder your prayers. If you and your spouse (husband or wife) are arguing or bickering, if you are not on the same page, if you are frustrated, well, your prayers are not going to be answered because that is a sin. It's looking to the husbands to solve the problem here. *"You husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge"* according to what the Scripture says. **Another reason your prayer might not get answered is the wrong motivation for praying.** Maybe you are praying for something you don't need or you are praying for something that's absolutely ridiculous. James 4:3, *"You ask and you do not receive, because you ask amiss, so that you can consume it upon your lust."* I'm just going to tell you right now, if you are praying to win the lottery you are wasting your breath. What? You are wasting your breath. You know, you are thinking that if you could just win the lottery like you see on TV - you see this guy who won a million, this guy won 22 million, this guy won 100 million - oh look how happy they are going to be. No. The only thing money will do is give you the ability to be miserable in a different part of town. That's all. So don't be praying to win the lottery. That prayer is probably not going to be answered unless it's very unusual. That means that God may want to take it all and use it for His

glory not for yours. And in that case, you would probably say, 'I would give God 10%.' Oh whoopee-do. A big gracious person you are. Listen, don't pray to win the lottery - false motivation. And don't be praying, 'Well, you know, if I could just have a new car, I'd be happy. If I could just have a new home, I'd be happy.' You can be happy right where you are if you are content. That's a wonderful thing because contentment gives you the capacity to enjoy life as you are. **Another reason your prayer might not be answered is malfunction of the faith-rest drill.** Mark 11:24, *"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you desire when you pray, believe that you may receive them, and you will have it."* Believe it - that's faith - the faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God. God has over 7,000 promises in the Bible for you. If you can't claim those promises you can't believe them. Do you even know any? We have a book called *Bible Promises and Principles* that we will be glad to send to you. If you don't have one let us know. Many of those promises are categorized in that book for you. You've got to know the promises of God so you can claim them. **Another reason prayer might not be answered is the improper prayer procedure - praying in the wrong way.** For example, nowhere in the Bible are you told to pray to Jesus. Prayers are to be addressed to God the Father. Matthew 6:9, *"After this manner therefore Jesus our Lord said, 'Pray like this, our Father which art in heaven.'"* And we are to pray in the name of Jesus Christ, John 15:16, *"You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatsoever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give unto you."* So we are authorized to go to the Father in the name of the Son - that's a legitimate thing - that He may give it to you. Now, we also learned something else, we also learned that there can be a problem in our life when we pray the wrong prayers, when we pray for the wrong reason, or the wrong way or pray the wrong prayer. And so there's a prayer called an imprecatory prayer. An imprecatory prayer is praying for the destruction of your enemy. Some people get mad at certain people and want to pray for those people to be harmed or for God to get even with them - don't do that, it's not a way to pray. We get mighty impatient when God's justice doesn't happen fast enough for us sometimes. That's a test that can come from a person or system. We have to be very careful not to allow ourselves to get ahead of God. So we must not be involved in hypersensitivity and arrogance because we make enemies of arrogance. We fight against impulsive arrogance and self-righteousness. Arrogance will utterly destroy any effective prayer life you may have. So there is a legitimate prayer for asking for protection from the enemy. Psalm 54:1-5, *"Save me, O God by Your name, vindicate me by Your might. Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth. Because arrogant foes are attacking me, ruthless people are trying to kill me; people without regard for You. Surely God You are my helper; You are the One who sustains me. Let evil recoil on those who slander me; in Your faithfulness destroy them."* It's okay to pray for the enemy to be destroyed. General Patton taught us that in World War II. I have a lot more to say. I hope I'm making sense. I pray it's making sense. Come back next Sunday, same time, same place and you will learn more. Until then, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

The Best Friend You Never Met

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 711 aired on April 7, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like to ask you to stay with me. Simply 30 minutes of motivation, inspiration, education always done without manipulation, which means we don't con people on our radio show. We are not trying to raise money. We are not trying to sell you anything. We are not going to ask you to join up, fess it up, give it up, nothing like that. We would ask you to listen up. Listen as I carefully try to explain the plan of God for your life. If you can pick up on it and understand it, you can orient and adjust to it - that's up to you. My job is always to be accurate, to get it correct, not to lead you astray in some weird something that's not true but to give you what is truth - the Bible, the Word of God. We have been doing this radio show now for near 13 years. It's been a great honor to broadcast on the many various stations and to continue to expand, looking for new stations, every week we are looking to go into new areas and to be able to offer the material that we offer free. The books that we offer free include: *Christian Problem Solving*, *Understanding Your Soul*, *A Crash Course in Basic Christianity* and *Bible Promises and Principles*. We have all of this material free. There is no charge, just write and let us know and we will get it right on out to you. And if you would like to have a copy of any of our radio shows, let us know, we can always make a copy and get it back to you or at least tell you where you can listen to it online at rickhughesministries.org - all of our radio shows are listed there under the FLOT Line. That's the name of the show - the FLOT Line. FLOT stands for Forward Line Of Troops. We use a military analogy to explain how the Christian life works. The most unique life in the history of this world. A life with no worry, a life with no fear, a life with no guilt, a life with no impatience - it's a wonderful life. It's a life Christ demonstrated to us. And when we learn and adapt to use the ten problem-solving devices that we teach on this radio show then you can live that sort of life. But it always starts with phase one. Phase one is "*believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved*" (Acts 16:31). Today I would like to tell you about the best friend you never met. Have you ever wondered about that? Has anything ever happened in your life, someone cause something to happen that was wonderful, marvelous and you really don't know who it was? There is an illustration I would like to give you that happened many years ago back in the 70s. During that time there was a famous evangelist on Bourbon Street called the chaplain of Bourbon Street. His name was Bob Harrington. He's gone to be with the Lord now. He's been gone a couple years. Bob was very famous for his preaching down on Bourbon Street, and on television shows, books, radio and things like that. He told the story about crossing Lake Pontchartrain one night late in the morning, like 1am or 2am in the morning, going from the north side of Lake Pontchartrain, Mandeville, Louisiana, down into New Orleans, Louisiana. At that time there was a two-lane bridge over Lake Pontchartrain and that bridge was 24 miles long. Bob said he was out in the middle of that bridge trying to make his way back home after a meeting where he had been somewhere up in Louisiana. As he got maybe 10-12 miles out on the bridge his headlights picked up a man standing in the middle of the road. Bob

confessed that he was a bit apprehensive about stopping. He didn't know what it was - a robber or a drunk or what it was. He didn't want to stop but he said the closer that he got the man in the road started to frantically wave his arms trying to stop him. Bob said he blinked his headlights onto bright and tried to swerve to go around him but the man moved also and would not get out from in front of Bob's car. Finally, in desperation, Bob slammed on the brakes before he hit this man. He said you could hear this man screaming at the top of his lungs, 'Stop-stop-stop.' Bob cautiously got out and could see the man was in a great bit of distress and said, 'What happened? What's wrong? What's wrong with you? Are you injured?' The gentleman said, 'Up ahead, a barge has struck the bridge. A whole section of the bridge has collapsed into the lake. We were on a bus that went off the bridge and we need help. Please help us.' When Bob realized that his life was saved because a man that he didn't even know stood in the middle of the bridge and had the courage to stop him. He hugged him and said, 'Thank you for saving my life' and they were able to get help. You need to consider that question today. Who was that guy? Who was He? Who was the guy that died in your place? The Bible talks about that you know - the best friend you never knew - Jesus Christ. He provided for you, something amazing just like this man provided for Bob, this man saved Bob's life. One of the most talked about conversions in the history of the world, if you mention this everybody knows who it is and what it is about, is in Luke 23:39-43, "*One of the criminals who hung there [remember there were two criminals, one on either side of the Lord Jesus Christ being crucified] hurled insults at Him and said, 'Aren't you the Messiah? Save Yourself and save us.'* The other criminal rebuked him and said, '*Don't you fear God, since you are under the same sentence that He is? We are being punished justly, for what we did we deserve this; but this man has done nothing wrong.'* And then he said, '*Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!*' And Jesus answered, '*Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise.*'" One of the most talked about conversions in history - the best friend this man had never met. That man, Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, gave him eternal life with a divine pardon that day. As a matter of fact, we have a book written called *A Divine Pardon* that deals with this. It was not at a Billy Graham Crusade. You know, I'm not sure how many people were saved at Billy Graham Crusades and all those events. I'm sure it was thousands and thousands but it was not by some televangelists. The most talked about conversion in the world was on the cross that day. The best friend that man never knew saved his soul that day. Even though the man on the cross beside Jesus had never met him, he heard enough so that he could believe that this was indeed the Son of God. Even the Roman soldiers had to confess to that in Matthew 27:54 when the centurion and those with Him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that happened they were terrified and exclaimed, "*Surely He was the Son of God!*" Amazing! **Here is bottom line: a man you never met gave His life for you and for your redemption over 2,000 years ago. You might not have known Him but I can assure you Jesus Christ knew you over 2,000 years ago. Over 2,000 years ago God the Father had you in His mind. He knew you would exist and He knew you would need redeeming. The plan that God the Father provided was for His Son, the anointed Son, Jesus Christ to be the**

Redeemer. In John 10:15, *“even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”* Christ gave His life for you and for me. In 1 Peter 1:8 the Bible says, *“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with inexpressible and glorious joy.”* It's wonderful to have a friend like Jesus. You never met Him personally. You never laid eyes on Him. But in eternity past He knew you and He gave His life as a ransom for you. All He asks is that you love Him just as He loves you. That's a wonderful type of love where you give love back. It's unbelievable. *“We love Him because He first loved us”* the Bible says in 1 John 4:19. And so that's the way that it goes. In John 20:26-29, *“A week after the disciples were in the house again, Thomas was with Him and even though the doors were locked Jesus came in and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ [in other words, don't freak out, relax] And then He said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here in My hand and reach out your hand and put it into My side and stop doubting Me and believe.’ And Thomas said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Then Jesus told him, ‘Because you have seen Me you believed but blessed are those who have not seen Me yet they believe.’”* I have never seen Jesus Christ. I will soon someday. You have never seen Him either. But the Bible says great happiness belongs to those who believe even though we haven't seen Him. We don't have to be like Thomas, we don't have to see the evidence, we have it in front of us. We have the evidence of the resurrection. We have the evidence of the Word of God. We have the evidence of the testimony. We believe by faith. You know, you can perceive things by faith (the Greek word is *pistis*). You can perceive things by rationalism or empirical data. We receive the good news by faith - faith alone in Christ alone. As Paul told the Roman jailer, *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your house”* (Acts 16:31). Why would someone you never met give his life for you? That just doesn't make sense does it? You never met Him but He died for you. The most powerful words in the history of mankind I'm about to quote to you. They have been quoted millions and millions of times. They are without a doubt the most life-changing words ever uttered on this earth. **John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”** God so loved the world. God loves you. I know you made a mess out of your life; I have also made a mess out of my life, but He loves us. That's why Christ came. He loves us. And we can reciprocate that love. That's the wonderful thing about it. We love Him because He first loved us. God loves you. Don't let that leave your mind. You say, ‘Well you just don't know the things I've done.’ It doesn't make any difference what you've done. That's what Christ died for. That's why He was on the cross. He paid the penalty for your sin. Now you may have some penalties that man will impose on you because of criminal activity - that's a different story. But spiritually speaking your sins were paid for on the cross. Even though you may be in a penal institution you can have eternal life. You can be guaranteed that when you leave this planet you will be face-to-face with the Father. That's what's important. You know this is not unique. A lot of people died for you that you don't even know. You didn't know that? The American Revolutionary War (1775-1783) also known as the American War of Independence was an 18th

century war between Great Britain and its 13 colonies (by the way, allied with France) in which we declared independence as the United States of America. During this time, somewhere between 25,000-70,000 American patriots died (battle injuries, sickness, whatever) during active military service. About 6,800 were killed in battle and 17,000 died from disease (the majority of the latter of those were prisoners of war mostly in prison ships in New York harbor). They died so that you could be free, so that you could have freedom - physical freedom. You are free today to get in your car and drive to California. You are free today to get in your car and drive to Florida. You are free today to rent an airplane seat and fly anywhere in the world you want to go. You are a free American. These people died to give you that freedom. At the end of WWI around four million soldiers were mobilized and at least 120,000 American personnel died during WWI from all different types of causes (combat wounds, influenza). Over 204,000 were wounded. Many civilians died in that military action. In WWII over 400,000 Americans died for your freedom. Died to make sure you are free. Add to that the Korean conflict, add to that Vietnam, add to that the War on Terror throughout the world and the number is uncountable. They all died defending you and your freedom. So what's unique about that? I mean, these people died for you also. 1 Corinthians 15:54 puts it this way, *“So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’”* These deaths I'm talking about bought your personal freedom in time. The American War of Independence, WWI, WWII, all these other conflicts, they bought your personal freedom in time. But listen carefully, the death of Jesus Christ on the cross bought your spiritual freedom and life everlasting. That's why I said *when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory.”* **When you believe in Jesus Christ you are guaranteed an eternal life - death has no hold on you.** That's what Satan uses to scare people with - death. Death has no hold on you in Christ. The Bible clearly says if we follow this verse up in 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, *“Death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, in this strength of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* In 2 Corinthians 5:21, the Bible clearly says, *“He [that's God] made Him [that's Christ] who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God by means of Him.”* **So Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, is the best friend you never met.** Today you can have an encounter with Jesus Christ because the good news is He's alive. He is alive, He is not dead. Once men had done the deed of the crucifixion and once they had buried Him and rolled the rock over the tomb and told everybody to go home (it's over, you disperse, go back to where you came from, show is over everybody) well, He walked out of that grave alive three days later and He was seen by hundreds of people. In 1 Corinthians 15:6 the Bible says, *“After that, He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain even alive to this day, some have died yes, but most of them are still alive.”* The best news is this: Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, will come and live inside you. He will live in you. Colossians 1:27, *“To whom God willed to make known what are*

the riches of the glory of His mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” This was a mystery. This was never known before. No one had a clue. No one in the Old Testament. No one knew it. Paul exposed it. It’s a mystery from God. Jesus Christ will live in you. Christ in you the hope of glory. That’s an amazing thing. In Colossians 1:27, *“He is the hope of our glory.”* Consider this - you have the opportunity to start life all over again with a new history and a new destiny. It's very clear in the Bible, *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, He's a new creation; old things are passed away; all things become new”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). How does it work? Well, it’s really simple. The payment has been done. It’s already provided. Christ on the cross paid the penalty for our sin. He redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. There's nothing that we have to pay. There's nothing we have to earn. It's interesting to hear people say, *“Well I hope I'm good enough to go to heaven.”* It doesn't work that way. The Bible says, *“These things are written so that you may know that you have eternal life”* (1 John 5:13). You may know that you have eternal life; it doesn't say hope and it doesn't say try and it doesn't say wish - you can know it. How do you know it? The Bible says in 1 John 5:12-13, *“He that has the Son has life and He that has not the Son of God has not life. These things God has written so that you may know that you have eternal life.”* Do you have Christ in you? Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior? How does that work? Simple, *“Whoever should call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Romans 10:13). The Bible clearly says, *“For by grace are we saved through faith; it’s a gift from God not of works lest any man should boast about it”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). When we are talking about being saved what exactly do we mean? Well, you are born with a body (that’s obvious) and you are born with a soul which has mentality and volition and consciousness (that’s obvious). But you are born spiritually dead because you inherited Adam's original sin at birth and so you need to be born again if you are going to have a relationship with God - not physically, that's what Nicodemus didn't understand when He came to Jesus by night in John chapter 3. He did not understand how Jesus Christ could say you need to be born again. He said, *‘That’s impossible. You can't go back into your mother's womb.’* And Jesus said, *‘Look, I'm not talking about a physical birth, I’m talking about a spiritual birth.’* What must be born again is your dead human spirit. You are spiritually dead because you are identified with Adam's original sin. When you receive Christ as your Savior, God the Holy Spirit comes to live in you, in your human spirit - it’s made alive in Christ. Now you are a body, a soul and a spirit. There are three parts of you now where there used to be just two: a body and a soul and a dead spirit. Now it’s a body, a soul and a living human spirit. When the body wears out (and it will) or the body is accidentally erased (it could happen); but whatever way it goes, your soul and your spirit will live on forever. If you are a believer you'll get a resurrection body, you will be in the presence of the Father, the Bible says, *“No more tears, no more pain, no more sorrow; the old things are passed away and all things become new”* (Revelation 21:4). That is clear as a bell. If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ you have blown it. You just messed up buddy. Because the Bible says in the book of Revelation talking about the Great White Throne, you will be evaluated based on is his name in the Lamb's Book of Life? The answer is no, it's not. He's died without Christ. He's

died the first death. You have to either die two deaths or be born twice, one of the two. Born the first time - physical; born the second time - spiritual. Two deaths: die the first death - *"it is appointed unto man once to die and after that comes judgment"* (Hebrews 9:27); and the second death - *"whoever's name was not found written in the Lamb's book of life was cast in the lake of fire"* (Revelation 20:15) - this is the second death the Bible says. It's your choice, two births or two deaths. Sounds like a pretty easy choice to me. *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved"* (Acts 16:31). But people's volition, their chooser or decider can be really strong. People will deny Christ even after He walked on the earth and did miracles and was seen by hundreds, raised the dead, healed the sick, caused the lame to walk - they still hated Him and still crucified Him. That's how strong negative volition is. How strong is yours? Are you willing today to say I'm a sinner? I know I need to be saved. I know if I died today I would not go to heaven and I want to. Do you have the guts to say that to yourself? My prayer is that you will. My prayer is that wherever you are right now, if you are in your car, you will just pull over for a minute. Or if you are at home, you will just bow your head for a minute and you'll simply pray, 'Father, I know I'm a sinner. I believe Christ died for me. I want to accept Him as my Savior today.' Three short sentences: I know I'm a sinner. I believe Christ died for me. I want to accept Him as my Savior today. It couldn't be any easier than that. The Bible says, *"Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Romans 10:13). This could be the day you are born again if this is the day you ask Christ to save you. People quote a verse sometimes that says, *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and sup with him"* (Revelation 3:20). Sometimes they get that out of context but the concept is true. When you receive Him, He indwells you, He's in you, He won't ever leave you. He said, *"I will never leave you, I will never forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5). *"I give unto them eternal life, and they will never perish; and neither shall anyone ever pluck them out of My Father's hand. My Father, who gave them to Me, is greater than all; no one can take them out of My Father's hand"* (John 10:28-29). What a great promise that is. Because of a single decision you made today, the best friend that you never knew, has just become the best friend that you met. Jesus Christ the anointed Son of God has saved you. You put your faith in His finished work on the cross and He's redeemed you. You can say, 'Thank you Father. I knew all along I needed it. I knew all along I was lost and now I'm not anymore.' That's right, you are not. Now you are an anointed son of God. You believed in Jesus Christ. You received Him as your Savior. You have been placed into the royal family of God. There is one thing for you to do now and that is to understand as much as you can in what little time you have left. You must grow. You must learn. You must get a Bible. You must begin to study and see, because God has a unique plan for you. He left you here for reason. There is so much more to say and not enough time to say it. I hope this made sense. I sure hope you have been listening. I hope you will write to me if you have accepted Christ as your Savior today and let me know. I'd love to help you. Thank you so much for being with me today. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying adios.

How to Live Even If You Die

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 712 aired on April 14, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like to invite you to stick around, stay with me. It's just 30 minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education and if you have listened before you know we do this without manipulation which means we don't ask for money. We are not trying to sell you anything. We are not asking you to join anything. We are just asking you to listen up as we give you some accurate information about the Word of God. Hopefully it will let you verify and identify God's plan for your life and you can orient and adjust to the plan. Let's remember God gave us two ends. I always want you to remember that. One to think with and one to sit on. Success in your life depends on which one you use. Heads you'll win, tails you'll lose. So I want to talk to your head this morning. I want you to learn something. I want you to understand how it's possible to keep living even though you may die. That doesn't sound like it's possible does it? To keep living even though you may die. Here's what the Bible says in John 11:25, "*Jesus said to her [Martha], 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.'*" How about that one? "*He who believes in Me will live, even if he dies.*" That statement that our Lord made to Martha (the sister of Lazarus who had died) was after she stated (she was pretty vociferous about this) that if He had been there, if Jesus had been there when He should have been there, then Lazarus would not have died. She was upset that Jesus didn't come immediately. In verses John 11:3-6 the story goes like this (not the story, the narrative is what I want to say), "*The sisters sent word to Him, saying, 'Lord, behold, the one You love is sick [that's referring to Lazarus]. And when Jesus heard this, He said, 'This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.' Now Jesus loved Martha, and loved her sister [Mary], and Lazarus. So when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two days longer in the place where He was.*" Jesus didn't drop everything and immediately come running to where Lazarus was because He knew the plan. You know, it's funny sometimes, I'm varying a little bit here, but sometimes when people get ill or get in the hospital they want the preacher to drop everything he's doing and come run and pray over them. That's not always necessary. Sometimes it's necessary that we use our faith to handle the situation and trust God's timing. Sometimes the pastor has to let the deacons do the visiting whose job it is a start with. How can a pastor study and teach if he's running around the hospital visiting people all day long? Be that as it may, our Lord corrected Martha's statement when she said if You would have been here, Lazarus would still be alive. In John 11:26 Christ said, "*whosoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?*" He who believes in Me shall never die. How about that? The apostle Paul made it pretty clear in Philippians 1:21 when he said, "*For me living is Christ, dying is profit.*" This is what the passage is actually teaching: we will all die. We all have to die. You don't think about it when you are 20 or 30 or maybe 40. But when you crack that 70 (if you make it that far) you will think about it. We all are going to die. Hebrews 9:27, "*Inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.*" Since we have

Adam's original sin, we will die. Adam had to die when he was forced out of the garden of Eden. If he had not sinned, if he had not eaten that forbidden fruit he never would've died - he would've had eternal life in the garden. But that was not the plan to start with. Satan thought he had won a victory but he did not win a victory because Genesis 3:15 promised a Redeemer would come to redeem man from his fallen state. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Redeemer. **We all must die and after that comes the judgment, the Bible says. There are two judgments after death taught in the Bible. I don't know if you are aware of that. One judgment is for believers and one judgment is for unbelievers.** The judgment for believers is found in 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. If you die you will go to the grave - your body will (your soul and spirit will go to heaven). Now, this judgment that I'm talking about will not take place when you get there. It will take place after the Rapture of the Church during the seven years of tribulation that the Bible talks about on this earth. Israel's final seven years from Daniel's prophecy. So here we go. If you die today or tomorrow or the next day you will - if you are a believer in Jesus Christ - go straight to heaven. You will be face-to-face with the Lord. However, you will be there in a soul and a spirit - your body is back on earth in the grave. I think you must have some sort of interim body while you are there, you are not going to be a cloud just floating around wherever heaven may be. But once the Lord Jesus Christ comes back to this earth you will be reunited with a new resurrection body. It is after this event that this judgment takes place. *"For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid"* 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 *"Now if any man build upon the foundation...."* Keep in mind we are using a builder's metaphor here. Think about a home and somebody laying down a concrete foundation for the home and then framing in the home on top of the foundation. This verse says, *"If any man build on the foundation with gold, silver and precious stones or wood, hay and straw [then it goes on to say] each man's work [or whatever he's built with] will become evident; for the day will show it, it will be revealed by fire; and fire will try the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on the foundation burns up, he will suffer loss; but if it remains, he will receive a reward. But if it is burned up, he will suffer loss and he himself will be saved, yet so as by fire."* What does this mean? Here's what it means. The foundation is faith alone in Christ alone. Building on the foundation with gold, silver and precious stones or wood, hay and stubble refers to two things: human good or divine good. Human good is what you do for God in the energy of the flesh, not filled with the Holy Spirit. Divine good is what you do for God in the filling of the Holy Spirit and rewardable - they are called gold, silver and precious stones. That's why you may have heard me say that a right thing must be done in a right way - that's called the protocol plan of God. Is it right to pray? I have told you on many occasions, yes. Yes, you should pray. Is there a right way to pray and a wrong way to pray? Yes, there is. The Bible says, *"If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me"* (Psalm 66:18). So if you are praying and you have unconfessed sin in your life, then you are doing a right thing but you are doing it in a wrong way and so it's wood, hay and stubble. It's not going to be rewarded. Let us say you give money, let us say you tithe to your church or you give a love offering to your church. If you do that with unconfessed sin in your life, it's wood, hay

and stubble. It will be burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. You say, 'But I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't dance, I don't fornicate, I don't do this, I don't do that.' Listen, there are some sins people are not aware of. Did you know that? For example, when the Bible says, "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (2 Timothy 2:15) - study is a mandate. It's not a request. It's a mandate. When the Bible says, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18) - grow is a mandate. When the Bible says, "*Take my yoke and learn of Me. My yoke is easy and My burden is light*" (Matthew 11:29-30) - it's a mandate. So if we are not studying, if we are not growing, if we are not learning we are sinning. We are disobeying the Word of God. This is where people get involved in playing church - that's ritual without reality and it's meaningless. You become just a conventional Christian, the nod to God crowd. It becomes just a caricature of Christ, not the real image of Christ. You are supposed to re-present Christ in your life - not be a caricature of Christ - re-present Him by thinking like He thinks. Philippians 2:5, "*Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.*" That means you must learn to think divine viewpoint. You must learn the Word of God. That's what the ten problem-solving devices are - divine viewpoint. That's what the FLOT Line is based on - learning divine viewpoint. So when you are judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ, you will be evaluated on those things that you did while you were filled with the Spirit and did they glorify God to the maximum. Were they wood, hay and stubble which would be burned up or were they gold, silver and precious stones which is rewardable? Let's assume all of your good works are burned up. Are you still saved? Yes, the Bible does say you are still saved. Listen to the last word, "*...he himself will be saved, yet so as by fire.*" So you are not going to lose your salvation but you are going to definitely lose any rewards you might have had in eternity. I know, I can hear your self-righteous religious attitude already, 'I don't want any reward brother, I love the Lord.' Well that's great but you have nothing to lay at the feet of the Father. You will be standing there with your hands in your pockets looking a little sheepish and not hearing, "*Well done My good and My faithful servant*" (Matthew 25:21). So we are all appointed to die and after that the judgment - that's the first judgment and that's the judgment for believers that occurs after the Rapture of the Church. 'Where is the Rapture of the Church' you say? 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, "*I don't want you to be ignorant [Paul wrote] concerning those who have died [or have fallen asleep], lest you have sorrow as others that don't have hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again [that's salvation; faith alone in Christ alone], even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus [in other words, those who are already dead and already in the presence of the Father]. For this we say to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep [those that have already died]. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ will rise first [your grandmother, your grandfather, your aunt, your uncle, your parents, anybody who was a believer in Jesus Christ will zap out of the grave right here]. And then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in*

the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus shall we always be with the Lord.” This is where you get your exit resurrection, your new body. You will be transformed, if you are alive, immediately into your new body and anyone who is dead and already in heaven will be reunited and given a new resurrection body. This is the Rapture of the Church. But there is a second judgment found in the Bible also. This judgment is for the unbeliever, the one who rejected the knowledge of the Savior, the one who did not believe in Jesus Christ. Revelation 20:11-15, *“And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heavens fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and the books were opened [books, notice plural, the books were opened]; and then another book was opened, that is the book of life; and the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which are in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them; and they were judged, each man according to his works. And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”* What is the Book of Life? Your name is written in the Book of Life when you are born. If you die without accepting Christ as your Savior, your name is blotted out of the Book of Life and you've died the first death. The second death is here, *“Anyone whose name was not found written in the Lamb's book of life was cast in the Lake of Fire. This is the second death”* the Bible says in verse 14. So the evaluation of the unbeliever is taking place here, after the millennial reign of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. For the unbeliever, the disadvantaged person, death is the door to doom. No doubt about it. But for the believer, the one who has accepted Christ as Savior, death is the door to everlasting life. In 1 Corinthians 2:9, *“As it is written, ‘The eye has not seen, nor has the ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’”* Those are the believers, those who have trusted Christ to be their Lord and Savior, those who demonstrated faith alone in Christ alone. What will take place? Well, Revelation 21:4, *“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain; for the former things have all passed away.”* That's the eternal state and that's an amazing state for those of us who believe in Jesus Christ. It is important you understand that - that you believe in Jesus Christ, that you accept Him as your Savior. The Bible says, *“This is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him, may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day”* (John 6:40) - there is a promise. *“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved and not by works”* (Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:9). The book of works that we talked about. Let us look at this picture. Here are the unbelievers standing before the Great White Throne of God, trying to vindicate why they should be allowed to come to heaven. So the books of works are opened up. Okay, you did this and you did this, you never missed Sunday school, you never missed church, you tithed. But did you have faith alone in Christ alone? Or did you say, ‘I'm being saved because I'm a good person?’ The Bible tells us clearly, *“There are none that are good, no, not even one* (Psalm 53:3). *“All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag in God's eyes”* (Isaiah 64:6). **If you try to add something to**

faith you will cancel the faith out. It is simply faith alone in Christ alone. That's all that it is. It is not faith plus baptism. It is not faith plus tithing. It is not faith plus I don't drink and I don't smoke and I don't fornicate and I don't cheat on my taxes. It's faith alone in Christ alone. Now when you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ that is the single most significant decision you'll ever make in your life. John 3:18 says, *"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."* **It's possible that you may be walking around a condemned man already because you have not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. If you are not a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you might not be in hell yet but you are sentenced and on your way.** Not because God is mad at you. No, God loves you. The Bible clearly says, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"* (John 3:16). The reason you are on your way to hell is because you rejected the rescue that God offered you. You rejected the forgiveness that God offered you. When Christ went to the cross, He paid for all of your sins. Every sin you ever did or ever will do and not only mine but for the sins of the whole world - He died for all - the Bible says, *"God is not willing that any should perish"* (2 Peter 3:9). You have rejected that. You found a better deal. You don't believe God exists. You listened to somebody else who was an atheist and they convinced you that it's all a bunch of hogwash. Or maybe, maybe you have an alternative lifestyle and you don't like what the Bible says about your lifestyle so you've chosen to disregard it. All I can tell you is that you are responsible for your decisions. It's your life. It's your decision. You have to make the right decision. You are responsible for your destiny. I'm telling you, the Bible says, *"He who believes in Him is not condemned but he who does not believe is condemned already"* (John 3:18). You may be already condemned because you have not believed in Jesus Christ. You have put that off, you neglected that, you don't want to think about it because you are afraid that it is going to challenge your lifestyle and make a demand on you to change it. There are no demands here. All you have to do is put your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. What happens after that is between you and God. Nobody told me when I accepted Christ, 'You have to straightened up and fly right from now on out little man, you have to quit doing the things you used to do, you can't do those things anymore now that you are saved.' Nobody told me that. They just told me that God loves me and Christ died for me and that if I would receive Him as my Savior I could have eternal life. I wanted that. The rest of it comes later. Listen to 1 John 5:11-12, *"This is the testimony, God has given to 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."* The question is, do you have Christ right now? The Bible says, *"Christ in you is the hope of glory"* (Colossians 1:27). This is an amazing thing. This is an amazing mystery that was not known in the Old Testament, that the Shekinah glory of the tabernacle of Israel, Jesus Christ Himself, will come and live in you. He is your best friend, one you never even knew - He died for you. *"He who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God [believe that's all it takes, not believe and quit drinking sodas, not believe and don't eat any more peanuts] so*

that you may know [KNOW, not hope, not try, not wish] that you have eternal life and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:12-13). You have eternal life by faith alone in Christ alone. It is the prayer of the FLOT Line (that's me) that you will make this decision and you will receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. The decision is the door to a new life for you. You can have a reboot in time. How would you like that? A reboot of your life. It happened to me. I had the chance at the age of 22 to start my life all over again. I wasn't a bad person but, like so many people, I floundered around trying to find meaning or purpose or searching for happiness in life in all the wrong places. But when I believed in Jesus Christ and asked Him to save me, I can tell you this, I went to bed that night with peace in my heart. I had peace with God. I wasn't ashamed anymore of the things I had done. I began a new destiny. I had no idea where it would take me but my life began to change and doors began to open and I had to make some decisions about going back to school, going back to college and getting involved in the ministry and just finding my wife, who the Lord sent along for me. I mean all of these things just like watching it all unfold and watching it all happen. You have a magnificent life in front of you. It is all there for you if you reboot. *“If any man is in Christ, [the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17] he's a new creation; old things will be passed away and all things become new.”* A new spiritual birth, a new spiritual life. That divine reboot gives you a divine direction for the rest of your life. What is the direction? Here it is, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, *“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge this, that if one died for all then all were dead; and if He died for all, then all should live no longer to themselves but for Him who died for them and rose again.”* Your new purpose is to live for Christ. To re-present Jesus Christ to your family, to your friends, to represent Christ through your local church in your community - that's the challenge. This is how to live even if you die. Yes, you are going to die, but the Bible says you don't have to worry about that. It is just like walking over the bridge onto the other side. Life continues. It is not over, it's just beginning. It is walking from time into eternity. And that's the amazing thing the Lord Jesus Christ told Martha and Mary, ‘don't worry about it. I'll be there in a couple of days, he's not dead, he will live.’ And Lazarus was resuscitated, he rose from the dead. Later Lazarus died again, like anyone else would die, later he was dead just like the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross. Christ had to die in order to redeem us out of the slave market of sin. Remember me telling you about the thief on the cross, *“‘Jesus, remember me when You come into your kingdom.’ And Jesus said, ‘You will be with Me today in paradise’”* (Luke 23:42-43). All that thief on the cross did was believe in the words that Christ said. He could tell this was the Messiah. The Roman soldiers could tell, *“This is the Son of God”* (Matthew 27:54). You can tell it too. **Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, loves you. He died for you. He took your place. Even if you die, you can live eternally in Christ. You are guaranteed eternal life through faith alone in Christ alone.** I hope you are listening. I hope you will ask the Lord Jesus Christ to save you in a simple prayer. Until next week, I am your host Rick Hughes and I would like to thank you for listening to the FLOT Line and ask you to come back next week, same time, same place. Thank you so much.

Heaven's Gate

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 713 aired on April 21, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes stay with me. It will be a short time, not very long, but motivation, inspiration, education, and always done without manipulation. We say this every show for a reason; just so you know we are not trying to con you, we are not seeking to get money, we are not trying to hustle you, we are not asking you to join anything. We are just simply asking you to listen to the teaching of the Scripture, the Word of God. My objective is to verify and identify the plan of God for your life. My prayer for you is that you will be able to orient and adjust to that plan. If you do, you have the possibility of having the most phenomenal life the world has ever known. It's called the Christian life and it's a life without worry. It's a life without fear. It's a life without bitterness. It's a life without jealousy. What a great way to live. Does that sound fantastic? It's a life with a purpose and a life with meaning and a direction and a life of comfort and assurance. That's a life in Christ. So my prayer for you, as you listen to the FLOT Line, is that you will orient and adjust to the grace plan of God so that you can live a life such as the life our Savior lived. He demonstrated it to us when He walked in the devil's world. He is now seated at the right hand of the Father above. When He comes to judge the quick and the dead, and He will come back, He will return for us. But while Christ was here He demonstrated the type of life we could have - the Christian life. What a phenomenal thing. The purpose of building a FLOT line in your soul is to learn to think like He thought. The Bible indicates in Philippians 2:5 that we are to *"Let this mind be in us that was also in Christ Jesus."* That means we have to change the way we think. Paul said it this way, *"Renovate your thinking"* (Romans 12:2-3) *"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."* Your life is really centered around what you think, not what you look like, not the things you do but what you think. The real you exists in your thoughts and that's where your soul is, the mentality of your soul. If you can think you can live. If you can think the Christian life, if you can think divine operating principles given in the Word of God called the FLOT line, then you can have this phenomenal life. Learning those ten problem-solving devices is amazing. That is the purpose - so you can renovate your thinking, you can learn how to live and apply the Word of God to your life in a daily situation so that you don't have to follow the trends of the flesh, the sin nature. We have three enemies. We have the flesh - our number one enemy. The Bible warns us, *"The flesh will war against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh; they are contrary one to the other"* (Galatians 5:17). The Spirit is the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you. The flesh is your sin nature that you've had ever since you were born into this world. You have a sin nature and then you have another enemy which is called the world, the *kosmos*, the cosmic system. Your third enemy is called Satan a.k.a. the devil, the fallen Angel. So you have three enemies and learning to overcome those enemies means learning how to think. Every one of those that I just mentioned to you - the world, the flesh and the devil - all want to manipulate how you think.

They all want you to think in terms of arrogance which is nothing but self-centeredness. Arrogance is self centeredness. An arrogant person will always justify why they are right and the rest of the world is wrong. If you have arrogance in your life you are self-centered, you may even have self-pity. You have to be careful not to allow the thinking of the world, the doctrine of demons (the thinking of Satan) or the self-centered lust of the flesh to manipulate how you think and how you live your life. You have a volition. God gave it to you. He gave you the ability to choose. That's really up to you. No one can do it but you. No one can make you "*Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth*" as the Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:15. No one can make you "*grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" as the Bible says in 2 Peter 3:18. No one can make you "*take My yoke on you and learn of Me*" as the Bible says in Matthew 11:29. Study, grow, learn - what's the objective of all of that? To be Christlike. To live a life like Christ lived in your thoughts, in the way you think while you are in the devil's world, while you are battling the flesh, while you are facing the cosmic system. Thinking the right thoughts means thinking in terms of humility. That's why the Bible says He humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation in Philippians 2:6-8. He made Himself of no reputation, humbled Himself, identified Himself with humanity. Humility doesn't mean you are weak. Humility means you orient to authority and you are able to handle authority even if it's unfair. Authority is not always fair. Sometimes it's unfair. But if you can handle authority you can handle life. Your authority in your life is the Scripture. "*The Word of God is alive and powerful and sharper than a two edged sword*" the Bible says in Hebrews 4:12. That's the authority that you must obey. Jesus Christ our Lord, representing God the Father, speaks through the Word. In order to live this life, He gives you the power to do it by means of the Holy Spirit. Christ said that He would go away and He would send the Comforter and He would guide you and lead you into all truth - that's the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Even in your prayer life the Holy Spirit intercedes for you. So our Lord has made complete provision for us. By learning those ten problem-solving devices we learn to think like He thought. By using rebound we can deal with sin when we fail - now our Lord never sinned, He never sinned, not even one time. Never did He commit any sin but we do because we are saddled with Adam's original sin nature. When we sin we can rebound, 1 John 1:9, and we are cleansed from our sin. The reason that takes place is because Christ was judged for our sins on the cross - all sins. We do not have to be judged again when we sin, we simply have to be cleansed when we sin. The second problem-solving device is the filling of the Holy Spirit. This lets you live under the control of the Spirit not under the control of the flesh. And then the faith-rest drill (problem-solving device #3) facing the adversary, facing the unknown circumstances in your life - you live by faith. The Bible talks so much about living by faith. Grace orientation is a problem-solving device when you learn about the grace of God, saving grace, living grace, dying grace. This is all just review. You have heard this before but let me run it by you again. Doctrinal orientation, another problem-solving device, is orienting to the Scripture, learning to make decisions based on what the Scripture says, thinking divine

viewpoint not human viewpoint. Having a personal sense of destiny - knowing God's plan and understanding the details of that plan for your life. Being motivated by virtue love - personal love for God and impersonal love for others. Virtue love is the greatest love system the world has ever seen. The Bible says, *"If you love Me you will obey Me and My mandates are not grievous"* (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3). Using impersonal love for all mankind is a wonderful way to live. Jesus Christ our Lord did it. He loved even Judas who sold Him out for a few pieces of silver. He loves you even though you may have turned your back on Him too. You may have turned your back on the Lord but He will love you from behind. He will never throw you under the bus. He will never forsake you. He said I will never forsake you - He promised that (John 10:28-29 and Hebrews 13:5). And so then you share the happiness of God (+H) - amazing happiness, not the neutral H the world offers which is related to details and people, but the real happiness of God. In Luke 11:28 *"Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's Word and keep it."* And then occupation with Christ. The greatest wonderful mental attitude in the world, orienting to the Lord Jesus Christ, being occupied with Christ, having His mindset and understanding who He is and what He is. As we get older and we approach the later stages of life - it is not like we're 18 again or 25 or 35 or 40 - some of us are getting up to 70 and older and we start thinking about the future and thinking about heaven. I want to give you some information here today for you to remember when we talk about occupation with Christ. First of all, let's talk about the gate to Heaven. Heaven's gate. What does that mean? That means the gate to heaven is not made of iron, it's not made of wood, but it is a person. It is the person of Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God, and anyone who wishes to enter heaven must come through Him. How do I know that? John 10:9, *"I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved."* So the only way to come into the presence of God the Father is through Jesus Christ, His anointed Son. You don't come through Christ, you don't enter the gate. Not all can enter the gate. This is where it's a disappointing thing but Satan will use organized religion to deceive many people into thinking they are going to get into heaven, not because of their relationship with Christ, but because of their good deeds. You see they may have joined up, fessed up, give it up whatever they've done, but they haven't put faith alone in Christ alone. They are thinking that they are going to heaven because they don't drink, they don't smoke, they are moral, they are not immoral, they are kind, they give to their fellow man, they help people and charity, etc., etc., ad nauseam. But that is not how it works. In Matthew 7:21, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of heaven; but only the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven."* John 6:40 says, *"This is the will of the One who sent Me, that you believe in Me whom He has sent."* The will of the Father is that you believe that Jesus Christ is His anointed Son, and you receive the judgment that He paid in your price, you receive the free gift of salvation. That's why the Bible says, *"For by grace are you saved through faith; it's a gift of God; not of works, lest anyone should boast about it"* (Ephesians 2:8-9). **So the only one that will be in heaven is the one who goes through the gate of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Faith alone in Christ alone.** It's clear. Behind the gate is eternal life, eternal kingdom of God that will endure forever once

you walk through that gate. John 3:3 Jesus replied, *“Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”* Of course you remember Nicodemus was stunned over that statement. He didn't understand how a person could go back into his mother's womb and be born again. And our Lord was shocked. He said, I'm surprised you being a Pharisee don't know this. The Lord explained to him how the wind blows and you don't see it, you don't know it but it's there, you can feel it, it is real. And He talked about the spiritual birth in the same way. It's a spiritual birth not a physical birth. Being born again is not physically something that you accomplish, it is something you accomplish spiritually. What it simply means is this, you are born spiritually dead in Adam, your human spirit is dead, when you believe in Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Savior, God the Holy Spirit comes to indwell your human spirit (Ephesians 1:13) and you are made alive spiritually or spiritually born again. Now you are able to have a relationship with the Father because the Bible says, *“If we worship God, we must worship Him in spirit and in truth”* (John 4:24). If you are dead spiritually it's impossible to worship God. So spiritually being born again is what our Lord taught in John 3:3. Being in heaven is much better than being on earth. That's clear. The Bible is clear. Paul talked about that in Philippians 1:21 he said, *“For me to live is Christ and to die is profit.”* That's what you should remember. You look at this world as you get older, and seeing your home, your family, your property, you think, I'm going to leave all this behind. But you are not losing anything. You are gaining - it's profit to be in heaven. That's the amazing thing. Once you walk through the gate, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible clearly says, *“He that believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life; and he who believes not the wrath of God abides on him already”* (John 3:36). **So when you believe in Christ, the door is open, and you walk through into eternal life.** You can live as an unbeliever and you are already condemned; you don't even have to die to be condemned, you are already condemned. As a believer you are already in the eternal phase. To be absent from the body is to be face-to-face with the Lord - it's just that simple. So when that time comes the thing that people fear most often is death, they do fear death. Being Easter Sunday we talk about the death and the burial and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He demonstrated that death could not hold Him and it is true that death cannot hold you either. In Hebrews 2:14-15 we learn why our Lord had to become a human. Listen to it, *“Since children have flesh and blood, He too [that's Christ] shared in their humanity so that by His death He might break the power of him [Satan] who holds the power of death, that is the devil; and free those who all of their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.”* So the Lord Jesus Christ had to become a human to overcome Satan and his plan. Christ had to die to prove that death cannot hold Him. Walking out of the tomb being resurrected was genuine proof that He is God. And so Jesus tasted death for all of us. In Hebrews 2:9, *“But we do see Jesus who was made lower than the angels for a little while but He is now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”* That's exactly what He did. The Lord Jesus Christ tasted death for all of us - you, me and everyone. He was judged on the cross and He was resurrected from the grave. It was by His atoning grace that we are saved. The Bible speaks

about two different deaths. I don't know if you are aware of that. Spiritual death was the penalty for sin and was so given as the warning to all of mankind by means of the garden of Eden. This penalty is perpetuated throughout the human race through the imputation of Adam's original sin to each one of us. Listen to me as I read Romans 5:12, *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death [or spiritual death] through that sin, so spiritual death spread to all men because all have sinned when Adam sinned.”* We are all born spiritually dead. We all must be born spiritually again by entering the gate, coming through Jesus Christ, receiving Him as our Savior. Physical death is the second death mentioned in the Bible. It is the natural progression of life. Your body must be shed if you expect to get a resurrection body. This body won't work in heaven. Your body, like mine, may be getting older and maybe even a little heavier, things don't feel as fresh and wonderful as they used to feel. Can't you remember, like me, when you were young and you woke up and you didn't hurt, nothing bothered you, you didn't have to take any aspirin or Advil or Tylenol at all because you felt fantastic. Now as you get older and the body starts breaking down and arthritis gets in there, and tendinitis gets in there, maybe even some cancer gets in there and we start feeling lousy, rotten and bad. It's the natural progression of things. It has to happen because this body that we live in, where our soul and our spirit live, will not work in heaven. We are going to get a different body. So we have to put off the mortal body to put on the immortal body. We have to shed this body. We have to die physically. Our Lord did the same thing on the cross. He died physically on that cross. The Bible says He willingly gave up His spirit. And the Roman soldiers were amazed. They'd never seen anybody do anything like that when He said, *“Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit”* (Luke 23:46). They just freaked out when the earthquakes occurred and darkness occurred. Even the centurion said, *“This man was the Son of God”* (Matthew 27:54). Yes, Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And so the Bible says that physical death is a natural progression of life and this body must be shed. If Christ had not died on the cross He could not have been resurrected from the tomb. It had to take place. Hebrews 9:27, *“It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment.”* Yes, we will all be judged either at the Great White Throne of Judgment for lost people (Revelation chapter 20) or at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Corinthians 3) where you are given your rewards and evaluated. But just like there are two deaths in the Bible, there are also two births in the Bible. The first one is physical birth and the second one is spiritual birth. Listen as the Bible says in John 3:6, *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh [that's physical birth] and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit [that's spiritual birth].”* So what to remember when someone you love, a loved one, makes a transfer from time to eternity, what should you remember? If your husband goes to be with the Lord or your wife goes to be with the Lord or your mom or your dad go to be with the Lord - what do you remember? Well, you remember this - they are not dead. Their body may have worn out because it was not meant to last forever. The resurrection body is the one that will never wear out. So they are not dead. They are alive and they are in some interim body in the presence of the Father until they get their resurrection body. Even though you can't speak to them you can discover where they are and you can discover what

they're doing by studying Scripture. The Bible reveals these things to you. If your departed loved one was a Christian and you are a Christian you will see them again. You see, time is not essential in heaven. Thus one day in heaven is like a thousand years on earth. In 2 Peter 3:8, *"But do not forget one thing, dear friends, with the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day."* Your departed loved one who is in heaven face-to-face with their Savior is awaiting the resurrection body, the body that they will have forever, the body that's an amazing body like the resurrected body of Christ. In 2 Corinthians 5:8, *"We are confident, I say, willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."* The disciples witnessed the death of their beloved Jesus but they also witnessed the resurrection of that same Jesus which demonstrated His power over death. Acts 2:24, *"But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him."* And it is impossible for death to keep a hold on you if you are a believer in Jesus Christ. Romans 6:9, *"For we know that, since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again and death no longer has a mastery over Him."* **Here is the conclusion: if Christ died and rose again and He is with the Father today, you and I can expect the same thing since we are in Christ and we are members of God's royal family.** In fact, death is a time of promotion and a time of celebration for believers - not mourning. We always have sweet memories of our departed loved ones. We don't have to mourn because of the absolute assurance that we will see them again. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, *"Brothers and sisters, we don't want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve, like the rest of mankind who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. [that's resurrection bodies] For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, with the trumpet call of God; and the dead in Christ will rise first. And after that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we evermore be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words."* The Bible uses the term sleep to describe death. This is done for several reasons. First, it appears a person is asleep, not really deceased. But just as the sleeper wakes up, so the departed one will be resurrected and rise again. It's in this resurrected state that we will enjoy our God and our Savior as well as our loved ones forever and forever and forever. Maybe even, and I add caution here, maybe even your favorite pet, who knows - there are horses in heaven the Bible says. That's what you must remember today. **Our Lord was resurrected and you will be resurrected and you will be face-to-face with Him forever - you and those you love who believe in Jesus Christ. He is the gate, He is the way, He is the truth, He is the life.** I hope it's clear. I hope you understand it and I sure hope you're listening. Until next week, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for being with me and thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

How to Handle Criminal Adversity

Transcript of FLOT Line Episode 714 aired on April 28, 2019

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes, please stick around. Remember that God gave you two ends. One of those ends is to think with the other is to sit on. Success in your life will depend on which one you use - heads you'll win and tails you'll lose. There is a great Bible verse in 2 Peter 3:18 that says, "*Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" Grow is a verb that means to learn something, to put something in your head. That is what this show is about. Motivation, inspiration, education without any type of manipulation. That's right, no con games here. We are not asking you for money. We are not trying to solicit you for anything. Just give you some information. I pray that you will listen as I verify and identify the plan of God for your life. And I certainly pray that you will orient and adjust to the plan. We've been on the radio for many years (13 or 14 years now) across the United States in select cities. It's always interesting to get letters and see people that are responding to the truth. Let me remind you that I'm not your pastor. I am a window, I'm a door, I'm opening something for you to show you where you can grow. There are men who are well-qualified pastors that teach on a consistent basis (more than just once a week like I do on this radio show). My prayer is that you will take advantage of their ministry. If you don't live in their area, you can get their DVDs and MP3s or their printed material. They are solid, sound teaching individuals that know God's Word and do a wonderful job. That's what your prayer should be, that God will lead you to a well-qualified pastor so you could grow spiritually. Hopefully I've given you a taste of what it means to grow spiritually. Today we want to look at something very interesting. In your life, from time to time, you may have some sort of criminal activity that you are exposed to. It is very possible that it could happen to you. I'm going to dedicate this message today to those who have been affected by criminal activity. Maybe you had your money stolen, maybe you had your automobile stolen, maybe you had your home broken into by an intruder. Many times these types of crimes are caused by the very people we love and trust. Many families have even been split apart by money grabbing relatives at the reading of the will (if one is even read). Many Christians have been ripped off by other Christians who have a surefire way to make a profit, only to find that it was all just a scam. You see, churches are fertile fields for criminals. It may be stealing stuff in the parking lot or even assaulting someone in the congregation. It could be an inside job, like your best friend who wants you to invest in his or her product or great deal. Here is a principle you need to remember: never do business at church, it is not a place of doing business. No pastor should ever allow anyone to approach any member and try to sign them up or sell them anything at church. But it happens. People just like you, people like me, every day do business like that. Christians have sin natures and they have volitions and so they make a decision and they do something dumb and it costs them in the long run. Listen to what David writes about criminal activity (we will go through some of it this morning). In Psalm 36:1-4, David said he had an oracle (which is a wise and insightful communication from God) within his heart [right lobe]. Remember, you have a

mind and a heart. The *nous* is where you receive the information. The Greek word *nous* means mind. The heart [*kardia*] is where you store the information. So what David is saying is he had some insight given to him by God the Father in his heart concerning the transgression of the wicked [the criminal]. David said, "... *there is no fear of God before his [the criminal] eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes [he's egotistical], when he finds out his own inequity and the hatred of it.* [in other words, once he discovers how sharp he is and how good he is, he likes it] *The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceitful; he has ceased to be wise and ceased to do good. He devises wickedness on his bed [in other words, he lays down at night thinking of how he can steal something from the next person]; he sets himself on a way that is not good; he does not abhor evil [on the contrary, he embraces evil].* David goes on, in Psalm 37, to give a divine direction on how to handle criminal activity when it infringes in our lives. This is why you must have the ten problem-solving devices. These ten problem-solving devices that we speak of every show stop the outside sources of adversity from becoming the inside sources of stress. We always say, adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. As a believer in Jesus Christ that means something to you. That means that if you learn God's Word, you learn the problem-solving devices - rebound, filling of the Holy Spirit, faith-rest drill, grace orientation, doctrinal orientation, personal sense of destiny, personal love for God, personal love for all mankind, sharing the happiness of God and occupation with Christ - ten unique problem-solving devices. If you know them, can quote them and understand them then you have a wonderful shot at a wonderful life. Apart from that, you are going to let your emotions dictate policy and you are never ever going to be happy or satisfied. So David starts off in Psalm 37 about how you handle this sort of activity in your life. What you do about it. Psalm 37:1-9, "*Do not fret because of the evildoers [now I'm going to read through this and then I'm going to come back and break it down for you] do not be envious toward wrongdoers [in other words, don't be jealous of their prosperity] for they will wither quickly like the grass, and fade like the green herb. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your ways to the Lord, trust in Him and He will do it. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgement as the noonday. Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger and forsake wrath; do not fret, it leads only to evildoing. For evildoers [that's the criminal] will be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord, they will inherit the land.*" Now, with that said, let's go back and take a look at this passage and see what this passage is trying to teach us. (If I can get my notes to open up. When I do a radio show I have to sit down for two or three hours and maybe a day or two and put this stuff together.) So, here we go. What does the Bible say about how we should handle this sort of activity when it happens to us? This is what David said, the oracle from God, "*do not fret.*" The Hebrew word means to be furious or angry. Do not allow mental attitude sins such as revenge motivation to dominate your thinking. It's very easy when someone sticks it to you like this to want to get even. I used to have a friend that carried around a little black book and if you

did him wrong he would put your name in it. He would say, 'Alright, your name is going in the book and I'm going to get even with you.' Don't fret. Don't get angry. This is how you lose control of your life. The doctrine of anger is an interesting study. It is the number one root emotional sin the Bible talks about. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ you are never authorized to lose your temper and get angry and let your emotions take over because you will do something stupid. You probably already have and you didn't listen to this verse. I know I have not listened to this verse in the past and I've made mistakes just like you. We can't afford to have mental attitude sins. Do not fret. Do not get angry. Do not get furious. The verse goes on to say, "*because of evildoers*" - that means the one who does injury, the one who hurts or the one who is evil or wicked. The schemer, the one who plans his actions deliberately. In other words, this is not an impulsive act, it's a deliberate act. The evildoer plotted out a course, he knew what he wanted to do and he did it and it happens to you - do not get angry. I remember one night I was fishing with a friend on the Tennessee River. We were bass fishing in my bass boat. We launched the boat and parked the truck in the parking lot. My friend parked the truck, I was in the boat. At about 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning when we got tired and were ready to come home, we pulled up to the boat launch. I let my friend out and gave him the keys. He walked up on the hill only to find the truck was stolen and the trailer was stolen. Someone had broken in and taken my truck and my trailer and I was in the lake with a boat 150 miles from the house with no way to get home. My friend was visibly upset about it and wondering what we were going to do. For some reason, I don't know why, I was fairly calm and I said, 'Well, let's just lay down and take a nap and in the morning we will call the sheriff and try to figure out what we can do.' This is what the Word of God does for you. It gives you the ability to relax even when you have been wronged. You can't let the evildoer make you mad or get angry. Do not fret. It goes on to say in Psalm 37:1-2, "*Do not be envious of evildoers...*" The Hebrew word means to be jealous of them or envious of them. It's the same word used when a woman would be jealous of another woman who is a rival for the man of her attention. It's a mental attitude sin. You can't let yourself look at the prosperity of the wicked and say, 'I wish I had that.' That's the wrong way to think. Why? Because the verse goes on to say, "*... they shall soon be cut down like the grass and wither as the green herb.*" Principle: **God knows exactly what they [evildoers] are doing even though you and I are too dumb to see it sometimes or maybe we don't want to see it because we are jealous of their prosperity.** Proverbs 15:3 says, "*The eyes of the Lord are in every place watching the evil and the good.*" The second principle: this verse promises **God's judgment is coming on them because no one gets away with anything. The justice of God is always there 24-7.** And that includes politicians - they do not get away with their wicked schemes. It may look like they are getting away with it and you may think they are getting away with it - it's a matter of God's timing - but the roof will cave in on them eventually. Listen to Acts 5:1-5, here's someone who thought he got away with something, "*A man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold a piece of property [this is in the early church] and kept back some of the price [in other words, they sold it for, let's say, \$100,000 and they kept \$50,000. Then they went to the*

apostle and said they wanted to give \$50,000 to him saying, ‘This is all the money we got for the property.’] *for himself, with his wife’s full knowledge* [she knew the scheme, she knew what was going on] *and they brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostle’s feet* [in other words, ‘Here it is, we are great wonderful Christians, we sold this property and we want you to have it Peter, we want you to use it for the church.’ - you know, this happens every day in local denominations where people act like they are really sacrificial giving and they are not; this is what was going on] *But Peter [the Word of God] said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and keep back some of the price of the land? [Do you think you could fool God? That’s what the criminal thinks. The criminal thinks he can fool God. He fooled you didn’t he? Then he must be able to fool God.] While it remained unsold [Peter told Ananias], did it not remain in your control? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? So why now have you conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, you lied to God.’ And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came upon all who heard of it.”* This guy dropped dead right there. What caused him to drop dead? Was it the sin unto death? I don’t know. There is a sin unto death. The Bible talks about the sin unto death as the third stage of divine discipline. The first stage is warning discipline, the second stage is intense discipline and the third stage is dying discipline. When God warns you that you are out of line you should confess your sin and correct it using problem-solving device #1. If you don’t, then the discipline will get intense. That means the Lord may have to take you out behind the woodshed to wake you up and give you an attitude adjustment. If that doesn’t work, the Lord also retains the possibility that He just may take you home way too soon. In Ananias’ case, whatever it was, he dropped dead because he lied to God, lied to Peter and lied to all the people that were there; made it look like he was a great wonderful donor when in fact he did donate but not what he said he was going to do. He was deceiving people. You don’t deceive God. By the way, the same thing happened to his wife when she came in. She told the same lie and she dropped dead. Here is a principle: **you can get in God’s way and get burned if you try to be the judge and the jury yourself.** In Matthew 7:1-2 we have what’s called triple compound discipline. It says, *“Judge not lest you be judged. Because the judgment you judged it will be placed back on you again.”* Triple compound discipline is: (1) you being disciplined for the sin of judging; (2) even if the person you are judging did commit the sin his discipline would be taken off of him and given to you; (3) then you have self-induced misery - triple compound discipline. **So we are not to get in God’s way. The Lord can handle it. The Lord can deal justice out in His way and in His time. The supreme court of heaven is open 24 hours a day.** When you have an automobile stolen or you have money taken from you in a scheme that is not true (it’s a lie and a falsehood) - especially if it is done to you by another believer - then the first thing you do is: (you don’t get angry, you don’t get mad, you don’t try to get even) you turn it over to the supreme court of heaven and you let the Lord judge it. He is perfectly capable of doing that. How do I know? Because Psalm 37:3 says, *“Trust in the Lord.”* The Hebrew word for trust is an imperative verb that means don’t ask any questions, just do it. You must have

confidence in God's judgement, you must have confidence in God's justice and you must be secure in your own spiritual life. I don't care what happens, it can't knock you off balance. If you allow a criminal activity towards you to knock you off balance it means that you will let your emotions take control, you will get mad, you will get angry, you will vilify the individual and you will not wait on God to take justice. God can handle it. Let the Lord handle it. Stay out of God's way. And watch what happens. What should you do? Trust in the Lord - the one true God. And then Psalm 37:3 goes on to say, "*cultivate faithfulness.*" This means fidelity or steadfastness. In other words don't let this knock you off balance - cultivate steadfastness. Abiding in God's provisions - and here's the principle - will cause you to develop trust and appreciation for God's care and protection. I'm going to say it one more time. **Abiding in God's provisions will cause you to develop trust and appreciation for God's care and protection. The Lord is well aware of what happened to you. The Lord is well aware of what you are going through. He will not throw you under the bus. He will provide for you. He will protect you.** Cultivate faithfulness is the faith-rest drill: problem-solving device #3 in the FLOT line of your soul - learning the faith-rest drill, standing on the promises of God. When the Bible says, "*cultivate faithfulness*" it simply means that not abiding in the spiritual life is equivalent to being out of fellowship. If you don't abide in the spiritual life, if you don't cultivate, abide, plant the spiritual life then you are going to be out of bounds. Psalm 37:4 goes on to say, "*Delight yourself in the Lord* [this means to enjoy the luxury of God's faithfulness] *and He* [Jehovah the eternal One] *will give* [add to or assign to you] *the desires of your heart.*" Desire means your request or your petition. In this case you petition God for justice, you request God to handle it because of the evil that was done to you and He will take care of it in His time. You are not authorized to get a gun and go after the criminal. You are not authorized to try to sue the criminal. You are authorized to trust in the Lord to handle it and He will handle it. In Psalm 37:5, "*Commit...*" is a volitional decision. You must use your volition - positive or negative. Remember God gives you volition (it's part of the format of your soul) and you can either say, 'yes, I will' or 'no, I won't' - it's up to you. God is a gentleman. He won't coerce your volition. He gives you the choice - 'Yes, I will' or 'No, I won't. I'll handle this matter myself God, I don't need Your help.' Okay, if that's your attitude, you are in for a rude awakening. "*Delight yourself in Jehovah and He will give you the desires of your heart.*" In this case the desire for justice. "*Commit your way...*" Your course of life or your modus operandi. "*...to the Lord...*" In other words, what is the direction of your faith? Is it in the government to recover it? No, it's in the Lord. If you have been the victim of a scheme or you have lost money or you have been defrauded - don't depend on the government to get it back. Depend on the Lord to give it back. He will do it. He has done it. I've seen it done. "*...trust...*" Be confident, have great confidence and great security in this, He will do it. This is the confidence factor. "*... trust in the Lord and He will do it.*" Commit your way to the Lord, He will do it. Psalm 37:7 says, "*Rest in the Lord.*" The Hebrew word means to be silent or to be still. In Exodus 14:13, Moses told the Jews who came out of Egypt, "*Do not fear! Standby and watch God deliver you.*" This is the faith-rest drill

in action. In Psalm 37:8, "*Cease from anger and forsake wrath ...*" In other words, stop being angry and put your wrath away. There's a great passage in Ephesians 4:30-31 about this very thing, "*Put your wrath away. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.*" The hardest thing you will ever do is to forgive the criminal who stole from you. It's a very hard thing to do because we have such bitterness in our heart sometimes, such implacability that it's hard to forgive. But when we trust in the Lord, when we commit our way to Him, when we do not fret (this passage says do not fret three times - verses 1, 7 & 8) we don't worry, don't get all bent out of shape. The Lord will handle it. "*Cease from your anger and forsake your wrath.*" That's the desire to get even with someone. That's the desire to hurt that person. That's the desire to make them feel the same pain that you felt. That is you trying to play God. That is you trying to put God's justice on them and you wanting to be the hammer. It is not up to you. It's up to the Lord. So if you have something like this happen to you, trust in the Lord and walk away from it. Do not let it eat you alive and be so mad and so angry because you were so stupid that you trusted someone that you should not have trusted. Maybe you need to look at why you trusted this person. Did you think you were going to get some kind of great gain? Did you think this person was out there luring you with the promise of fortune? Who knows? But you turn it over to the Lord, you walk away from it, you let the Lord handle it and you move on down the road. God will handle the justice. Your life goes on. You are still alive. You still have opportunity to glorify Jesus Christ. Our Lord did not come down off the cross. He didn't slay everyone standing there laughing and making fun of Him. He took it and He said, "*Father, not My will but Thy will be done*" (Luke 22:42). Same with you. Not your will but God's will be done. Until next week, this is your host Rick Hughes saying thank you so much 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
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